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QUESTION OF THE WEEK

Should tough-man competitions like the one that left a Kamloops man with a concussion be allowed to take place?

- Go for it with no holds barred
- OK but with tight restrictions
- This stuff needs to be banned

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Ban on pesticides would be a winner

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JULY 30, 2011

BY DR. WARREN BELL
PAST FOUNDING DIRECTOR
CANADIAN ASSOCIATION OF PHYSICIANS FOR THE ENVIRONMENT

Premier Christy Clark and Opposition Leader Adrian Dix are to be commended for supporting a province-wide ban on the sale and use of lawn and garden pesticides.

Not only will this legislation be hugely popular, it will also have a very positive effect on the health of B.C.'s people, environment, and economy.

How can we be sure? Because we've seen what happens when pesticide regulations are passed in other provinces.

The first result, not surprisingly, is a very low pesticide usage rate. Quebec's pesticide ban started to take effect in April, 2003. By 2007, chemical pesticides were being used by just four per cent of households with a lawn or garden. By contrast, in B.C. — which lacks a province-wide ban — the figure was 25 per cent.

The Ontario College of Family Physicians tells us pesticides are associated with brain cancer, prostate cancer, kidney cancer, and pancreatic cancer. The College makes a point of saying some children exposed to pesticides have an increased risk of leukemia, especially if they come into contact with "insecticides and herbicides used on lawns, fruit trees and gardens..."

When Ontario's pesticide ban came into effect in April, 2009, the province removed more than 250 of these toxic products from the market.

The Ontario ban is also improving water quality. The provincial Ministry of Environment studied pesticide concentrations in 10 urban streams before and after their ban came into effect (2008 vs. 2009) and compared the findings.

The study's author states: "Concentrations of 2,4-D, dicamba, MCPP, total phenoxy herbicides and total insecticides were significantly lower in 2009..."

In fact, in some streams pesticide concentrations were up to 97 per cent lower. That's an extraordinary result and suggests a province-wide pesticide ban in B.C. would have similar benefits for local waterways.

The Ontario ban has also been well-received by lawn care businesses. The firm Environmental Factor — which makes a non-toxic corn-gluten-based weed inhibitor -- had a 400 per cent increase in sales and manufacturing in the ban's first six months. Product demand was so great the company had to move to larger premises.

Other Ontario firms said they viewed the new legislation as an opportunity for business growth and new hiring. (Organic lawn care, which includes hand-weeding, is more labour-intensive.)

And business expansion also occurred when pesticides were banned by municipalities. For example, in the five years following passage of a pesticide bylaw in Halifax, the number of landscaping and lawn care businesses in that city grew by 53 per cent, according to Statistics Canada.

Finally, this legislation is a winner with the public. Polling done in the B.C. by Innovative Research Group and released in February, 2011 found support for a phase-out of "cosmetic" or non-essential pesticides was over 70 per cent.

Perhaps most significantly, the study found support for the phase-out does not differ between rural and urban areas. The message for government couldn't be clearer: No matter where they live in the province, the vast majority of British Columbians want an end to toxic lawn products.

Good for human health, beneficial to the environment, a boost to business: these are some of the reasons our most respected health organizations — including the Canadian Cancer Society, the Learning Disabilities Association, the Lung Association, and the Canadian Breast Cancer Foundation — support a province-wide prohibition on non-essential pesticides.

We would urge British Columbians to e-mail the Premier (premier@gov.bc.ca">premier@gov.bc.ca) today with one simple message: This summer give us the protection from pesticides already enjoyed by millions of other Canadians.

Dr. Warren Bell is Past Founding President of the Canadian Association of Physicians for the Environment (www.capec.ca). His co-author, Gideon Forman, is executive director of the organization.

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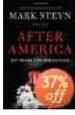


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whg 0 minutes ago

LETTER TO THE EDITOR. THE DAILY NEWS. KAMLOOPS, BRITISH COLUMBIA.
RESPONSE TO WARREN BELL. JULY 30th, 2011.

Ontario College of Family Physicians (OCFP) concocted a disgraceful, false, misleading, biased, and subversive bogus LITERATURE REVIEW of pest control products — this review has been DEBUNKED !

This review has absolutely NO CREDIBILITY in the legitimate scientific community, and has been REFUTED and DISCREDITED.

Internationally, this review has been viewed as • inadequately addressing the issues • inconsistent • over–interpreting studies • superficial in its approach • unclear • weak quality.

This review has absolutely NO CREDIBILITY since none of its authors and reviewers has ANY recognized expertise, training or background in matters concerning pest control products

Among the authors and reviewers of the OCFP–review, there are doctors who were found guilty of professional mis–conduct over sexual activities, doctors whose license was suspended, and doctors who deny having reviewed the document.

The BOGUS–OCFP–Review has been used a PRETEXT for the NEEDLESS, SENSELESS, and MALICIOUS PROHIBITION of pest control products.

Moreover, thanks to the AGREEMENT reached between Dow AgroSciences and the Canadian federal government of May 25th, 2011, it was concluded that ...

- Pest control products are SCIENTIFICALLY SAFE
- PROHIBITIONS are IRREFUTABLY INVALIDATED

Sadly, in those jurisdictions where PROHIBITION has been legislated, EXTENSIVE CARNAGE has been INFLICTED on Professional Lawn Care companies, in the form of HORRIFIC FINES and BUSINESS FAILURES.

PROHIBITIONS are NOT NECESSARY since pest control products are HEALTH–CANADA–APPROVED, FEDERALLY–LEGAL, and SCIENTIFICALLY–SAFE.

For more information, please go to the Pesticide Truths web site.

<http://pesticidetruths.com/>

&

<http://uncleadolph.blogspot.co...>

William H. Gathercole and Norah G
National Organization Responding Against HUJE that seek to harm the Green Space
Industry (NORAHG)
Montreal, Quebec

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 **Farm2** 1 day ago

I remember hearing a CBC interview years ago with a representative of a manufacturer of a product marketed as a skin softener that apparently also had insect repellent properties. So, parents could lather their kids with a benign skin care lotion to keep them protected from insect bites. Much better than using one of those products registered as an insect repellent and labelled as an 'insecticide' with all kinds of warnings, right? Perhaps not. When the representative was asked why the product was not marketed as an insect repellent, the response was that they would have to do millions of dollars of research and go through a bureaucratic registration process. Anyone that knows anything about the federal pesticide registration system would know that much of the research required for registration is toxicological studies to prove that the product does not cause cancer and is not associated with other health and environmental problems. So, it would appear to me that the products marketed as "pesticides" may actually be safer than many of the other products we all use in our day-to-day lives.

3 people liked this. [Like](#) [Reply](#)

 **EnviroEd** 1 day ago

"The College" is a group of environmental activists. A few of it's members are medical doctors. They have no expertise in pesticide toxicology. Dr. Bell's comments are inaccurate, misleading and out and out lies! Shame on you Dr. Bell.

3 people liked this. [Like](#) [Reply](#)

 **Dorite** 1 day ago in reply to EnviroEd

EnviroEd - I agree.

The Federal Gov't is responsible for testing, evaluating, approving, registering, monitoring, and reviewing pesticide control products. It is a public multi-agency function with Health Canada being the lead agency, with a focus on safety. The same agency that regulates prescription drugs.

The BC Gov't regulates the use of pesticides in a safe manner. Of course, we should exercise care and respect in use of pesticides, but I believe Dr. Bell is fear-mongering. We have enough government control and regulation.

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