

Kudos to city

COQUITLAM NOW APRIL 26, 2012

Re: "Coquitlam tweaks cosmetic pesticide ban," Wednesday, April 25.

Municipal leaders and authorities are entrusted with a responsibility to protect their citizens from things which have the potential to harm health. On behalf of the Canadian Cancer Society, BC & Yukon, I would like to thank the City of Coquitlam for recognizing this and taking action with the passing of the final reading of their pesticide use control bylaw. The bylaw will prohibit the cosmetic use of pesticides on residential and public property.

Cosmetic pesticides are used to improve the appearance of lawns, gardens and recreational facilities. Research has linked chemical pesticide exposure with an increased risk of both childhood and adult cancers.

Children are at greater risk from the effects of pesticides due to their undeveloped immune systems, more permeable skin and common behaviours such as crawling on the grass and putting objects in their mouths.

What's more, these chemicals are unnecessary. Safe, effective, non-toxic alternatives exist.

The City of Coquitlam joins the growing trend across Canada, of more than 185 municipalities, and now 40 municipalities in B.C., that have moved to ban the cosmetic use of pesticides.

Brittney Parks

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