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October is Women's Cancer Awareness Month. Do you know the signs and symptoms of breast cancer? <http://ow.ly/6IWBL> about an hour ago

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### In your community: Canadian Cancer Society fights for a safer, greener Regina



Regina residents are one step closer to having more cosmetic pesticide-free parks to play and relax in, thanks in part to the tireless efforts of Canadian Cancer Society staff and partners.

After listening to presentations by the Canadian Cancer Society and the Saskatchewan Environmental Society at its September 1 meeting, the City of Regina Environmental Committee passed a motion to establish a smaller committee to research and bring forward a motion to city council this fall that would increase the number of city parks that are designated cosmetic pesticide-free from 3.

The committee decided that the use of cosmetic pesticides is indeed a health concern, and its members need to explore the research behind the concern further, says Dr Sanela Begic, Cancer Control Coordinator with the Canadian Cancer Society and one of the presenters.

The other presenter was Allyson Brady, Executive Director of the Saskatchewan Environmental Society.

#### Encouraged by the committee's decision

The Canadian Cancer Society is encouraged by the committee's decision, Dr Begic says.

The Canadian Cancer Society has spent the past 3 years educating Saskatchewan residents, including members of Regina City Council, about the **potential harmful effects of using lawn and garden chemicals** to keep parks, lawns and gardens free of weeds, and encouraging the use of healthier, safer alternatives.

#### Three city parks designated cosmetic pesticide-free in a test project in 2010

In the spring of 2010, Regina City Council designated 3 city parks cosmetic pesticide-free as a test project (Gordon Park in southwest Regina, Al Pickard Park in north Regina and Queen Elizabeth II Court in front of City Hall).

Instead of using chemicals to control weeds in shrubs and tree beds, parks workers rototilled the soil, and string-trimmed and hand hoed/pulled weeds.

The project was reviewed this past spring and deemed a success, Dr Begic says. Parks staff expressed no concerns about the amount of work involved in keeping the 3 parks free of weeds. Parks staff and the public expressed no concerns about unacceptable levels of pests.

The 3 parks remained cosmetic pesticide-free this year, but the city did not add more.

At its September 1 meeting, the City of Regina Environmental Committee asked Dr Begic and Brady about the tolerance of Regina residents for using alternatives to cosmetic pesticides, Dr Begic says.

Dr Begic and Brady informed the committee that, through their educational/informational campaigns, they have noticed a shift in attitudes towards the use of cosmetic pesticides and the health concerns they pose. The residents of Saskatchewan, including Regina residents, are **more open to using safer alternatives to cosmetic pesticides**.

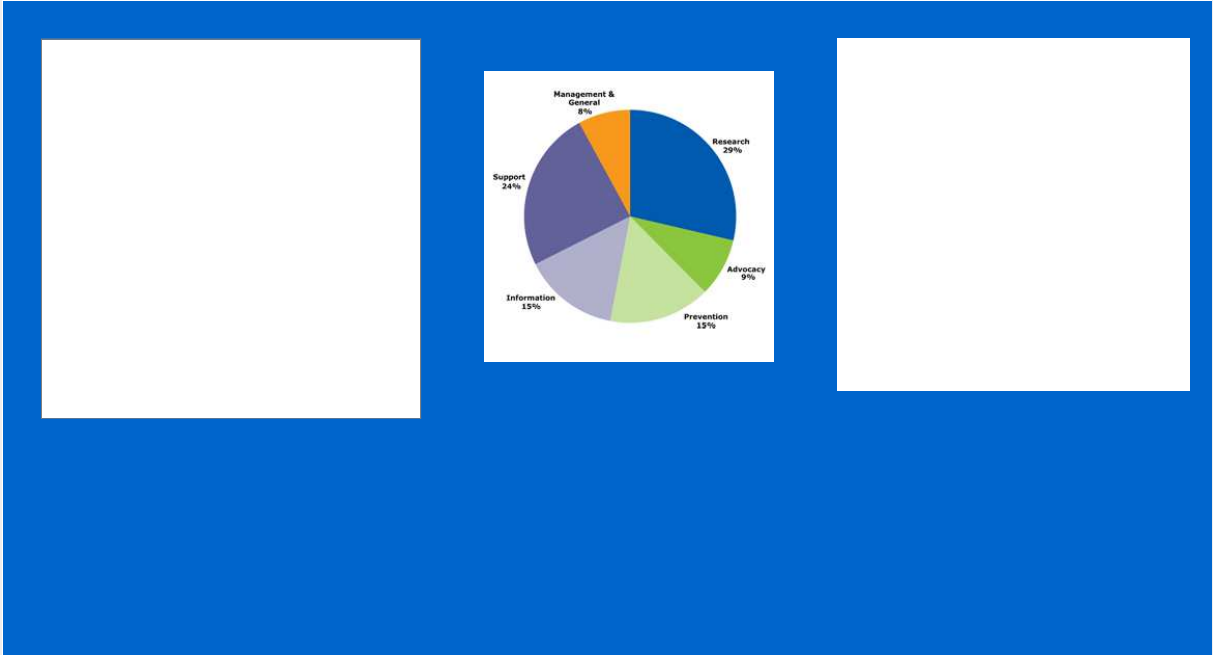
#### More pesticide-free success stories in Saskatchewan that the Canadian Cancer Society has played a role in

#### Pesticide-free success stories in other provinces

For more information about the work the Canadian Cancer Society is doing in the area of pesticide prevention and how you can lead your community towards healthier, safer alternatives to cosmetic pesticides, visit [www.pesticidefreeforlife.ca](http://www.pesticidefreeforlife.ca).

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