

Lawn pesticide use opposed at public meeting

[CBC News](#)

Posted: Jul 12, 2013 8:06 AM AT

Last Updated: Jul 12, 2013 9:10 AM AT

A public meeting in Stratford, P.E.I. Thursday saw about 100 people turn out to support the mayor's goal of increasing controls on the use of cosmetic pesticides in the community.

Resident Matthew Anderson is worried about what some in his community are doing to keep their lawns looking so green and pristine.



Increasing pesticide controls is one of Stratford's goals, says Mayor David Dunphy. (CBC)

"We've only been here just barely a year and we're already thinking of moving," said Anderson.

"We'll take a loss in our property if this gets worse."

The provincial government introduced legislation in 2010 that bans the use of the chemical 2,4-D for cosmetic use, but it has come under criticism recently because in subsequent years many provinces have introduced more comprehensive bans.

Mayor David Dunphy told the meeting the town wants to increase controls.


Thank you for voting!

Yes, I think they strike a good balance. **25.2%** (31 votes)

No, the province needs a more broad-based ban. **55.28%** (68 votes)

Communities should be allowed to set their own rules on cosmetic pesticides. **19.51%** (24 votes)

Total Votes: 123

 Like 0

 Tweet 1

"We have listed the regulation of pesticides as one of our goals," he said.

But provincial officials say such regulation does not fall under the control of municipalities. Either the province would have to change the pesticide legislation, or change the Municipalities Act to allow towns and cities to do it.

CropLife Canada, a group that represents developers and distributors of pest products, was not at the meeting, but said Health Canada monitors every pesticide on the market and that nobody benefits when other levels of government impose scientifically unmerited restrictions.

For mobile device users: [Do P.E.I.'s laws controlling cosmetic pesticides go far enough?](#)

Comments on this story are pre-moderated. Before they appear, comments are reviewed by moderators to ensure they meet our [submission guidelines](#). Comments are open and welcome for three days after the story is published. We reserve the right to close comments before then.

Norah G Fon | Logout

15 Comments

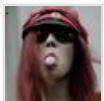


Write your comment here

Submit

Follow

Newest



Awaiting moderation...

Norah G Fon

With arbitrary prohibition, the residents of the Town of Stratford will lose their green spaces, since anti-pesticide prohibition will turn them into dangerous and pest infested garbage dumps — just like Ontario. 80 per cent of Ontarians originally supported the pesticide ban when it was brought forward in 2009. However, because of garbage dump green spaces, support in Ontario has been cut almost in half — to 49 per cent. <http://wp.me/p1jq40-6Jk> Without conventional pest control products, green spaces became pest-infested dangerous garbage dumps. <http://wp.me/P1jq40-44g> <http://wp.me/P1jq40-4z3> Without conventional pest control products, playing surfaces become thin and yellow, and over-run with weeds and infested with insects, resulting in the dismal destruction of safe turf playing surfaces. It was/is impossible for home-owners or professionals to keep their properties beautiful by using so-called organic pesticide-free maintenance practices. <http://wp.me/P1jq40-3yl> <http://wp.me/P1jq40-445> Who wants to live in #@!!% pest-infested garbage dumps just because a small group of activists seek to impose arbitrary prohibition !?! In fact, when it comes to prohibition, government officials are thinking twice when looking at the experience of those jurisdictions that have suffered the hardship and stunningly exorbitant costs of this #@!!% nonsense ! <http://wp.me/p1jq40-5x1> <http://wp.me/P1jq40-43V> WILLIAM H. GATHERCOLE AND NORAH G <http://pesticidetruths.com/> <http://wp.me/P1jq40-2rr> « less

Just now 0 Likes

Like Reply Share

**Brook40**

Grow weeds and starve to death.

