

The Campbell River Environmental Committee

December 5, 2016,

Petition to Mayor and City Council of Campbell River for a budget change to facilitate the ban of pesticides in Campbell River, BC, except for limited use on specific invasive weeds and to implement a Pesticide Use Bylaw.

"Pesticides come in many forms including insecticides, herbicides, and fungicides. How we choose to manage pests in our yards is important for our families, our community and environment. Even low levels of pesticide exposure can pose a potential risk to the health and well being of our families, especially children." Campbell River, City Website Pesticide Awareness Page.

In the past Roundup® or a 'type' of Roundup (Glyphosate is an active ingredient therein) has been sprayed by wand up and down our city streets from moving vehicles. Some of this spraying took place on breezy days, vapour drift being a serious concern. Trillion® is used on our playing fields.

"Glyphosate is classed as moderately persistent in soil, with a half-life of 20 - 100 days, depending on soil conditions." (Government of Canada website)- Long enough for children, adults and pets to come in contact with.

In an article sent to me by Dr. R. Relyea, Director of Darrin Fresh Water Institute and The Jefferson Project, RPI, the effects of Roundup® on human cells are detailed- this on the work of the French team led by Gilles-Eric Seralini, a University of Caen molecular biologist - They have found that it is the inert ingredients in Roundup® that amplified the toxic effect on human cells- "One specific inert ingredient, polyethoxylated tallowamine, or POEA, was more deadly to human embryonic, placental and umbilical cord cells than the herbicide itself..." In his own work, Dr. Relyea has found that Roundup® is extremely lethal to amphibians. Please see reports.

Since 2009 Campbell River has returned to the use of pesticides on its hardscapes and playing fields. Budgetary restraints dictated this move away from a more natural approach to weed care. Where Campbell River returned to pesticides - Communities on Vancouver Island and the mainland continue to adopt healthy, environmentally friendly methods of tackling weeds in their communities.

In order for the City of Campbell River to fully support "Nature Works," a Pesticide Use Bylaw needs to be enacted with the appropriate fines in place. There is of course an increased cost to a community when more natural methods are employed, more manpower/training needed. These costs pale in comparison to maintaining the health of the citizens of Campbell River, our sensitive fish habitat and our most valuable ecosystems.

Numerous communities across BC have made or are making the transition to a pesticide-free community ensuring the health and well-being of their citizens, flora and fauna. Some of these include; Powell River, Courtenay, Nanaimo, Coquitlam, Vancouver and Qualicum Beach to name just a few. Methods such as scraping, steaming, string-line trimmers, over seeding, etc. are being used.

The recently signed Children's Charter, in place to protect the health and well being of children from conception through early years is critical in setting the trajectory for health and well being in adult life. The first point in this charter states, "Access to safe places to live, work, and play." Pesticide use has no place under these new guidelines for the protection of children's health. The ones who are most vulnerable to pesticide exposure, children, are the ones with no voice.

The Campbell River Environmental Committee respectfully requests the City of Campbell River implement a budget change to facilitate the ban of pesticides, except for limited use on specific invasive weeds, and that the City implement a Pesticide Use Bylaw. If necessary, a nominal tax increase could help implement a pesticide free approach. Our local government must consider the health of its citizens in this matter.

Sincerely,

Catherine Martha Homes, Member of CREC

Leona Adams, President, CREC