

# Ban pesticides

BY ALLAN S. TAYLOR, THE LEADER-POST FEBRUARY 16, 2012

I was delighted to read Dr. Tania Diener's statement, "Prevention is key to living longer and healthier". Unfortunately, in the very next sentence she blames us, the citizens, by stating, "In order to ensure that we get old well, we need to look to our lifestyle". Yes, but...

While acknowledging the importance of lifestyle choices we all make as individuals, lifestyle changes won't prevent exposure to any of the serious contaminants in our environment that we have no control over. Many of these contaminants, especially pesticides, are carcinogenic and hormone disrupters that have been shown to cause, or have links to, cancers, diabetes, asthma, Parkinson's, Alzheimer's, etc.

Living a healthy lifestyle won't prevent any of us from eating, breathing or drinking these environmental contaminants!

I and others, for years, have strongly recommended Diener use her authority, under the Public Health Act, to ban all pesticides used

for cosmetic purposes in all urban centres, and all rural areas, where children gather. All to no avail!

Many, if not all, NGO health organizations, most credible environmental NGOs, five Canadian provinces and 140-plus Canadian municipalities all ban the use of pesticides for cosmetic purposes. Why? Because they are a threat to human health.

So Diener and the Regina Qu'Appelle Health Region shouldn't lecture me about "lifestyle" while refusing to use their authority to control the many serious chemical contaminants that pollute our environment. I, for one, do want to live longer and healthier.

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