

BC Pesticide Ban For Health & Business

WEDNESDAY, 19 OCTOBER 2011

DR. WARREN BELL/GIDEON FORMAN



Support a pesticide ban in British Columbia/Stockphotos.

British Columbia Premier Christy Clark and Opposition Leader Adrian Dix are to be commended for their decision to support a province-wide ban on the sale and use of lawn and garden pesticides. Not only would this legislation be hugely popular, it would 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 in only 4% of households with lawns or gardens. By contrast, in B.C. — which lacks a province-wide ban — the figure was 25%.

When pesticides are taken off store shelves, people are no longer exposed to lawn chemicals that can cause very serious medical problems. Doctors, writing in the scientific journal *Paediatrics and Child Health*, found that the common weed-killer 2, 4-D "...can be persuasively linked to cancers, neurological impairment and reproductive problems."

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 may 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 benefits to human health are obvious.

The Ontario pesticide ban is also improving water quality. The provincial *Ministry of Environment* studied pesticide concentrations in ten urban streams before and after their ban came into effect (2008 versus 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% lower following the ban's passage. 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 *Environmental Factor* company — which makes a non-toxic corn-gluten-based weed inhibitor — had a 400% 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

More Eco Stories

World Carfree Day 2009

Beer Reduces Greenhouse Gases

CO2 Is Green Campaign

Engine Idling 101

CO2 Activists

WorldChanging edited by Alex Steffen

AdChoices

Advertise Your Business
Promote Your New Business to the World with PRWeb. Free Sign Up!
prweb.com

Fake Lawns
No More Trouble Of Mowing And Watering The Lawn. Purchase Today!
www.ezgrass.ca

Brainwave Technologist
Own a Business. Change Lives. 85% Success Rate. (480) 588-6840
BrainStateTech.com

Alberta Business School
Increase Your Career Value with Flexible Online Business Training
www.CD-FD.com/Business-Ad...

Business Sustainability
Business sustainability solutions. Waste reduction and recycling.
WMSustainabilityServices.com



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 labor-intensive.) For example, in the five years following the passage of a pesticide bylaw in Halifax, the number of landscaping and lawn care businesses in that city grew by 53%, according to Statistics Canada. The number of companies in the sector also grew in Toronto following enactment of a pesticide bylaw in the Ontario capital.

Finally, this legislation is a winner with the public. Polling done in Ontario in 2007 by the national research firm Oracle found 71% of residents supported a provincial prohibition on lawn and garden pesticides. Polling done the following year found support for pesticide restrictions at 72%.

But what about British Columbia? Polling done in the province by *Innovative Research Group* and released in February 2011 found support for a phase-out of "cosmetic" or non-essential pesticides was over 70%. The research also found 72% of British Columbians believe these pesticides pose a threat to the environment and nearly 70% believe they are a danger to children. Perhaps most significantly, the study found support for the phase-out does not differ between rural and urban areas. The message for the government couldn't be clearer: No matter where people live in the province, the vast majority of British Columbians want to eliminate 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*, *Lung Association*, and the *Canadian Breast Cancer Foundation* – support a province-wide prohibition on non-essential pesticides.

We would suggest B.C. model its ban on Ontario's excellent *Cosmetic Pesticides Ban Act*, but also go one step further: in addition to lawns and gardens, extend the restrictions to golf-courses. The latter are increasingly maintained without poisons, a trend that legislation would only strengthen. British Columbians deserve the protection from pesticides already enjoyed by millions of other Canadians.

The B.C. government is currently running an on-line survey to gauge citizens' views on the proposed pesticide ban. We urge everyone – no matter where they live – to take a moment and register their support for the ban by logging-on to the Pesticides Committee Questionnaire:

<https://www.leg.bc.ca/pesticidescommittee/questionnaire.asp>

Gideon Forman is Executive Director of the Canadian Association of Physicians for the Environment (www.cape.ca). Dr. Warren Bell is Past Founding President of the Canadian Association of Physicians for the Environment.

[Ads by Google](#) [Pesticide Toxicity](#) [Chemicals Pesticide](#) [Pesticide Insecticides](#) [P](#)



Comments 1

Warren Bell and Gideon Forman are ENTIRELY WRONG !

Anti-Pesticide Activists like Bell and Forman are NOT CREDIBLE experts on pest control products.

This PROBLEM WITH LACK-OF-ACTIVIST-CREDIBILITY reflects the overall larger problem with ALL Anti-Pesticide Activists.

There are NO Anti-Pesticide Activists who are scientists or researchers with credentials in the field of pest control products.

NONE !

They are NOT COMPETENT to talk about pest control products.

Anti-Pesticide Activists are PARTISAN, ARROGANT, and NARCISSISTIC ENOUGH to DEMAND that other people do things their way.

Anti-Pesticide Activists have a HUGE VESTED INTEREST IN PERPETUATING IMAGINARY DANGERS about pest control products used in the Urban Landscape.

Doing this attracts HUGE PROFIT AND BENEFITS, in the form of DONATIONS, GOVERNMENT GRANTS, and CELEBRITY.

Nonetheless, they CREATE MALICIOUS ILLUSION by PERPETUATING MYTHS about pest control products, and the public believes it is REALITY!

For more detailed RESPONSES to the Bell-Forman MYTHS, please go to the following link ...

<http://pesticidetruths.com/2011/10/25/responses-to-the-bell-forman-myths/>


WILLIAM H. GATHERCOLE AND NORAH G

National Organization Responding Against HUJE that seek to harm the Green Space Industry (NORAHG).

NORAHG is a NATIONAL NON-PROFIT NON-PARTISAN organization dedicated to representing the work of RESPECTED and HIGHLY-RATED EXPERTS who promote PESTICIDE-REALISM and PESTICIDE-TRUTHS.

written by RESPONSES to the Bell-Forman MYTHS , October 24, 2011

Write comment

 Show /Hide comment form

Name

RESPONSES to the Bell-Forman MYTHS

Comment

[smaller](#) | [bigger](#)

☒ I have read and agree to the [Terms of Usage](#).

security image ...

w c k o q

Write the displayed characters

[Add Comment](#)

LAST UPDATED (WEDNESDAY, 19 OCTOBER 2011)

Stage 4 Cancer Treatment
Latest Stage 4 Cancer Treatments. Advanced
Research-Based Therapies.
Envita.com

AdChoices 

**GREEN DATA CENTRE
& CLOUD CONTROL**
INNOVATION, EFFICIENCY, AND VIRTUALISATION

25-27 OCTOBER, 2011
HILTON LONDON TOWER BRIDGE
LONDON, ENGLAND

JOIN US!
TICKETS ARE STILL AVAILABLE

