

LOBBY HEATS UP FOR BYLAW BANNING PESTICIDE USE IN CALGARY : S.E. Calgary News

October 7, 2009 by [Elizabeth Sande](#)



Elizabeth Sande, student-reporter

On Wednesday Oct 7th, the Standing Policy Committee on Utilities and Environment, are meeting to hear recommendations for a pesticide bylaw. Calgary is the largest municipality in Canada without a pesticide regulation. As of Sept 2008, 133 municipalities passed the bylaw, with eleven other municipalities in the process of passing it.

However, not everyone considers such bylaws to be effective. A CBC Marketplace investigation in 2007 found pesticide products that were illegal to use in a community were still easily purchased in major stores. In Toronto, whose pesticide bylaw passed in 2002, there were no convictions in 2006, one in 2007 and three in 2008.

Gideon Forman, the Executive Director of the Canadian Association of Physician's for the Environment will be participating in the hearing as will the Canadian Cancer Society. Together they have lobbied City Council to put a stop to unnecessary pesticide use in Calgary.



Call today for an in-person
insurance consultation
403-251-7963
www.braesideinsurance.com



SECN- What are some harmful effects of pesticides to humans and to the environment?

Gideon – Pesticides have been linked to cancers such as non-Hodgkin lymphoma & leukemia, pancreatic, stomach, prostate, kidney, brain and lung cancers. They have also been associated with Parkinson's disease, learning disabilities and other health problems.

SECN-If pesticides are just used once in a while, can they still be harmful?

Gideon – Yes, the life of a pesticide ranges depending on what it is and where it's sprayed. Pesticides get tracked into houses where, in the absence of sun and soil degradation it lingers. House dust contributes up to 30% of children's exposure before application to lawns and up to 76% of their exposure after application.

SECN- Do alternatives cost more?

Gideon – There are a lot of natural lawn care options and many that are free such as using vinegar to take care of dandelions and weeds or cutting your grass a little longer. Weeds love the sun and slightly longer grass prevents them from getting what they need. As well, over-seeding your grass and aerating your lawn will give you a fantastic green space.

We offer exceptional products and convenient services
Call a ProLink mortgage broker toll free:



1-866-509-1090
403-509-1090
**for a complimentary,
confidential consultation.**

apply and show results?

SECN- Do alternatives take more time to

Gideon – Green lawn care requires a shift in thinking. Once you have new habits in place, the time difference should be insignificant if at all. And when you consider the alternatives – cancer, developmental problems etc..., most people will be happy to change their practices. After all nearly 9 out of 10 Albertan's want the bylaw.

SECN- What are some positive changes that the cities with the bylaw have experienced?

Gideon – In Halifax, the lawn care industry grew by 50%. In Toronto, compliance after just 3 years was 60%. Ontario and Quebec have completely banned all use and sale of cosmetic pesticides and their green spaces look beautiful while their citizens are protected from pesticide exposure.

SECN- Why do you think Calgary doesn't already have a pesticide by law?

Gideon – The City of Calgary has perhaps underestimated their citizen’s capacity for change. Given the proper education and information, this is a very progressive city – one that will understand the necessity for the bylaw and one that adapts and accepts it. Again, a poll performed in 2008 shows that 87% of Albertans want a bylaw! That speaks volumes.



Thermal imaging gives us the leading edge on home inspecting and energy efficiency scans.

Every component of the home is inspected.

AccuHome Inspections
Inspecting homes since 1998

403-313-9506
e-mail us: accuhome@shaw.ca
www.calgaryhomeinspector.biz

SECN- How is the Canadian Cancer Society Involved?

Gideon – The Canadian Cancer Society has been advocating for a bylaw in Calgary for over a year now and it has been involved in similar campaigns across Canada for years. Advocacy is part of our cancer prevention strategy.

SECN- What recommendations are being put forward tomorrow at the hearing?

Gideon – The Canadian Cancer Society is calling for a complete ban on the use of cosmetic pesticides on private and public property. We are recommending that the City of Calgary adopt a strong bylaw to ensure maximum health protection for all Calgarians.

SECN- How did you get involved with environmental health issues?

Gideon – I became involved because I lived in a neighborhood where homeowners were spraying pesticides on their lawns and gardens and I was concerned about my kids’ health. So I worked for a pesticide ban in my city (Toronto). Now I work to win pesticide phase-outs in communities across Canada – to protect other people’s children.



Ronda Bertram Designer Collection
7640 Blackfoot Trail SE
403 726 9871
Easy Care Easy Wear. Design on a Dime

- ☐
- ☐
- ☐
- ☐
- ☐
- ☐
- ☐
- ☐
- ☐

Related Posts

1. [CALGARIANS ASKED FOR INPUT ON PESTICIDE BYLAW](#)
2. [COLUMN: WEEDS, GRASS AND PESTICIDES](#)
3. [DON'T STOP AT BANNING BOOKS, BURN THEM AND HOLD A WIENIE ROAST!](#)
4. [BATTLE FOR CONTROL OF CITY HALL HEATS UP OVER GARBAGE](#)
5. [COLUMN: JONATHAN DENIS, MLA CALGARY EGMONT](#)