

# Pesticide-Free CRD

## Considering a Pesticide-Use Bylaw?

### **Problem**

Using toxic and potentially carcinogenic substances to improve the appearance of lawns or gardens has few benefits and lots of risks. The use of pesticides causes humans, particularly children, to come in direct contact with these toxic substances. Pesticides enter the environment contaminating groundwater and waterways, moving up the food chain to negatively impact humans as well as fish and marine mammals such as Orcas.

Scientific evidence on the health and environmental effects of pesticide exposure is growing. So is public concern. According to a recent Ipsos Reid poll commissioned by the Capital Regional District (2007), 76 per cent of residents in the CRD would support their municipality passing a bylaw restricting the non-essential use of pesticides.

### **Solution**

A bylaw that regulates the cosmetic or non-essential use of pesticides for home lawns and gardens and all public lands is an obvious place where municipalities can reduce the environmental and health consequences of pesticides. There are many effective and affordable alternatives to pesticides, which homeowners, municipalities and landscaping companies can use

A number of municipalities in the CRD have shown leadership on this issue and over 160 municipalities across Canada and 17 in BC have passed pesticide-use bylaws.

In 2007, the CRD Roundtable on the Environment — after seven years of research, analysis, discussion and public consultation — prepared a Model Pesticide Use Control Bylaw.

### **Not all bylaws created equal**

This section is currently under review.

### **Public Education**

Studies show that public education must work in concert with bylaws in order to yield a significant reduction in the non-essential use of pesticides. However public education on its own is not enough. The CRD, in partnership with participating municipalities, has taken the lead in public education, but individual municipalities should tailor these initiatives to meet local needs. Education includes everything from potential hazards of pesticides currently in use to managing weeds and other pests using alternatives.

### **Pesticide-Free CRD**

Pesticide-Free CRD is a coalition of organizations and individuals in the Capital Regional District that is concerned with the use of pesticides in our community. Our mission is to protect our health and the environment by eliminating the use of all unnecessary pesticide products.

The coalition:

- Advocates for bylaws that restrict the non-essential use of pesticides
- Promotes public education programs on alternative methods for managing pests
- Supports all initiatives that reduce our community's exposure to pesticides

The coalition includes Canadian Cancer Society, Sierra Club Victoria Group, T. Buck Suzuki Environmental Foundation, Georgia Strait Alliance, Prevent Cancer Now, and Toxic-Free Canada.

**More information**

Pesticide-Free CRD

CRD Roundtable on the Environment

Coalition for a Healthy Ottawa, Pesticide bylaws

Coalition for a Healthy Ottawa, No to IPM

[www.pesticidefreecrd.org](http://www.pesticidefreecrd.org)

[www.crd.bc.ca/rte/pest](http://www.crd.bc.ca/rte/pest)

[www.flora.org/healthyottawa/pesticide-bylaw.htm](http://www.flora.org/healthyottawa/pesticide-bylaw.htm)

[www.flora.org/healthyottawa/IPM.htm](http://www.flora.org/healthyottawa/IPM.htm)

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