



Group seeks city ban on pesticides

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A group of local mothers is calling on the city to ban the use of pesticides arguing the chemical are harmful to children.

"Really Edmonton and Calgary are the only big cities, which still have no protection for citizens," said Elisabeth Beaubien with the University of Alberta's department of renewable resources.

The coalition of moms, doctors, and specialists say more than 170 Canadian cities has already brought down a ban on the chemicals.

"We don't want to introduce our kids to pesticides. There is no need to," said Cherry Dodd with Pesticide-Free Edmonton.

Some retailers in our city have already pulled certain products from its shelves. And one city school has decided not to use non-essential pesticides on its grass or its garden.

Doctor Raquel Feroe who specializes in internal medicine says there are studies that show pesticides are harmful for anyone playing in the grass.

"Regular exposures to pesticides can increase cancers," the doctor tells CTV News.

Even city councillor Kim Krushell admits introducing a city-wide ban is worth a discussion.

"We are behind other major municipalities -- most major ones, it looks like, have introduced something," said Coun. Kim Krushell.

But Coun. Ron Hayter says the issue is still up for debate.

"I have not supported a ban because I believe that there are places that pesticides are still an important remedy."

And for homeowners, a city-wide ban could result in a little more work in the backyard. It means dandelions will likely need to be pulled -- instead of sprayed.

The group says the ban should not include essential pesticides that are used for the control of diseases like West Nile virus and malaria.

With files from Sean Amato

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