

## City committee kills pesticide bylaw

Last Updated: Wednesday, December 2, 2009 | 5:20 PM MT [Comments 37](#) [Recommend 9](#)

CBC News



A city committee rejected a proposed bylaw that would have limited pesticide use in Calgary. (CBC)

A city committee has killed a proposed bylaw that would have limited the cosmetic use of pesticides in Calgary, arguing the measure was unenforceable and futile.

The decision by the utilities and environment committee on Wednesday ends two years of work on a pesticide bylaw, and aldermen say there's no point in revisiting it again until after next year's municipal election.

Aldermen, including Brian Pincott and Druh Farrell, were disappointed that council recently rejected the idea of an eventual ban on pesticides and they felt the proposed bylaw didn't go far enough. Essentially, they decided that having no bylaw amounted to the same approach.

Aldermen Joe Connelly and Gord Lowe felt the bylaw couldn't be realistically enforced. A bylaw officer would have to witness someone spraying illegal pesticides or not posting warning signs on their property to issue a ticket.

With the cost of an investigation, the city could spend \$5,000 to impose a \$150 fine, Lowe said.

"We needed to look at if this bylaw actually accomplished anything from what we're doing today and I'd say it accomplishes very little," said Farrell.

'Why put forward a new bylaw that is very difficult to enforce, that does very little from the status quo?'

—Ald. Druh Farrell

"It could give the impression that we've acted when I don't believe that we have. So why put forward a new bylaw that is very difficult to enforce, that does very little from the status quo?"

Environmentalists had criticized the proposed bylaw as falling short of protecting the public from potential health hazards.

Weed-control companies said the chemicals are safe if the manufacturers' instructions are followed.

- [Post a comment](#)  
37Comments have been posted
- [Recommend this story](#)  
9People have recommended this story

### Story comments (37)

Sort: [Most recent](#) | [First to last](#) | [Agreed](#)

**Nartoon wrote:** Posted 2009/12/03

at 1:52 PM ET "These bans have been issued in every other major city across the country"

So what, that doesn't mean they're right. These products are tested and approved for our use, until they proven, not just hyperventilated about, being poisonous how can City Hall bar an approved product in Canada? If you feel that much against it call your MP and have the Canadian Government re-investigate your claims. Even if they were to be found dangerous in use by individuals they should still be allowed for use by professionals until proven toxic. I certainly don't hear about many people suffering from ingestion of these products, and if they did it's from improper use, not run-off. Talk about a tempest in a tea pot.

- 6
- 1

[6 Agree](#) / [Disagree](#) / [Policy Report abuse](#)

**Eastern Redneck wrote:** Posted 2009/12/03

at 1:43 PM ET Calgary is always behind the times with everything. When I moved here 4.5 yrs ago, you could still smoke in bars, but you weren't allowed to smoke on the patio, outside??? I remember asking my neighbor when I moved here what day is garbage day, and what day is blue box day? The answer "what is a bluebox"? I am in my late 30's and since I was under the age of 5 I remember curb side recycling, but this city misses it on every topic.

Banning pesticides, unbelievable they go back on it after it passes. Just another thing this City will be behind the times on, while kids continue with asthma rates increasing as well as childhood cancers. It will be like anything, agent orange, DDT, you name it, eventually it will be proven that these chemicals are harmful, and Calgary will be behind the times as usual

- 3
- 8

[3 Agree](#) / [8 Disagree](#) / [Policy Report abuse](#)

**JohnLuft wrote:** Posted 2009/12/03

at 1:34 PM ET Isabelle....the bees are more likely to die from untreated from the parasite Nosema ceranae. They will survive when treated with flumagillin.

Your comments indicate you can't think all that clearly.

- 2
- 0

[2 Agree](#) / [0 Disagree](#) / [Policy Report abuse](#)

**CalgaryReader wrote:** Posted 2009/12/03

at 1:23 PM ET I looked up the city of Calgary's posted information about the pesticide by-law. It defines a pesticide to be an agent which eliminates \*pests\*, be they animal, insect or plant pests. The proposed bylaw would therefore include both herbicide and pesticide. You can find that info here:

[http://www.calgary.ca/portal/server.pt/gateway/PTARGS\\_0\\_0\\_780\\_237\\_0\\_43/http%](http://www.calgary.ca/portal/server.pt/gateway/PTARGS_0_0_780_237_0_43/http%3B/content.calgary.ca/CCA/City+Hall/Business+Units/Animal+and+Bylaw+Services/Bylaw+Services/Bylaws+of+Interest/Pesticide+Bylaw/What+are+pesticides/What)

[3B/content.calgary.ca/CCA/City+Hall/Business+Units/Animal+and+Bylaw+Services/Bylaw+Services/Bylaws+of+Interest/Pesticide+Bylaw/What+are+pesticides/What](http://www.calgary.ca/portal/server.pt/gateway/PTARGS_0_0_780_237_0_43/http%3B/content.calgary.ca/CCA/City+Hall/Business+Units/Animal+and+Bylaw+Services/Bylaw+Services/Bylaws+of+Interest/Pesticide+Bylaw/What+are+pesticides/What)

It would have been \*NICE\* if CBC's reporting had included this information, so that I didn't have to find out myself.

- 1

- 0

[IAgree 0DisagreePolicy Report abuse](#)

[nuffsez wrote:](#)Posted 2009/12/03

at 1:21 PM ETAldermen, including Brian Pincott and Druh Farrell, were disappointed that council recently rejected the idea of an eventual ban on pesticides and they felt the proposed bylaw didn't go far enough.

-----

Someone should tell these morons that just having restrictions on the use of pesticides will stop almost ALL law abiding citizens from using them . Worrying about how fines will be levied and enforced is miniscule compared to the damage these chemicals have on children with respiratory problems . City council won't push the issue until one of their family members are affected . Where else could anyone find backwoods politics besides Calgary .

- 0
- 4

[0Agree 4DisagreePolicy Report abuse](#)

- Previous
- 1
- 2
- 3
- 4
- 5
- 6
- 7
- 8
- Next

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 until Wednesday, December 09, 2009 at 11:59 p.m. ET.  
We reserve the right to close comments before then.

#### Post your comment

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 pre-moderated/reviewed and published according to our [submission guidelines](#).

You must be logged in to leave a comment. [Log in](#) | [Sign up](#)

Comment:

[Post](#) [Submission policy](#)