

TO: Mayor Dionne and City Councilors
cc:

Dear Mayor and Council,

As President of the Saskatchewan Network for Alternatives to Pesticides (SNAP Inc), I am writing to you in support of Parks Manager Tim Yeaman's proposal to buy a Thermal Weed Control option to diminish pesticide (pesticide being a general category, which encompasses insecticides and herbicides) use in the city.

The Saskatchewan Network for Alternatives to Pesticides (SNAP Inc), of which I am President and Spokesperson, has been advocating alternatives to chemical pesticides for over a decade. SNAP wrote a letter to the Editor for the PA Herald supporting a pesticide bylaw on 11 September 2017 as well as a letter to Mayor Dionne, Councilor Botha, City Clerk and Community Services (1). I would love to see the City of PA reduce pesticide use, especially given that every province except Saskatchewan has already banned or limited cosmetic pesticide use. The rest of the country has already found viable alternatives to pesticides, as have other cities close by, like Saskatoon.

First, I would like to congratulate Prince Albert in having designed a notification web site for pesticide applications which is effective and timely, allowing the public to avoid recently sprayed areas.

You manager, Mr Yeaman, has chosen an excellent option in the *Foamstream*. I have heard raving reviews of similar steam weeders using foam from many locations, at least since 1991. Thermal weed control is an excellent option for any area treated with *RoundUp (glyphosate)* such as cracks in sidewalks, base of poles or fences, tree wells, tree beds, walking paths, empty lots and gravel or dirt parking lots. I understand that Prince Albert is investing into new playground equipment. Foamstream would be an alternative way to keep the areas weed-free without exposing children to chemicals. Using it would prevent harm to the public, as most of those are exempt from signage, and the exposure to a chemical herbicide cannot be avoided when besides a parked car, sidewalk or walking path with no signage. The public also does not wear the safety equipment that your staff does. They are more likely to wear shorts and sandals at the time of year glyphosate is applied.

As Mr. Yeaman discusses in his report, thermal weed control would give the City the ability to tackle areas any time of day, in any weather, eliminate the need for staff to be certified (which would allow for more staff to use the product), and reduce public concerns about applications in high traffic areas. The system also has other uses such as moss and algi control, gum and graffiti removal, urban cleaning, sanitization and general cleaning. I am also finding internet articles indicating that *Foamstream* can kill 99.99% of Covid particles within 10 seconds, making it ideal for sanitizing equipment. (1,2)

I believe that this purchase, despite the high price tag at \$60,000, is a good use of funds and an important long term investment for the health of Prince Albert and its residents.

Thank you for your time.

Paule Hjertaas, President and spokesperson for the Saskatchewan network for Alternatives to Pesticides (SNAP Inc) www.snapinfo.ca

References

1. <https://www.snapinfo.ca/info/presentations-and-publications> top of the page under 'August 11-21, 2017'
2. <https://www.weedingtech.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/08/EN-Controlling-Coronavirus-Using-Foamstream-V2.13.pdf> Note I would love to see the original study. Perhaps the manufacturers can provide it.
3. <https://www.weedingtech.com/applications/sanitisation/>, describing use scenarios in many areas.