

Pesticide ban rejected

two-year wait favoured

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Presented By:



Councillors in Edmonton have turned down calls to ban cosmetic pesticides, opting instead for a report in two years outlining any progress in reducing city use of the chemicals.

"I'm not at this moment convinced on an all-out ban on cosmetic pesticides. I think we need more research," Coun. Kim Krushell said during a community services committee meeting.

More than a dozen speakers warned of the dangers pesticides can pose to health, animals and the environment, including cancer, genetic mutation and respiratory ailments.

They urged city council to follow the steps taken in at least 170 other Canadian municipalities by outlawing the chemicals, unless they're needed for health or safety reasons.

"Our argument is, why take the risk when we can have beautiful properties without using these chemicals?" said Gideon Forman, executive director of the Canadian Association of Physicians for the Environment.

But city staff have said the pest-management program, including mechanical and biological weed control, has cut herbicide treatment to less than 10 per cent of the city's 4,400 hectares of mowed land from roughly half.

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