1 hour ago 2 Likes

Like Reply Share

**Jean Sergent**

Health Canada's Pest Management Regulatory Agency (PMRA) has no labs of its own and fully depends on industry data for product evaluation, with inconvenient data withheld from the PMRA. This data pertains to toxicology, i.e. rats, which have detoxification genes missing in humans and a life span of only three years. Using animals as a basis for evaluating pesticides' effect on humans is now being questioned. The PMRA has limited capability to evaluate effect of pesticides on humans as it employs » more

5 hours ago 1 Like

Like Reply Share



Awaiting moderation...

Norah G Fon

COTTAM IS WRONG ! Clearly, Cottam is attempting to invalidate Health Canada. In Canada, pest control products, or pesticides, are regulated by Health Canada under the Pest Control Products Act, and are among the most stringently regulated substances in Canada. Health Canada follows the internationally-accredited Good Laboratory Practices for assessing the safety of pest control products. Good Laboratory Practices allow Health Canada to be impartial and rigorous. The accuracy of assessments of pest control products is ensured since Health Canada follows a set of guidelines and principles developed by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD). The 30 OECD member countries include Canada, the United States, the United Kingdom, Sweden, and Japan. The assessments of all pest control products must be conducted under those guidelines which adhere to principles of the internationally-accredited Good Laboratory Practices. Ultimately, the cost to manufacturers to get a pest control product assessed for safety and brought to market is about 250 million dollars. Only those pest control products that pose no unacceptable risk to health and environment become Health-Canada-approved and federally-legal. HOW MUCH MONEY DID COTTAM SPEND ON THE ASSESSMENT OF PEST CONTROL PRODUCTS ?!?! WILLIAM H. GATHERCOLE AND NORAH G <http://pesticidetruths.com/> <http://wp.me/P1jq40-2rr>

« less

Just now 0 Likes

Like Reply Share

**In My Opinion**

I'll support banning pesticides on lawns when they are also banned on golf courses on PEI. They are massive users and have the political clout and influence to get exemptions that ensure that they can keep their grass pretty. That's not unique to PEI by the way. It's the same in BC and Ontario and probably elsewhere.

8 hours ago 2 Likes

Like Reply Share

**redbrew**

Any limit on the frivolous use of poison is fine with me.

10 hours ago 3 Likes

Like Reply Share

**Brook40**

@redbrew

Why?

1 hour ago 1 Like

[Like](#) [Reply](#) [Share](#)**gutfeeling**

Well, if the provincial government are going to sit on the fence, perhaps all the separate municipalities should band together and (a) issue voluntary guidelines and advice for residents wishing to reduce pesticide use and (b) take a residents' poll to ascertain attitudes and then lobby the government for a province-wide ban.

I'm convinced that the vast majority of people here would not willingly wish to put something on their lawn that could potentially adversely affect themselves or a neighbour. » more

11 hours ago 3 Likes

[Like](#) [Reply](#) [Share](#)**Brook40**

@gutfeeling

Please provide your evidence.

1 hour ago 1 Like

[Like](#) [Reply](#) [Share](#)**Get One Free**

Pesticide use on farms is causing half the cancers on PEI. Let's complete the task and ban them too.

12 hours ago 2 Likes

[Like](#) [Reply](#) [Share](#)**Brook40**

@Get One Free

Evidence please.

1 hour ago 1 Like

[Like](#) [Reply](#) [Share](#)**Nigel Tufnel**

Why do they keep referring to these as pesticides when they really mean herbicides?

13 hours ago 2 Likes

[Like](#) [Reply](#) [Share](#)[View 1 more reply](#)**Mactaquac**

@Nigel Tufnel: Pesticides comprise of herbicides and insecticides and both are used on lawns in Stratford.

11 hours ago 1 Like

[Like](#) [Reply](#) [Share](#)



Brook40

@Mactaquac

And?

1 hour ago 0 Likes

Like Reply Share

[Submission Policy](#)

Note: The CBC does not necessarily endorse any of the views posted. By submitting your comments, you acknowledge that CBC has the right to reproduce, broadcast and publicize those comments or any part thereof in any manner whatsoever. Please note that comments are moderated and published according to our [submission guidelines](#).