Merritt Herald - Letters to the Editor
TEXT

Prohibiting pesticides is responsible, respectful

Published: **June 25, 2012 3:00 PM**
Updated: **June 25, 2012 3:59 PM**

Dear Editor,

The B.C. Special Committee on Cosmetic Pesticides released its report in May which contained 17 recommendations to the government. Although these recommendations did not include an outright ban on lawn and garden pesticides, it's important to note that the B.C. Government has not made a decision (and the Special Committee itself did not have consensus in arriving at these recommendations). It's also noteworthy that of the 7300 e-questionnaires submitted by British Columbians during the committee's e-consultation, almost 5000 supported a ban on the sale and use of cosmetic pesticides.

The Canadian Cancer Society maintains that health should take precedence over lawns. It's important to note that pesticide registration by the Pest Management Regulatory Agency (PMRA) of Health Canada does not mean that a pesticide is safe or without risk. When the PMRA registers a pesticide it means that risk to both human health and the environment is minimized—but not eliminated—if the product is used for its intended purpose and according to label directions. In its assessments, the PMRA does not differentiate between cosmetic use and non-cosmetic use.

While a definitive cause and effect relationship between pesticides and cancer has not been established, the Canadian Cancer Society is very concerned about the growing body of evidence suggesting pesticides may increase the risk of several types of cancers, including non-Hodgkin lymphoma, multiple myeloma, prostate, kidney and lung cancers. Studies on pesticides and childhood cancer also show a possible connection with leukemia, brain tumours and non-Hodgkin lymphoma. Enough is known to be prudent and prevent exposure, especially when the use of these chemicals is unnecessary, exposure to them is irreversible and there are effective alternatives and practices.

The Canadian Cancer Society is not alone in its concern. This week, the Ontario College of Family Physicians issued a statement strongly recommending that the public reduce their exposure to pesticides, based on the findings of their second comprehensive review. Their review demonstrates that children are particularly vulnerable and shows associations between pesticides and various neurological and respiratory diseases, and reproductive problems.

Prohibiting the use of cosmetic pesticides is both responsible and respectful of the state of the scientific evidence. We thank the 40 municipalities throughout B.C. who have shown leadership by adopting cosmetic pesticide by-laws, and we hope B.C. municipalities will continue to adopt cosmetic pesticide bylaws. For our part, we will continue to urge the B.C. government to pass strong province-wide cosmetic pesticide legislation.

Patti Moore

Team Leader, Health Promotion, Canadian Cancer Society, Southern Interior Region

COMMENTS

Canadian Cancer Society has STATED REPEATEDLY that scientific research does NOT provide a conclusive link between pest control products and cancer.

http://wp.me/P1jq40-4qC

Why is Canadian Cancer Society WASTING EVERYBODY'S TIME on the issue of pest control products ?

Canadian Cancer Society is a FUND-RAISING, PROFIT-SEEKING, and LOBBYING organization, and NOT a science, research, or health organization.

Health Canada, and NOT Canadian Cancer Society, has THE ESSENTIAL EXPERTISE on the subject of pest control products.

Canadian Cancer Society is RIDICULOUSLY IMPLYING that its NON-EXPERT ASSESSMENT is somehow being withheld from Health Canada and EVERY other regulatory agency in the world.

The following educational, regulatory, research, scientific, and trade agencies have CONCLUSIVELY SUPPORTED or VALIDATED the concept that pest control products are SCIENTIFICALLY-SAFE ● American Chemical Society ● American Council for Science and Health ● American Cancer Society ● British Columbia's Special Committee On Cosmetic Pesticides ● Canadian Medical Association ● CropLife Canada ● Health Canada ● Institute of Public Affairs ● International Agency for Research on Cancer ● Ontario Pesticides Advisory Committee ● The Fraser Institute ● U.S. Environmental Protection Agency ● World Health Organization.

Canadian Cancer Society merely ALLEGES having UNDISCLOSED, NON-EXISTENT AND UNVERIFIABLE SECRET EVIDENCE about the safety of pest control products.

Canadian Cancer Society has NEVER provided ANY credible information to Health Canada to justify its Anti-Pesticide CONSPIRACIES.

INDISPUTABLE and CONCLUSIVE SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH shows that, as reported through Health Canada's VAST TOXICOLOGY DATABASE, NO HARM WILL OCCUR when pest control products are used according to label directions.

The RISK ASSESSMENT of pest control products indicates that they are PRACTICALLY-NON-TOXIC.

There is NOT ONE KNOWN ILLNESS or DEATH from the proper use of pest control products used in the Urban Landscape.

It seems that PESTICIDES ARE SOMEHOW ONLY A GROWING CONCERN for Canadian Cancer Society and a few other Anti-Pesticide Organizations.

In fact, there is NO so-called GROWING BODY OF EVIDENCE against pest control products.

There is, however, a GROWING and CONCLUSIVE BODY OF EVIDENCE about Canadian Cancer Society SQUANDERING AND MISAPPROPRIATING its PUBLIC DONATIONS on SUBVERSIVE Anti-Pesticide CONSPIRACIES.

There is also a GROWING and CONCLUSIVE BODY OF EVIDENCE that Canadian Cancer Society has SQUANDERED up to 5,000,000 DOLLARS on NEEDLESS Anti-Pesticide CONSPIRACIES.

CANADIAN CANCER SOCIETY (Web-Page)

http://wp.me/P1jq40-2I8

THE MYTH OF CANCER (Web-Page)

http://wp.me/P1jq40-2nl

THE MYTHS ABOUT ANTI-PESTICIDE PROHIBITION (Web-Page)

http://wp.me/P1jq40-3jm

WILLIAM H. GATHERCOLE AND NORAH G

NORAHG is the National Organization Responding Against HUJE that seek to harm the Green space industry.

NORAHG is a NATIONAL NON PROFIT NON PARTISAN organization that does not accept money from corporations or governments or trade associations, and represents NO VESTED INTERESTS WHATSOEVER.

NORAHG is dedicated to reporting the work of RESPECTED and HIGHLY RATED EXPERTS who promote ENVIRONMENTAL REALISM and PESTICIDE TRUTHS.

THE PESTICIDE TRUTHS WEB-SITE

http://pesticidetruths.com/

PESTICIDE BANS ARE A FARCE (Report)

http://wp.me/p1jq40-4mS

THE COMPLETE LIBRARY OF REPORTS & REFERENCES

http://wp.me/P1jq40-2rr