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Society

BRITISH COLUMBIA AND YUKON

Pesticides and Cancer: The Need for an Effective Bylaw

*Presented by: Nancy Falconer, Community Action Coordinator
Canadian Cancer Society, Vancouver Island Region*

Port Alberni Pesticide Forum

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Pesticides:

- Pesticides and cancer
- Our position
- The need for a strong bylaw
- Benefits of a bylaw



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Pesticides and Cancer

- Pesticides are substances intended to kill or otherwise control insects, weeds, fungi, or pests
- There is a growing body of evidence linking exposure to pesticides with certain types of cancers





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Pesticides and Cancer



- Studies have linked pesticide exposure to both adult and childhood cancers
- Children are at greater risk from the effects of pesticides

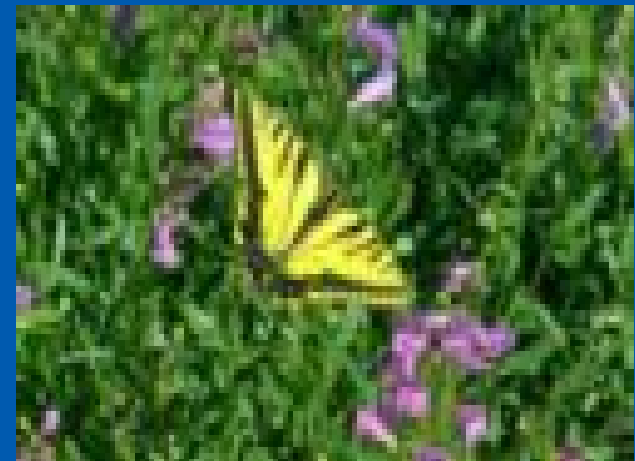


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Our Position

Since the cosmetic use of pesticides has no countervailing health benefit, and has the potential to cause harm, the Canadian Cancer Society calls for a ban restricting the cosmetic use of pesticides on lawns and gardens





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The Precautionary Principle



- Where cosmetic pesticides are concerned, the Canadian Cancer Society endorses the precautionary principle
- “It is better to be safe than sorry”



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The Impact of Local Government

In 2001, the Supreme Court of Canada, in a landmark decision, upheld the right of municipalities to pass bylaws restricting the cosmetic use of pesticides





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A Growing Movement

Since then, 140 Canadian municipalities and one Province has adopted the precautionary approach to pesticide use and moved to ban the use of cosmetic pesticides





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Pesticide Bans Across Canada

- Halifax
- Montreal
- Toronto
- London
- The Province of Quebec
(*Pesticides Management Code*)
- Ontario Government has
committed to a province wide
ban





Which BC Municipalities Have Bylaws?

- Gibsons – 2005
- Port Moody – Jan 1, 2006
- Vancouver – Jan 1, 2006
- West Vancouver – Jan 1, 2006
- Maple Ridge – December 12, 2006
- Nelson – July 23, 2007
- New Westminister - drafted
- Comox
- Courtenay
- Cumberland
- Victoria
- Esquimalt (drafted)
- North Vancouver (District) – drafted
- Salmon Arm – drafted
- Whistler
- Burnaby



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A Model Bylaw

- Restricts, not just educates
- Includes herbicides, insecticides, fungicides, vermicides, rodenticides
- Includes public and private property
- Includes public awareness/education program





The Scope of A Bylaw

- **Does NOT apply to**
 - swimming pools
 - inside an enclosed building
 - for purification of water
 - to control or destroy animals or plants which constitute a danger for human beings
 - forestry or agriculture
- **Allows for use of pesticides in exceptional situations (following notice, etc)**



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Integrated Pest Management (IPM) Is Not the Answer

Bylaws Should Not Include “IPM”:

- Now used by the landscape industry to defend pesticide use
- IPM relies on pesticides
- Should not be integrated into legislation



Support for Bylaws

- Polls show that the majority of citizens support pesticide bylaws
- It can be easy
 - If done in a phased-in approach
 - Educate and then restrict
 - Complaint and then fine
 - There are many model bylaws
 - Courtney, Hudson, Peterborough, Oakville, Port Moody, West Vancouver

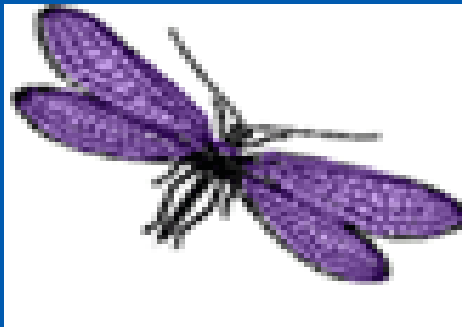


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Support for Bylaws

There are many
alternatives to
pesticides





- **Alberni Environmental Coalition**
- **Garden Clubs**
- **Organic landscaping companies**
- **Society for Organic Urban Land care (SOUL)**
- **Municipalities and regional districts with existing education campaigns (e.g Capital Regional District)**



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SOUL

**Society for Organic Urban Land
Care**

<http://www.organiclandcare.org/>



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Composting Centres

The Greater Victoria Compost Education Centre:

- Sustainable Home and Garden
Series



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Municipalities and Regional Districts with Education Campaigns

Toronto Public Health:

Pesticide Free....

A Guide to Natural Lawn and Garden
Care

<http://www.toronto.ca/health/pesticides/>



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Benefits of a Bylaw

- It shows leadership, and is the right thing to do from a public health perspective
- Bylaws do not harm business, and will stimulate businesses that specialize in alternative lawn and garden care, and the number and variety of alternative lawn and garden products





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Benefits of a Bylaw

- It will raise the community's profile as a place that cares about the health of its citizens and the environment, and is a safe and healthy place to raise children
- It will add to the desirability of the community as a tourist destination





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Thank You

For more information or to join the growing movement:

- **Contact Nancy Falconer, Community Action Coordinator, Canadian Cancer Society, Vancouver Island Region**
- **380-2358 or nfalconer@bc.cancer.ca**