

Hi there,

My name is Sarah, and I am a medical student here in Regina. I don't have quite the expertise in pesticides that my colleagues in the delegation here do, but I'm here as an overwhelmed healthcare worker and as a concerned citizen of Regina. The climate crisis is one of the greatest crises we're dealing with, and one that my generation will have to continue to deal with for decades to come. Canada (and particularly Saskatchewan)'s contribution to greenhouse gas emissions are staggeringly high and are still yet to see any sort of meaningful reduction (that can't be attributed to covid-related economic slowing). What this group is here to do today is recommend an easy, data-informed, logical step that the City of Regina could take to make Regina cleaner, and reduce our emissions. For some context, when pesticides are produced, three of the most potent greenhouse gases are emitted: carbon dioxide, methane, and nitrous oxide. Furthermore, most commercial pesticides are phosphate based, which requires mining and processing of phosphate ores, which itself has destroyed hundreds of thousands of acres of lands in North America. The planet is not an expendable resource for us to use without consequence, and continuing to use unregulated pesticides doesn't send the message to your city that you're concerned for its future. As a healthcare worker, I want to plead the case to you that phasing out pesticide use could relieve some of the enormous burden the healthcare system is seeing right now. As of yesterday, Regina General Hospital, Pasqua, St. Paul's, University, and Saskatoon City Hospitals were all over capacity. We started sending patients out of the province again because we don't have the resources or capacity to take care of them. As some of my colleagues have mentioned, pesticides have been linked to numerous serious, chronic health conditions. While preventing human suffering and loss would

be the main benefit to decreased pesticide use, we could also prosper financially. The average cancer patient in Saskatchewan costs the healthcare system upwards of \$30,000 – we could be saving a significant amount of money by preventing these chronic illnesses. On top of that, the healthcare system might be able to run in a capacity where patients didn't spend upwards of 48 hours in hallways waiting to be seen by a physician.

Lastly, as outlined in Councillor Stadnichuk's motion, this isn't a revolutionary idea. Saskatchewan is one of only three provinces left to leave pesticide use unregulated. As a member of the Canadian Association of Physicians for the Environment, I have the opportunity to work with physicians across Canada who are passionate about the climate. Many of them have worked on reducing pesticide use in their own provinces and would be more than happy to help connect Regina with those who have already undergone this process. That's all I have for today, thank you very much for hearing us out and giving us the opportunity to bring this forward to you.