

Regina Leader Post

Letter to the Editor: Pesticide stance odd

July 9, 2012

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It doesn't make sense. The members of the City of Regina's environment advisory committee had done their homework before their June 28 meeting on pesticides.

Even before listening to the many delegations urging the committee to recommend a ban on the use of cosmetic pesticides in Regina, they were aware of the position of the Canadian Cancer Society on the matter: "Research linking pesticides to serious health issues is significant and growing. Leukemia and non-Hodgkin's lymphoma, breast, brain, prostate, lung, pancreatic, stomach, kidney and other forms of cancer have all been linked to pesticides." (From the website of the Canadian Cancer Society).

Yet the committee decided against recommending a city-wide pesticide ban. Why? If the Canadian Cancer Society declares there is a link between pesticides and cancer, then it seems to me the City of Regina is obligated to ban the use of pesticides. To do otherwise is grossly irresponsible.

Of 16 delegations appearing before the committee, nine supported a ban, while seven opposed it. All those in the latter group were linked to the pesticide industry. Why would the committee take the word of the pesticide industry over that of the Canadian Cancer Society?

By not recommending a city-wide ban on pesticide use, the environment advisory committee sacrificed human health to pesticide industry profits.

Florence Stratton, Regina

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Name withheld

Norah G Fon

12:13 PM on 7/17/2012

Canadian Cancer Society has NO CREDIBLE EXPERTISE. It is a FUND-RAISING, PROFIT-SEEKING, and LOBBYING organization, and it is NOT a science, research, or health organization. <http://wp.me/P1jq40-1OW> Canadian Cancer Society has STATED REPEATEDLY that scientific research does NOT provide a conclusive link between pest control products and cancer. <http://wp.me/P1jq40-4qC> What is their problem ?!?!?! Why is Canadian Cancer Society WASTING EVERYBODY'S TIME on the

issue of pest control products ? Health Canada, and NOT Canadian Cancer Society, has THE ESSENTIAL EXPERTISE on the subject of pest control products. WILLIAM H. GATHERCOLE AND NORAH G. <http://pesticidetruths.com/>

Name withheld

Donna Ziegler

11:36 PM on 7/16/2012

Thank you for your support. The Society's only motivation in advocating for a ban is our commitment to the health of Saskatchewan people. To be clear, our call for a ban does not apply to pesticides used in agriculture to grow food, ensure public health and safety or to prevent environmental damage. The issue is much more complex in these areas and there can be health benefits. In the case of lawns and flower gardens, there is no health benefit to using pesticides

When you use pesticides on your lawn and flower garden it does have the potential to harm through drift or runoff and contaminate the air, soil, groundwater and surface waters without any health benefit. Five provinces and more than 170 municipalities have chosen to protect their residents by banning the sale and/or use of pesticides for cosmetic purposes. Saskatchewan residents deserve the same protection.

Donna Ziegler
Director, Cancer Control
Canadian Cancer Society Saskatchewan

Name withheld

Jennifer Milo

12:35 PM on 7/12/2012

The federal government has expertise and resources to properly regulate pesticides. Health Canada's Pest Management Regulatory Agency or PMRA employs 350+ expert scientists in a range of disciplines. They are dedicated to conducting intensive, objective reviews of data on the efficacy, value and safety of pesticides to determine acceptability for registration in Canada. Health Canada's number one priority under the Pest Control Products Act is to protect the health of Canadians. All scientifically credible evidence, including that put forward by the Cancer Society, must be considered by PMRA when determining product approval.

Educate yourself! Contact Health Canada. Make informed decisions based on science and not on misinformation and fear. Take the initiative - get the facts: www.hc-sc.gc.ca/pmra-arla/
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Name withheld

anon484593826

9:19 PM on 7/10/2012

I hate to say it but what does not cause cancer, every time you turn around they find something else. Soon they will say the air we breath will give us cancer
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Sask Farmer

4:59 PM on 7/9/2012

With respect to taking the word of the CCS, I would like to comment on what the CCS is actually saying. In their May 9, 2012 media release, the Canadian Cancer Society stated that Canadian cancer death rates over the last 20 years are down. They also claim that tobacco use, along with unhealthy diet, physical inactivity, excess body weight, alcohol consumption, over-exposure to the sun and exposure to environmental and workplace carcinogens account for a substantial number of cancer diagnoses

and deaths each year.

On another Canadian Cancer Society website they stated that scientific research does not provide a conclusive link between pest control products and cancer.

So when it comes to pesticides, I will allow the CCS to either scare me or confuse me but not both.

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