

Lung association, nurses back ban on pesticides

Council to debate bill this fall

CALGARY HERALD SEPTEMBER 12, 2009

Several Alberta health organizations said Thursday they support a ban on lawn and garden pesticides as Calgary city council prepares to debate a proposed bylaw on the issue this fall.

More than a year after the Canadian Cancer Society publicly backed the ban, groups like the Lung Association Alberta and the College and Association of Registered Nurses of Alberta are now lending their support to the bylaw.

"We're delighted Alberta's leading health groups now support a Calgary ban on non-essential pesticides," Evie Rodway of the Canadian Cancer Society said in a statement.

Officials with the College and Association of Registered Nurses of Alberta said they support the move because of increasing evidence that links the use of common household pesticides to serious illness.

"We think it's a very important public health strategy that we consider banning the ornamental use of pesticides," said Mary-Anne Robinson, executive director of the nursing regulatory body.

Last year, Calgary city council voted in favour of drafting a bylaw that would place restrictions on pesticides that are purely for esthetic purposes.

The bylaw is expected to be debated in October and, if passed, it would come into effect on Jan 1, 2010.

The Canadian Cancer Society said in May of 2008 that Calgary should move ahead with a ban on pesticides because exposure to chemicals in the products are linked with leukemia and several other cancers.

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