



<b>SUBJECT: PESTICIDE USE</b>	<b>SECTION: Planning and Land Use</b>
	<b>NUMBER: 3.13</b>
	<b>PAGE 1 OF 2</b>
<b>ADOPTED: May 7<sup>th</sup>, 2002</b>	<b>RESOLUTION NO.: 2002.142</b>
<b>REVISED:</b>	

**1. Preamble**

The Town of Gibsons has researched the impacts of pesticide use in urban areas and has written this policy to raise the public’s awareness of the health and environmental effects of pesticide use and the natural alternatives for pest control in lawns, gardens and parks. Pesticides have been proven to have both short term and long term health risks to people and negatively impact the environment. Children and pregnant women tend to be most at risk due to children’s size and under-developed immune systems.

*Health Risks*

Short term exposure to pesticides may include: headaches, dizziness, nausea, tiredness, stomach cramps, skin and eye irritation. Long term exposure to pesticides have been suspected of causing: cancer (brain, breast, stomach, prostate, and testicle); childhood leukaemia; impaired fertility; damage to the thyroid and pituitary glands; lowered immunity; and birth defects.

*Environmental Impact*

Pesticides can cause water quality problems miles away and harm fish, plants and animals, swimmers, and those who eat the fish they catch. Pesticides can also kill the very plants, animals and insects that naturally control pests.

**2. Goal**

To raise public awareness of the health and environmental effects of pesticide use for three main target groups including homeowners; lawn and landscape service providers; and managers of parks and school playing fields.

To reduce reliance on pesticide use for lawn and garden care through the application of Integrated Pest Management principles or “Healthy Lawn” practices that include alternative ecological solutions to pesticide use.



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### 3. Policy

#### 3.1 Education

3.1.1 An education program for pesticide use will cover the following topics:

- definition and listing of pesticides;
- information regarding the health risks associated with pesticide use;
- information regarding the environmental impact of pesticide use;
- examples of what other municipalities are doing to discourage pesticide use;
- how pests can be controlled through natural means;
- reducing the need for pesticides through the promotion of “Healthy Lawn” practices
- listing of plants that are native to the area and less likely to require pesticides and watering
- if pesticides are needed which ones to choose and how to use them so that their negative health and environmental impacts are minimized; and
- list of references for further information on the topic of pesticides