



## Manitoba Government To Cancel/Change Its Ban On Pesticides Used On Lawns And Gardens!

*by Art Drysdale*

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email: [art@artdrysdale.com](mailto:art@artdrysdale.com)

Art Drysdale, a life-long resident of Toronto and a horticulturist well known all across Canada, is now a resident of Parksville, British Columbia on Vancouver Island, just north of Nanaimo. He has reno-vated an old home and has a new garden there. His radio gardening vignettes are heard in south-western Ontario over radio station Easy 101 FM out of Tillsonburg at 2 PM weekdays.

Art also has his own website at <http://www.artdrysdale.com>



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Manitoba will loosen its 2013 provincial prohibition. The Pallister government plans to have new *"responsible and practical"* regulations that will replace Manitoba's prohibition by the end of 2017. The conservative Pallister government plans to have new *"responsible and practical"* regulations that will replace Manitoba's prohibition by the end of 2017.

Ms Cathy Cox is the sustainable development minister for the Pallister government. She said the majority of submissions during a public consultation, conducted during summer 2016, expressed dissatisfaction with the current prohibition against conventional pest control products used in the urban landscape.

According to Ms Cox ? *"Based on this feedback, we will develop a framework based in practicality that provides clarification for both application restrictions and retail distribution.*

The previous NDP Government legislated the provincial prohibition in 2013, and imposed it in 2015. This prohibition stopped lawn care businesses from using conventional products like Killex, and forced them to use a green alternative pesticide called Fiesta, a product that does not work, is stunningly expensive, and is higher risk for the user. Sadly, the vast majority of users overwhelmingly condemn Fiesta.

Mr Tim Muys is owner of Green Blade Lawn Care, the largest lawn care business in Manitoba. According to Mr Muys ? *"Anybody who's on a budget, obviously, those are the customers we definitely lost as a result. It just became TOO EXPENSIVE."* Mr Muys said businesses like his will ensure that pest control products are applied safely.

Because of the Manitoba 2013 provincial prohibition, municipalities too were inflicted with the skyrocketing costs of maintaining their green spaces.

Mr Chris Goertzen is President of the Association of Manitoba Municipalities. He said municipal coffers have been hit hard by the prohibition because the Manitoba government didn't come with any additional funding to compensate communities for the increased cost of keeping green spaces weed-free.

"Alternatives to traditional pesticides are NOT as effective and are incredibly costly, costing 10 to 15 times more," Mr Goertzen said. The City of Steinbach used to pay \$15,000 annually to keep its green spaces relatively weed-free, but after the prohibition was enforced the community saw that figure rise to about \$237,000 per year. The City of Winnipeg saw a significant if not slightly less severe jump, from about \$66,000 per year in pre-prohibition years to about \$593,000 after.

According to Mr Goertzen ? *"It's just NOT DOABLE to maintain that same level of service for the same costs."*

Mr Goertzen said he hopes if the province plans to keep parts of the prohibition in place that it also starts compensating municipalities for associated costs. He also hopes changes to the prohibition will allow licensed applicators to use conventional pest control products — a position supported by the Association of Manitoba Municipalities.

The only people who have wanted prohibition in Manitoba have been small groups of fanatics, like those who operate Green Action Centre and Manitoba Eco-Network, with vested interests in concocting imaginary danger against pest control products.

Green Action Centre is a known anti-pesticide & environmental-terrorist organization that is paid to promote prohibition.

Justin Quigley is an operative with Green Action Centre with some expertise in transportation policy and environmental design.

Quigley has ABSOLUTELY NO expertise, NO training, and NO background in matters concerning pest control products. He said he believes in Manitoba's 2013 provincial prohibition.

According to fanatical-operative Quigley ? *"We are hoping that it [prohibition] could be strengthened, rather than loosened."*

Quigley said Manitoba's 2013 provincial prohibition somehow addressed his imaginary health concerns.

Manitoba Eco-Network is also a known anti-pesticide & environmental-terrorist organization that is paid to promote prohibition.

Karen Peters is an operative with Green Action Centre with some expertise in local food and global warming.

Peters has ABSOLUTELY NO expertise, NO training, and NO background in matters concerning pest control products.

She said she doesn't know what kind of changes the government has in mind, but she hopes Manitoba's 2013 provincial prohibition stays in place. According to fanatical-operative Peters ? *"We're worried about this because of people's sensitivities to chemicals, and ecosystems, and people's health, of course."*

Manitoba Eco-Network has run [a bogus] organic pesticide-free lawn-care education programme for more than 15 years, and truth-challenged Peters said they've shown it doesn't cost more to maintain green spaces with bio-pesticides and other organic alternatives.  
[WRONG!]

Manitoba is not the only jurisdiction that is or will be rolling back anti-pesticide regulations. Glyphosate (Roundup) recently received a very good boost from a European testing organization that will likely cause other jurisdictions to consider reversing their regulations.

More on this topic in the near future.