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## CTV EDMONTON

## Health professionals call on city to ban the use of non-essential pesticides



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A long list of doctors and environmental groups are having their say at city hall Monday as they push the city to ban pesticides.

The groups are urging the city to follow dozens of other Canadian municipalities that have outlawed the chemicals.

One local pediatrician made a compelling case in her argument against the use of pesticides for cosmetic reasons.

Dr. Isabelle Chapados says studies show a long list of health risks associated with pesticides.

Chapados and other health professionals say the risks are too great to ignore.

They want council to ban pesticides and herbicides in cases when they're used for aesthetic reasons. They say the chemicals should only be used if they are being used to guard against health risks like diseases carried by insects.

"If there's a big outbreak of West Nile, I would not be against special spraying for that," said Chapados.

The chief medical officer of health for the Edmonton Region also presented Monday morning, but his position was not as clear.

He said pesticide use should be reduced as much as possible but stopped short of calling for an all-out ban.

The Canadian Cancer Society says research has been done suggesting certain pesticides can increase the risk of cancers like Non-Hodgkin's lymphoma, leukemia and prostate cancers.

"For the public we do recommend that they use alternatives and become informed because we really feel strongly that it's important to protect our children from all pesticide exposure that's really not essential," said Sarah Hawkins with the Canadian Cancer Society.

The Community Services Committee is set to continue hearing from people who both support and reject a ban this afternoon before deciding whether to make any recommendation in the issue.

Coun. Kim Krushell says she's not convinced at this point a ban motion will go forward Monday.

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Health professionals call on city to ban the use of non-essential pesticides

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She says if it were to go through, she will not support it.

With files from Laura Tupper

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