

June 22, 2017

Mayor Nenshi and City Councillors:

Re: Report on Pesticide Toxicity (CPS2017-0510)  
June 26, 2017 City Council Agenda, Item 5.2

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The City of Calgary's continuing use of higher-risk pesticides presents City Council with a sobering reality. The Canadian Association of Physicians for the Environment (CAPE) hopes that we might assist Council in resolving this issue. Here are four brief points to consider when you receive the Report on Pesticide Toxicity at your meeting on June 26, 2017:

**(1) Calgary uses higher-risk pesticides.** As CAPE noted in our submission to the Standing Committee on Community and Protective Services on June 7, the above Report indicates that 31 of the 35 pesticide products used by the City in 2016 are in the second-highest risk category as set out in Alberta Regulations (see Attachment to Report, p. 5 of 14). These are products that pose some of the higher exposure risks for human health and the environment.

**(2) What are the health risks?** According to evidence from more than 500 peer-reviewed epidemiological studies highlighted in our June 7 submission, health risks associated with exposure to pesticides include a range of adverse reproductive, neurological and respiratory outcomes that are particularly significant for children, pregnant women and newborns. (See CAPE SPC submission, June 7, p. 2).

**(3) Calgary's risk is higher than other Canadian cities.** As you are no doubt aware, Calgary's population is younger than most Canadian cities, with an impressive 19 per cent (18.8) of the city's population recorded as age 14 or younger (Statistics Canada, 2016). Unfortunately, as noted, young people in this age cohort, who are in active stages of physical development, are among the most vulnerable members of the community when it comes to health risks associated with pesticide exposure.

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**(4) City Council has an opportunity to lead.** Calgary rightfully prides itself as a vibrant, cosmopolitan city. But pesticide use is one area where Calgary lags behind the rest of Canada. Children in most other progressive Canadian cities are protected by municipal bylaws or provincial legislation restricting cosmetic uses of pesticides. Children who live, learn and play in Calgary should have the same protections, starting with (but not limited to) the use of pesticides on City land. This is an area where municipalities have jurisdiction to act. We urge City Council to do so.

Accordingly, CAPE respectfully recommends:

- That City Council direct the release of the IPM project charter and the associated "risk assessment for the IPM Plan revision," referenced in the Report (see Attachment, p. 9 of 14);
- That, in light of well-documented health evidence and the principles of precaution, City Council direct Administration to discontinue the use of the more toxic pesticides currently applied on City land.

Please don't hesitate to be in touch for further information. CAPE appreciates the opportunity to contribute constructively to the review of the City's IPM program and looks forward to assisting in a reconsideration of pesticide use in the City of Calgary.

Thank you.

Yours truly,

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