

ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE – MARCH 23, 2009

PROVINCIAL PESTICIDE BAN

Councillor Shefman recommends:

In support of the implementation of new legislation banning the cosmetic use of pesticides, superseding the City of Vaughan bylaw on this topic, it is recommended that the City take the following actions to inform the community:

1. Preparation of an information campaign including key points and an article be prepared by Corporate Communications and made available to Councillors and all departments for use in newsletters and bulletins
2. Making available key information for the different sectors affected by the Provincial legislation (see source location, below)
3. Distribution of an internal memo urging all staff (and Councillors) to promote the distribution of information on the ban
4. Placement of mobile billboards around the City with the Pesticide Ban message such as – “April 22 – Pesticides prohibited in Ontario”
5. That this information program be prepared for implementation by April 15, 2009

Background - Analysis and Options

The City of Vaughan bylaw banning the cosmetic use of pesticides has now been superseded by provincial legislation. That shouldn't necessarily mean that we no longer have a role in ridding our community of these noxious chemicals.

I have been approached by the group that initiated our efforts in this area many years ago. While they are very pleased by our efforts and the implementation of a provincial ban, they believe, as I do, that we need to address the major gap in public awareness.

The implementation date for the provincial ban is April 22, 2009. The details of the ban are explained at <http://www.ene.gov.on.ca/en/land/pesticides/factsheet-pesticides.php>

Relationship to Vaughan Vision 2020

This report is consistent with the priorities previously set by Council This recommendation is consistent with our efforts and goes towards improving public awareness of an important health and environmental issues.

Report prepared by:

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Respectfully submitted,

Alan Shefman
Councillor, Ward 5