

June 23, 2015 **Updated** : June 23, 2015 | 9:03 pm

Edmonton councillors pass pesticide ban with many exemptions

By [Ryan Tumilty](#)

MetroNews.ca



Kevin Tuong / For MetroThe city won't treat road boulevards with pesticides under the ban, but exemptions were carved out for a number of different areas.

Edmonton councillors passed a ban on pesticide use on city property Tuesday, but not before adding several exemptions.

The city has already drastically reduced its use of pesticide in parks, and on roadways and boulevards, but the new ban will go further, though it will still allow city staff to use pesticides for outbreaks of noxious weeds.

Coun. Michael Walters said science and society were moving away from using chemicals to deal with weeds and it was time for the city to start catching up.

“We see this going in a direction where one day there will be full-scale bans. I don’t think this goes far enough, but I will support it,” he said.

Among the exemptions where pesticide can still be used that council passed were premier sports fields, cemeteries and instances where the city was hosting major international events.

Four councillors voted against the ban; Coun. Mike Nickel, Coun. Ed Gibbons, Coun. Bryan Anderson and Coun. Michael Oshry.

Nickel first asked for council to postpone the issue until they could hear from Health Canada and other agencies that regulate pesticides.

“I do want to hear the other side of the argument for the people who actually regulate these chemicals,” he said. “None of us sitting up here are toxicologists.”

Coun. Michael Oshry said that while the ban may feel good, the science says there is no danger.

“In my mind this is a triumph of sentiment over practicality.”

<http://metronews.ca/news/edmonton/1406170/edmonton-councillors-pass-pesticide-ban-with-many-exemptions/>

NORAHG RESPONDS AGAINST CITY OF EDMONTON — THERE SHOULD BE NO #@!% EXCEPTIONS WHATSOEVER !

On June 23rd, 2015, Edmonton City Council legislated a STRONGER self-imposed prohibition against conventional pest control products. The self-imposed prohibition that was already in effect against pest control products has already RUINED Edmonton's public green spaces. Because of this prohibition, Edmonton's public green spaces are over-run by invasive weed and damaging insects, and look like garbage dumps !

With STRONGER self-imposed prohibition against conventional pest control products, here is the warped and twisted pesticide-hating reasoning of Edmonton City Council —

- cemeteries — arbitrary exception status
- major international events — arbitrary exception status
- premier sports fields — arbitrary exception status
- public green spaces like parks — NO exception status

In other words, an arbitrary exception status can be unverifiably and arbitrarily provided when it suits the needs of Edmonton City Council. The use of the exception status also demonstrates that Edmonton City Council DOES NOT actually believe that conventional pest control products represent unacceptable risks to the public and the environment. Furthermore, Edmonton's warped and twisted arbitrary exceptions imply that ... it is safe for children and adults to walk on pesticide-treated cemeteries, but it is seemingly NOT safe for them to walk and play on pesticide-treated parks. However, in order to be consistent and fair, there should be NO arbitrary exception statuses for anyone. In order to be consistent and fair, Edmonton City Council must PROHIBIT ALL PEST CONTROL PRODUCTS from uses that include agriculture, forestry, golf facilities, mosquito control, nursery, rose gardens, sod production, and sports fields. In order to be consistent and fair, Edmonton must provide NO exception status for golf facilities, especially those that are municipally-operated, like Riverside, Rundle Park, and Victoria. After all, these Edmonton-owned golf facilities employ the very same ingredients that are used to control damaging pests in public green spaces. THERE SHOULD BE NO #@!!% EXCEPTIONS WHATSOEVER ! Additionally, Edmonton City Council must warn its residents that CHILDREN WILL BE SUFFERING MORE AND MORE INJURIES because of its stronger self-imposed prohibition. Without conventional pest control products, green spaces invariably become pest-infested and dangerous garbage dumps. Without conventional pest control products, 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. Organic pesticide-free maintenance does NOT work ! It is impossible for home-owners or professionals to keep their properties safe and beautiful by using so-called green alternative pesticides and practices. <http://wp.me/P1jq40-24g>

Throughout the nation, anti-pesticide prohibitions have clearly demonstrated that green alternative pesticides and practices are dismal failures.

<http://wp.me/P1jq40-24g> ORGANIC PESTICIDE-FREE LAWN CARE IS A DISMAL FAILURE ! For more information, go to The Pesticide Truths Web-Site ... <http://wp.me/P1jq40-44g> <http://wp.me/P1jq40-4z3> <http://wp.me/P1jq40-445> <http://wp.me/P1jq40-3yl> We are the National Organization Responding Against HUJE that conspire to destroy the Green space and other industries (NORAH G). As a non-profit and independent organization, we are environmentalists who are dedicated to reporting about NON-EXPERT PESTICIDE-HATING FANATICS, as well as the work of RESPECTED and HIGHLY RATED EXPERTS who promote ENVIRONMENTAL REALISM and PESTICIDE TRUTHS. <http://wp.me/p1jq40-8DV> Get the latest details at <http://pesticidetruths.com/> WILLIAM H GATHERCOLE AND NORAH G