

## GETTING TO A PESTICIDE BYLAW

### Dealing with Golf Courses

Golf courses can be troubling for municipalities considering a pesticide by-law, but considering that over 70 communities across Canada have passed by-laws banning or restricting the cosmetic use of pesticides, one can rest assured that there are many ways in which bylaws can deal with golf courses and that golf courses can deal with bylaws.



- ❑ Inform golf courses (and members of the public) about the extremely high rate of pesticide use on golf courses (18 lb per treated acre per year versus less than 3 lb per treated acre per year in agricultural applications.)
- ❑ Remind people that sports like golf were enjoyed for many years before chemical pesticides were ever invented. We simply have to use organic methods of pest control.
- ❑ Consider making an exception in the bylaw to allow sports clubs a three to five year "weaning period", as the Town of Hudson did for the golf course there.
- ❑ Council may want to reduce opposition to pesticide restrictions by offering a "carrot" (e.g.: approval of a grant for clubhouse renovations).
- ❑ Council may want to offer to pay for the golf course's lawn care employees to attend a non-toxic lawn care training course.
- ❑ Ask people who have suffered from pesticide exposures on sports field to speak out in public. Many golfers are concerned about the pesticide issue and know of pesticide misuse on the golf course. For example many children complain of rashes and other ill-effects after they play baseball or soccer on "treated" fields.

Remember that the goal is to improve the long term health of the community and the environment. Golfing is about exercise, enjoying fresh air and the company of friends.

*Let's keep it a healthy sport and eliminate pesticide exposure.*

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