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Lawn care isn't health care 🚫LETTERS TO THE EDITOR
The Telegram

Some people would say that I am a member of that blind and loud anti-spraying group who are against the use of pesticides for cosmetic purposes; however that does not make me an anti-landscaper.

What I am is a person who would like to be able to go outside and walk around St. John's, Mount Pearl or any other community in our province without having to worry about inhaling any so-called "plant health product."

As of now, I can't even be guaranteed of that, since spraying can take place about two doors down from me.

So much for Canada or our province having a strenuous regulatory system. I don't remember giving permission to be used in an experiment where these pesticides are used.

Forgive me if I don't feel safe because Health Canada supposedly regulates those products.

Could our provincial and federal governments be influenced by the fact that the ornamental horticulture industry in our province is worth over \$90 million? That makes a rich, large lobbying group which is able to shout loudly behind the scenes and bend the ear of governments.

After all, isn't it the legal right of rich organizations to contribute money to political parties in Canada to ensure political success?

At the opposite end there are politicians of the people, like St. John's city councillor Sheila O'Leary, who was recently elected and listened to independent citizens and independent professional groups like the Canadian Association of Physicians for the environment.

Recently, Gideon Forman, executive director of that association gave this professional opinion: "Recent scientific studies have show that people exposed to pesticides are at a greater risk for very serious medical conditions..." In addition, Dr. David Saltman, chair of oncology at Memorial University stated on June 16 in this newspaper, "We are all at risk from the toxicities of pesticide use. Young children may be more vulnerable..."

But don't take their word as gospel: be sure to call the offices of any lawn (but not human) care company and get the results from their "unbiased" scientific research.

They were supported by Coun. Wally Collins at a recent St. John's city council meeting who stated that some pesticides were made from plant roots "and you can eat that, right?"

Send in the clowns.

R.B. Collins

St. John's

26/01/10

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Taxpayer from NL writes: If I choose to use so-called chemical poisons on MY property I dont' see how its anyone elses business. Again the likes of Shelia O'Leary is content on pushing laws down the throats of law-abiding taxpayers and property owners. I have a question for these self serving doctors. If the food we eat is sprayed with these chemicals, why aren't you complaining that we shouldn't eat those to?

Posted 26/01/2010 at 9:38 AM | [Alert an Editor](#) | [Link to comment](#)

Bob from CBS, NL writes: R.B..Just how much walking around St. John's and Mount Pearl do you actually do?

Posted 26/01/2010 at 9:45 AM | [Alert an Editor](#) | [Link to comment](#)

Townie from NL writes: If any councillor think it is alright to put pesticides on lawns let him or her then come out for being able to munch down on a peanut butter sandwich for school lunch. They would soon change their tune. The last letter from the industry claimed that he was a professional . I would ask The Telegram to enquire from anyone that makes that claim how to get in touch with there disciplinary committee. Lately the term professional is being thrown around by every tom, and harry even Economists.

Posted 26/01/2010 at 10:28 AM | [Alert an Editor](#) | [Link to comment](#)

Taxpayer II from NL writes: Yes, take in a lungfull of clean ST.John's air. Especially after a metrobus, or a whellway bus drives by. Take in a big lungfull as you stroll down to Sobey's to buy food that is sprayed with every pesticide and herbicide you can imagine. Industrial strength chemicals that you can't wash off. Let's start the outcry first with our food supply, then move on to the guy who puts a bag of weed n' feed on his lawn.

Posted 26/01/2010 at 11:25 AM | [Alert an Editor](#) | [Link to comment](#)

nuf smith from nl writes: just the same crap we hear all the time. If your so concerned start walking to work gas and exhaust kills. grow your own food because agric food production is very intensive and uses much more of these products. Just another person with an opinion who thinks its ok to force his on the rest of the populas.Take on a real issue ... like starving childern and leave the landscapers to do their safe and approved work. I guess you should not take your pills either as these are approved by health canada... or are u being used as an experiment. No one asked you if the pills u take for your high blood pressure are safe....NO you had to rely on health canada for that. Well that is exactly what the guys in the landscape industry do. Pick another cause there is no grounds for this one

Posted 27/01/2010 at 8:53 AM | [Alert an Editor](#) | [Link to comment](#)

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