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Cavers waits to see what province does on pesticides



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FEBRUARY 14, 2012

BY MICHELE YOUNG
DAILY NEWS STAFF REPORTER

Coun. Donovan Cavers withdrew his motion from last week calling for a citywide ban on cosmetic pesticides after canvassing his colleagues and realizing it wasn't going to fly.

He said Tuesday he'll wait and see what the province does in terms of pesticide legislation before deciding whether to take another run at a Kamloops bylaw.

"The province has more power to enforce it," he said.

The youngest City council member has tried a few notices of motion since being elected in November. He hasn't had much luck getting them passed, but that hasn't discouraged him.

"I just like getting things done," he said.

Earlier in the meeting, anti-pesticide lobbyist Diane Czyzewski handed out information to council members from Dr. June Irwin, a dermatologist who was involved in getting pesticides banned in Quebec.

Czyzewski also included information from the Canadian Cancer Society, which has taken a stand against cosmetic pesticide use.

She asked council to offer blood and urine testing to children in Kamloops, especially those with autism or attention-deficit problems. She also provided a DVD of a documentary about pesticide sensitivity — which she has.

Her request was followed by one from Grassroots lawn-care company owner Jacquie Doherty, who said she attended the meeting expecting to protest Cavers's motion.

While that was withdrawn, she still asked to give a presentation to council.

Mayor Peter Milobar restricted her to the same length of time as Czyzewski, as neither had booked delegation time with council.

Doherty noted the City's pesticide-use bylaw, which restricts application of chemicals to those who are certified, went into effect in March 2010.

She said it has cost her company money, particularly for new signs and extra notifications. Some of the costs were passed on to customers, but some had to be absorbed because of competition, she said.

Doherty said the Canadian Cancer Society is not an expert on pesticides, but an advocacy group.

She said Health Canada's pesticide regulatory agency is responsible for ensuring chemicals licensed for use are safe for humans and the environment.

In closing, she said she has lived in Kamloops for more than 45 years, grew up here, got married here and had her children here.

"I'm as concerned about the health and well being of this community as anyone else in this room," she said.



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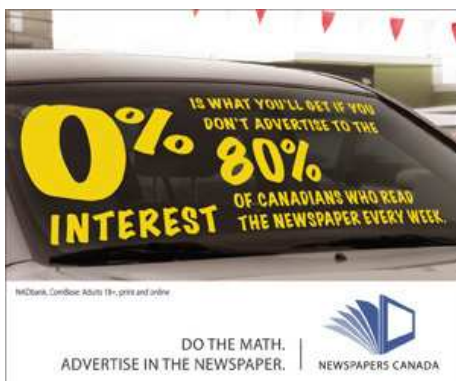
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