

Mayor Brodie and Councillors,

I'm Jim Wright, 8300 Osgoode Drive, Richmond, on Item 8.

I'm representing the Garden City Lands Coalition Society. We keep advocating for diligent use of best available knowledge.

Our comment is on part 4, "That the City of Richmond agrees to revisit this resolution as pertinent new information becomes available. . . ." We agree but urge caution.

It's predictable that Monsanto surrogates will take that as an invitation to claim your decision is not scientific. Their response to pesticide bans illustrates what to expect. For instance, my googling quickly found *CropLife* arguing against bans because Health Canada approval of a pesticide shows it's safe. Well, *no*—not so!

We trust lawyer Andrew Gage, who has provided legal advice to our society, and he has analyzed CropLife's claim for West Coast Environmental Law.

Andrew Gage points out that a Health Canada-approved label on a pesticide may show how the product is scientifically **not** safe. As an example, he discusses Wilson® Lawn Weedout® Concentrate.

In the Environmental Hazards part of the label on that weedicide, Health Canada warns that it is "Toxic to birds, small wild mammals, aquatic organisms and non-target broadleaf terrestrial plants."

I'll abridge the lawyer's comments to save time.

In addition to this warning, Health Canada's label gives detailed safety instructions . . . including what to wear . . . and what to do if the pesticide penetrates that clothing. . . .

It warns against entering treated areas until the spray has “thoroughly dried” raising questions about . . . children and pets. . . . It warns how to get medical treatment if someone swallows the pesticide (call poison control immediately), gets it in their eyes, or gets it on their skin or clothing (flush eyes or wash skin for 15-20 minutes and then call poison control).

The label even warns how to “minimize possible contamination of groundwater”, which requires the . . . user to be aware of whether their soils are permeable . . . and the depth to their water table. . . .

. . . Health Canada assumes that all of these label requirements are followed. So if a neighbour doesn’t think he needs to read the label, or misreads it, or perhaps doesn’t know how to read the label . . . Health Canada would acknowledge that health or environmental risks are a real possibility. . . .

[And] Why would you want something that is “toxic to birds [and small animals]” sprayed in your neighborhood to control dandelions?

So Health Canada science shows the **opposite** of what CropLife says.

On the CropLife website, I found video clips of a skillful spokesperson. For instance, she refers to some Nanos research like this: “Eight out of ten felt that agricultural biotechnology had benefits.” Well, anyone who is in favor of making beer and penicillin must feel that biotechnology has benefits. Similarly, I bet that a Nanos survey would find that eight out of ten Canadians feel that sunshine has benefits, but we still want our governments to *help limit harmful effects of sunshine* such as melanoma, which is skin cancer.

We think you will be ready when you get house calls from the spin doctors. We support your vigilance.