



Surrey City Council Listens to Kwantlen Students

KSA to participate in Surrey City Council's Public Consultation Process

Surrey BC – The City of Surrey has announced a public consultation process to receive options for pesticide control, and an eight-month trial ban of such chemicals on city property. **Kwantlen university students have been advocating for a ban on harmful pesticides for over a year and the KSA is committed to participating fully in the City of Surrey's public consultation process.**

Surrey's decision comes years after many other major municipalities have responded to public health concerns and banned pesticide use, including Maple Ridge, Port Moody, Burnaby and the City of Vancouver. Many pesticides and herbicides contain carcinogens that have been linked with non-Hodgkin's lymphoma. Many also contain endocrine-disrupting chemicals, which can have a serious impact on children's sexual development, leading to low sperm counts and the early onset of puberty in girls. Several studies on these dangers have been published in academic, peer-reviewed medical journals.

"It's great to see the City of Surrey listening to Kwantlen students on critical local issues," said Ashley Fehr, KSA Chairperson, **"it's about time Kwantlen University became a resource of fresh ideas, research and innovation."** The KSA adopted official policy opposing cosmetic pesticide use, for environmental and human health reasons, on July 8th of 2008. Later the same month, a group of Kwantlen university students, called LEEP (Love Our Environment – Eliminate Pesticides), appeared before Surrey City Council urging them to take action to ban harmful pesticide use.

On a related matter, the KSA has recently adopted policy opposing the use and distribution of bottled water on municipal property, and is looking for the City of Surrey to join a growing group of municipalities across Canada who has taken this important environmental step.

"The use of bottled water is completely unnecessary in almost all cases," said Ms. Fehr, KSA Chairperson, **"we're hoping that the City of Surrey will recognize the huge environmental impact of bottled water, and take steps to ban its use and sale on municipal property. Surrey has every reason to be proud of its tap and water-fountain water quality."**

Research shows that bottled water is leaving a toxic footprint on the Earth – from the oil consumed to the toxic substances released during manufacturing plastic bottles, and the mountains of waste created by those bottles.

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The Kwantlen Student Association represents over 18,000 students enrolled at the four Metro Vancouver campuses of Kwantlen Polytechnic University.

For more information on the KSA's position on cosmetic pesticides or bottled water, please contact:

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