

EDMONTON JOURNAL

Henderson wants cosmetic pesticides banned on city land

BY GORDON KENT, EDMONTON JOURNAL DECEMBER 17, 2014

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Coun. Ben Henderson is plowing ahead in his fight against cosmetic pesticides by asking his colleagues to ban their use on city property.

Photograph by: Edmonton Journal , edmontonjournal.com

Coun. Ben Henderson is plowing ahead in his fight against cosmetic pesticides by asking his colleagues to ban their use on city property.

“We should only be using pesticides for weeds that are on the noxious weed list,” Henderson said Wednesday after announcing he’ll propose the ban at the next council meeting.

“If it’s not on that list, there’s a public health issue around pesticides. They do cause harm.”

Almost a dozen speakers urged the community services committee to outlaw cosmetic pesticides last March, arguing they’re linked to cancer and other illnesses.

They asked councillors to copy limitations imposed by more than 170 municipalities in other provinces, but the committee voted against looking into it further.

Henderson, who said chemicals might also be needed to stop such plant scourges as Dutch elm disease, wants the full council to take part in the debate.

“My motion is not designed to take the option away where we’re truly dealing with noxious weeds or pests that are more than cosmetic,” he said.

“If we’re just talking about some weeds on a playing field, they aren’t doing anybody any harm.”

The city has been asked to ban cosmetic pesticides several times in the past 20 years.

It said no most recently in 2012 over concerns about controlling invasive species, cost and lack of proof about the benefits.

Edmonton’s integrated pest management program deals with weeds, insects and other problem species using non-toxic methods such as better turf care and biological control of harmful bugs before applying chemicals.

The city put out the equivalent of 2,461 kilograms of pesticide active ingredients in 2013, down 45 per cent from 2001.

Coun. Tony Caterina doesn’t see much point in examining the issue again when the motion is raised, likely Jan. 27.

“I still don’t favour it and I don’t think there’s going to be any new information brought forward,” he said.

“We know the city's trying their best to do all kinds of things, and every time we adjust something the dandelions grow out of control and people complain.”

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NORAHG SPEAKS OUT AGAINST BEN HENDERSON — NO ONE WANTS THIS DANGEROUS BAN NONSENSE THAT PLACES CHILDREN AT RISK !

Ben Henderson is WRONG ! By NOT imposing a reckless pesticide ban, Edmonton is avoiding placing children at risk ! With pesticide bans, green spaces become pest-infested dangerous garbage dumps.

<http://wp.me/P1jq40-44g> <http://wp.me/P1jq40-4z3>

<http://wp.me/p1jq40-7C4> With pesticide bans, playing surfaces become thin and yellow, and over-run with weeds and infested with insects, resulting in the dismal destruction of safe turf playing surfaces. Pesticide bans cause hazardous slipping and tripping conditions in sports turf, and children become seriously hurt. Pest control products prevent slipping injuries on sports turf. <http://wp.me/P1jq40-2ha> Children need pest-free sports fields to avoid falling and hurting themselves. It is impossible for homeowners or professionals to keep their properties beautiful by using so-called green alternative pesticides and practices. <http://wp.me/P1jq40-24g> In fact, there are real trends against prohibition. Children need pest-free turf to avoid hurting themselves. There are dozens of jurisdictions that have kept children safe by stopping or rescinding or limiting anti-pesticide prohibition, or by granting professional lawn care businesses with an exception status. The following jurisdiction have kept children safe in Western Canada — Alberta (Province), Altona (Manitoba), Beaumont (Alberta), British Columbia (Province), Calgary (Alberta), Campbell River (British Columbia), Edmonton (Alberta), Kamloops (British Columbia), Kelowna (British Columbia), Merritt (British Columbia), Port Alberni (British Columbia), Portage La Prairie (Manitoba), Regina (Saskatchewan), Rossland (British Columbia), Salmon Arm (British Columbia), Steinbach (Manitoba), Stuartburn (Manitoba), Vernon (British Columbia), Winkler (Manitoba). EDMONTON MUST JOIN THE TRENDS AGAINST PESTICIDE BANS. <http://wp.me/P1jq40-1JO> EDMONTON CANNOT AFFORD THIS NONSENSE ! We are the National Organization Responding Against HUE that seek to destroy the Green space and other industries (NORAH G). We are dedicated to reporting PESTICIDE FREE FAILURES, as well as the work of RESPECTED and HIGHLY RATED EXPERTS who promote ENVIRONMENTAL

REALISM and PESTICIDE TRUTHS. Get the latest details at
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