

Call to Action: Pesticide Use in British Columbia



Your Voice is Needed: Upcoming Calls To Action

- In the next few weeks Saanich Council will be voting on a bylaw to ban the cosmetic/non-essential use of pesticides.
- Other municipalities in the Capital Regional District will also be considering bylaws.
- The BC Government will be conducting consultations on a province-wide ban on the sale and use of cosmetic/non-essential pesticides.



Non-Essential/Cosmetic Use of Pesticides

Pesticides:

All 'cides' (herbicides, fungicides, insecticides etc.

Non-essential/

Cosmetic Pesticide Use:

Pesticides used for the purpose of enhancing the appearance of lawns, gardens, trees, shrubs, and recreational facilities.



Harmful Effects of Pesticides

- Pesticides are harmful to our land, water and air.
- Pesticide use has been linked to both adult and childhood cancers (Canadian Cancer Society).
- Children are particularly vulnerable to the effects of pesticides.



Are you Concerned?

Is beautifying our lawns and gardens worth the risk, especially when viable alternatives exist?



A Growing Movement

- **Over 150 municipalities in Canada and 24 in BC have passed bylaws banning the cosmetic use of pesticides.**
- **Ontario and Quebec have passed legislation.**
- **The BC Government stated in their Speech to the Throne (summer 09) that they will be conducting public consultations on pesticide restrictions.**



The Time to Act is Now

- Concerned organizations and Saanich residents please write and/or call your Mayor and Council right away and encourage them to pass a bylaw banning the non-essential use of pesticides.
- Thank Saanich council for their leadership thus far in pesticide reduction.
- Ask that the bylaw have no exemptions except when threats to human or sensitive ecosystems are present and no viable alternatives exist.
- Join our Facebook (search Pesticide-Free CRD) and Twitter (<http://twitter.com/pesticidefree>) pages and get the word out (use email as well).



The Case for Pesticide Legislation

- 76% of residents in the CRD support legislation that would ban the use of non-essential/cosmetic pesticides (Ipsos Reid Poll 2007).
- 77% of British Columbians support legislation that would ban the sale and use of cosmetic pesticides (Ipsos Reid Poll 2008).
- 85% of British Columbians would try using alternatives to pesticides (Ipsos Reid Poll 2008).
- Approximately three-quarters of British Columbians believe that pesticides have a negative impact on their health, and similar numbers are concerned about environmental impacts (Ipsos Reid Poll 2008).



Education is Not Enough

- Research on pesticide reduction initiatives throughout the world have shown that education alone is not effective.
- A bylaw, complimented by a strong education campaign is by far the best approach (Centre for Pollution Prevention, 2004).



The Case for Pesticide Legislation continued....

- Viable alternatives to pesticides exist.
- Businesses are already shifting to non-toxic alternatives
- Home depot, Rona and Loblaws have phased out the sale of cosmetic pesticides.



Stay informed

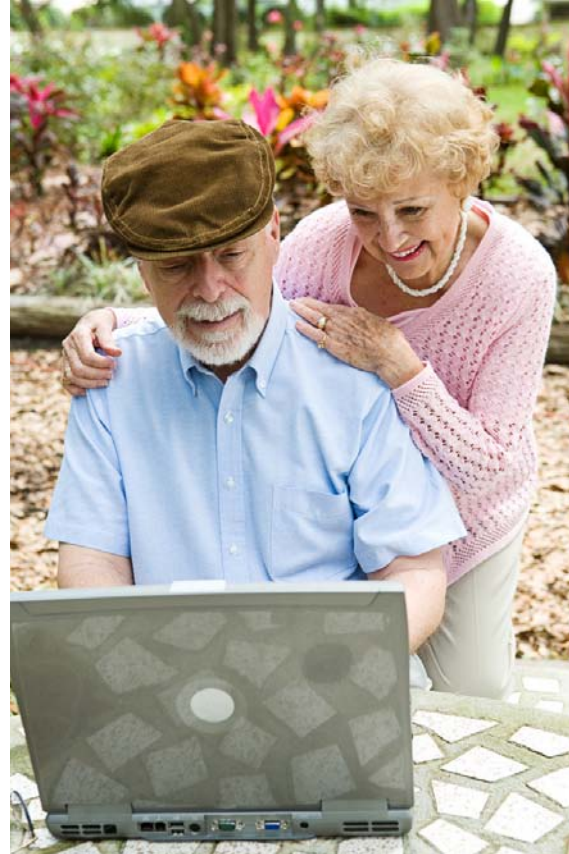
- Join our Facebook (search Pesticide-Free CRD) and Twitter

<http://twitter.com/pesticidefree> to learn about other municipalities in the CRD, and the upcoming provincial pesticide consultations.

- Visit our website for background information and updates (www.pesticidefreecrd.org)

Spread the word

- Email
- Facebook
- Twitter
- Blogs



Change will not come if we wait for some other person or some other time. We are the ones we've been waiting for. We are the change that we seek. Barack Obama



Take Action, Stay Informed, Spread the Word

Thank-You

Pesticide-Free CRD

www.pesticidefreecrd.org

