

Canadian EarthCare Society

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“Kelowna City Council has taken a huge step backwards in protecting the health of our citizens by refusing to recognize the need to curb the use of pesticides in our community,” says Lloyd Manchester Canadian EarthCare Director. Manchester’s comments are in reference to City Council’s decision Monday to not support adoption of a proposed pesticide bylaw. “They are ignoring the fact that these pesticides have been contaminating our environment and the health of the public for years. Their flawed decision comes after much public support for a bylaw and many health professionals - including our medical health officer recommending that a bylaw be put in place. I am shocked they would ignore the advice of such an expert.”

“I was extremely surprised by Councillor Gran, who originally seconded the motion to adopt a pesticide reduction bylaw. Her lack of knowledge about the harmful effects of pesticides, and her faith in the pesticide industry was astounding. Gran characterized pesticides as being benign after application and if applied properly were not harmful. Gran obviously ignored the concerns expressed by the public, health professionals, environmental organizations and the Canadian Cancer Society about the hazards of pesticide use. Prior to her election to city council, Gran informed EarthCare that she was in favour of a bylaw”, stated Manchester.

Manchester also stated, “It is important for the public to know who on city Council voted for the health of our community and the environment. Mayor Sharon Sheperd, Councillor’s Michelle Rule, and Robert Hobson supported the bylaw. Councillor Letnick supported the bylaw but failed in his attempt to ensure that the City would have to be pesticide free at the same time as the public and therefore voted against the proposed bylaw”.

In a time when we expect our city councillors to support green initiatives that improve the health of our community and environment, it is alarming that Councillor’s Blanleil, Day, Clark, Given and Gran accept the premise that pesticides are safe, stated Manchester.

For more information please contact: Lloyd Manchester at 878-9352 or 861-4788
