

Motion to Regulate the Non-essential (Cosmetic) Use of Pesticides

WHEREAS we all desire a safe and healthy environment in Regina for the wellbeing of all residents; and,

WHEREAS the Official Community Plan identifies the significance of environmental sustainability, health, and well-being; and,

WHEREAS we need to protect biodiversity in nature and create a healthy environment for birds and pollinators like bees and butterflies; and,

WHEREAS the cosmetic use of pesticides is unnecessary, creates needless exposure to toxic substances and poses health risks to humans, pets and other animals, birds and beneficial insects; and,

WHEREAS the province of Saskatchewan is one of only three provinces that does not regulate the cosmetic use of pesticides; and,

WHEREAS the City of Regina has reduced its use of cosmetic pesticides in its parks but has no bylaws regulating the cosmetic use of pesticides on city or private property; and,

WHEREAS the Supreme Court of Canada ruled in the landmark decision *Canada Ltee (Spraytech, Societe d'arrosage) v. Hudson (Town)*, [2001] 2 S.C.R 241, 2001 SCC 40] that municipalities have the right to act in the public interest by restricting cosmetic pesticide use on both public and private property; and,

WHEREAS over 200 municipalities across Canada, and the entire province of Ontario, have regulated the cosmetic use of pesticides -- in some cases for over 20 years; and,

WHEREAS hundreds of cities and towns across Canada with bans on cosmetic pesticides continue to have beautiful lawns, gardens, parks and green spaces by using non-toxic alternatives to control weeds or insects,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Regina City Council direct city administration to prepare a report by Q4 of 2022 that includes:

- A review of the research on how the elimination of cosmetic pesticides protects our biodiversity, especially birds and pollinators like bees and butterflies;
- A summary of the best practices in Canada to maintain green spaces and yards without the cosmetic use of pesticides;

- Feedback from the public through community engagement on a cosmetic pesticide ban; and,
- Recommendations and implications of implementing a cosmetic pesticide ban and the funding requirement for a public education and communications plan on such a ban including the promotion of safe alternative products and best practices for yards, gardens and parks.

Submitted by:

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