

**Subject:** [Fwd: Letter to clarify " Use of Herbicides and Pesticides in the District"]

**Date:** Sun, 28 Apr 2002 20:42:49 -0700

**From:** Brian Platts <brian\_platts@telus.net>

**To:** Corrie Kost <kost@triumf.ca>

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**Subject: Re: Letter to clarify " Use of Herbicides and Pesticides in the District"**

**Date:** Sun, 28 Apr 2002 16:13:00 -0700

**From:** Bill Tracey <bill\_tracey@telus.net>

**Organization:** Systek Engineering Ltd.

**To:** Ernie Crist <CristE@dnv.org>

**CC:** Nathalie Valdes <ValdesN@dnv.org>, Richard Zerr <zerr@dnv.org>, Gord Howie <HowieG@dnv.org>, Directors Team <managecomm@dnv.org>, Mayor and Council - DNV <Council@dnv.org>, "FONVCA (E-mail)" <fonvca@fonvca.org>

Ernie, and Mr. Courtemanche

Thank you for copying me on this correspondence.

Although I understand your concerns, I think it should be made clear that not everyone in the District agrees with the approach you are taking. There are many who feel that education, not legislation, is the proper way to deal with this issue.

We already have bylaws on the books that ban this or that or the other thing. The fact of the matter is that bylaws are enforced only when a complaint is received -- there is not enough staff (nor, I hasten to add, should there be) for it to be otherwise. That inevitably means that enforcement is uneven, and inherently inequitable. The citizens are left hostage to a grumpy neighbour, or a dedicated neighbour (depending on your point of view). The result is a growing disrespect for the law, and that is something we should be doing everything in our power to reverse, not make worse!

We also need to ask the question why a product which is federally regulated, and sold legally, should be made illegal to use. What has happened in those jurisdictions where a ban has been imposed locally is this: the professional gardeners, who are properly trained in the careful use of pesticides, no longer can use them -- and the amateurs who decide to take their chances with getting away with ignoring the law, and are not trained in the proper use of pesticides, go ahead and apply the pesticides themselves. In my view, that has made the situation worse, and more dangerous, than it was without the ban. In many ways it is comparable to situation when liquor was banned (prohibition) -- many people died horrible deaths from poisoning by illicit alcohol. In comparison, how many people do suppose die from alcohol poisoning now that prohibition is ended?

Bans work only when a significant number of the "people" affected believe the ban is good -- and that takes education. Legislation before education is a lazy way to try to achieve any worthwhile end. You have a long way to go with educating people before a ban on pesticides will be effective.

I, for one, think District staff have made a good start by instituting the IPM program, and I think that effort deserves more publicity and more support than it has received so far. Let's try more education and less legislation!

Bill Tracey

Ernie Crist wrote:

> *Dear Mr. Courtemanche:*

>

> *Subject: District Staff response in the matter of the use of pesticides and*

> *herbicides.*

>

> *I see from the contents of a letter sent to you by District staff dated*

> *April 19, that the District already has an "Integrated Pest Management "*

> *approach to pest Control. It further states that " To this end, the District*

> *of North Vancouver adopted an "Integrated Pest Management Policy (IPM) in*

> *February 2000 in recognition of the need to reduce or eliminate the use of*

> *pesticides". This is indeed the case and is the result of a motion I*

> *brought forward at the time and in turn was prompted by a request from CUPE.*

>

> *The emphasis of the District's existing policies however, is not exactly*

> *what you requested. The letter sent to you by staff indicates that " It is*

> *the preference of the District of North Vancouver to reduce or eliminate*

> *the use of pesticides whenever possible".*

>

> *As I understand your request however, the District should actually ban*

> *the use of pesticides altogether rather than merely attempt to eliminate*

> *their use wherever possible. There is a big difference which may have*

> *escaped our staff, a difference I addressed in an appropriate motion which*

> *I recently brought before Council. I further understand that your request*

> *to ban pesticides in the District was based on a historic Supreme Court*

> *decision mandating Local Government to do precisely that, namely ban the*

> *use of such pesticides and Herbicides within their jurisdiction.*

>

> *This is not apparent from the letter sent to you by Mr. Ken Bennett our*

> *Manager, Environment Services. I believe it behooves you to seek further*

> *clarification from District Management and Council. I understand further*

> *that many members of your Association actually reside on the North Shore*

> *and indeed in the District. I would like to suggest that you encourage them*

> *to pursue this matter since my motion on the matter was very specific and in*

> *direct compliance with your request. I will send a copy of this letter to*

> *Mayor and Council as well as to the Federation of North Vancouver Community*

> *Associations (Fonvca).*

>

> *Sincerely Yours,*

>

> *Ernie Crist*

>

> *cc CUPE, North Vancouver,*