



We ask the City of Kamloops to help reduce community pesticide exposure & risks

Dear Honoured Mayor and Council,

I ask you to please consider an incremental phase-out of pesticide use in parks, playgrounds, bus stops and other public areas, particularly where children play and travel or where pesticide drift and leaching can adversely affect food species and crops.

Like second-hand smoke, the effects of pesticides are not immediately noticeable. 2,4-D, a pesticide used by the city in quantity throughout our community, contains organochlorines in the form of dioxins, which are bio-accumulative. Once they've entered the body, they never leave. This toxic loading over time has been shown to lead to cancer and birth defects.

Glyphosate, the city's most-used pesticide, has been shown to raise cancer risk by 41%. I am also concerned about pesticide effects on plants, food species, pollinators and non-target organisms.

The mobility of 2,4-D in soil frequently results in contamination of not only the soil where it is applied but also nontarget surface waters and groundwaters. It has been detected in groundwater supplies in Canada.

Glyphosate and 2,4-D eradicate plant species that bees need for pollen and nectar, and bees are highly susceptible to pesticides as their genome lacks genes that encode detoxification enzymes. Juvenile rainbow trout exposed to sublethal doses of glyphosate for two or more days exhibit moderate liver degeneration and fibrosis and swimming performance does not return to normal levels after recovery.

Since it is against Canadian law to spray pesticides in periods of dead calm, there is always drift. In an urban environment, this drift can affect the growth and health of vegetable gardens and fruit.

For these reasons, Quebec, Ontario, Nova Scotia and Manitoba ban cosmetic use of pesticides for all residents and local governments. Ontario and Nova Scotia ban 2,4-D and glyphosate entirely and Quebec has banned 2,4-D. Vancouver, Burnaby, Regina, Calgary and many other Canadian cities have banned pesticides in playgrounds, neighbourhood sports fields, parks and other public spaces.

Many alternatives to pesticides exist. Our city could reach out to jurisdictions that have phased out cosmetic pesticides for guidance on non-toxic means of maintaining pleasant gardens and green spaces.

I urge you to consider a phase-out of pesticides of proven toxicity and an incremental phase-out of all pesticide use in public areas (perhaps stop their use in playgrounds the first year, parks the next, etc). I also request that the city allow residents to declare pesticide-free buffer zones around their private property. I also hope the city will also consider public consultation and a survey to help identify areas and products of greatest concern as we work together to reduce toxics in our urban environment.

Thank you very much for your attention and concern regarding this important public health issue.

Sincerely,

Signature

Date

Please print name: _____