

Subject: Re: Ernie and Pesticides/Herbicides

Date: Mon, 15 Apr 2002 17:00:51 -0800

From: Angela Trudeau <a.trudeau@canada.com>

To: John Hunter <johnhunter@idmail.com>, "Allan Orr DNV" <allandorr@shaw.ca>, "Bill Tracey DNV" <bill_tracey@telus.net>, "Brian Platts DNV" <brian_platts@telus.net>, "Cathy Adams DNV" <cathyadams@canada.com>, "Corrie Kost DNV" <kost@triumf.ca>, "Dave Sadler DNV" <davesadler@telus.net>, "Elizabeth James CAGE" <cagebc@yahoo.com>, "Eric Anderson hotmail" <eric_g_andersen@hotmail.com>, "Maureen Bragg" <m.bragg@shaw.ca>, "Peter Thompson DNV" <bedeconsulting@shaw.ca>

CC: "FONVCA" <fonvca@fonvca.org>, "Ernie Crist" <CristE@dnv.org>

I am with you John.

it comes to regulations one can write , and regulations one can enforce. That's why the re-thinking of environmental legislation at all levels is towards multi-stakeholder and voluntary.

Bur we do need to rethink these things, a bit at a time. And voluntary practice measures can be worthless unless there is corresponding voluntary compliance - often a chicken-and-egg cycle.

I do not wish to ban pesticides, they have valid uses. However it does not make sense that an acknowledged dangerous substance with a persistence of many decades or more can placed in the hands of an ignorant homeowner, just because he wants it. It is a matter of public safety versus personal freedom. One needs a license to drive a car. So, how about a pesticide license for anyone wanting to purchase them? That's education. (Costs are recoverable by user-fees, with the ability for private sector service provision)

The hardware stores used to be required to have staff with a pesticide license on hand to advise any customer when purchasing certain classes of pesticides - this was abandoned because it was felt to be too cumbersome. Go read the WHMIS sheet on Paraquat and see whether you agree that purchasing this substance should be a bit 'cumbersome'.

As a sidebar - our municipality is in non-compliance with provincial law (nice way of saying breaking the law) and polluting Burrard inlet to a degree which would see any private company hauled into court. Unfair preferential treatment I'd say. Our land fill leachate and our sewage treatment plant effluent are an embarrassment. Cleaning up our act is more than a matter of budget practices.

Angela

On 15/4/02 2:55 PM, "John Hunter" <johnhunter@idmail.com> wrote:

- > *You can ban what you want*
- >
- > *If the feds do not move, you can't enforce it*
- >
- > *As I say, the really bad actors, fine. My sense, which I hope is wrong,*
- > *is Ernie is in the "ban everything" camp. Asking for the inevitable*
- > *staff report. Rather than a report, why not explore it in principle.*

> *How far and in how many fields do we want to overlap the laws and regs
> of our other three levels of government? (I do not have a great answer
> but I suspect the answer is - only where absolutely necessary).*

> *As for us "amateurs", don't expect a ban to work. Education might.*

> *We could ban lots of things at the municipal level - smoky cars,
> diesel fuel, and asphalt paving, cooking oil all of which probably have
> more effect on our water than sprays at the residential level. I
> suspect the major source would be farms.*

> *See one slide attached from a recent speech -look who the second worse
> actor is in the oceans.*

> *By the way, if you watched the news a few nights ago, they are finding
> medical drugs in Lake Ontario because humans excrete drugs they are
> given. I am afraid to ask what ban that will cause!*

> *John*

> -----Original Message-----

> *From: Angela Trudeau [<mailto:a.trudeau@canada.com>]*

> *Sent: April 15, 2002 4:33 PM*

> *To: John Hunter; 'Allan Orr DNV'; 'Bill Tracey DNV'; 'Brian Platts DNV';
> 'Cathy Adams DNV'; 'Corrie Kost DNV'; 'Dave Sadler DNV'; 'Elizabeth
> James CAGE'; 'Eric Anderson hotmail'; 'Maureen Bragg'; 'Peter Thompson
> DNV'*

> *Cc: FONVCA; Ernie Crist*

> *Subject: Re: Ernie and Pesticides/Herbicides*

> *Ah, John*

> *Usually I lean to the libertarian side of things HOWEVER 'your' lawn
> poisons end up in groundwater and migrate from there to 'my' drinking
> water.*

> *Furthermore, the chemicals available for residential use are in the
> category of 'sledge hammer to kill a fly' - you can purchase pesticides
> at Home Hardware which would kill a man ingesting a single teaspoon and
> for which there is no antidote. Bravo to Loblaws for taking a stand on
> this. Furthermore, a homeowner is able to apply the wrong substance in
> incorrect quantities or conditions and can purchase such materials even
> if you cannot read the warnings and instructions - when a commercial
> applicant would be charged for such actions. This is an area where I
> definitely want to see the weapon in the hands of certified trained
> professionals rather than lawn-loving amateurs.*

> *Municipalities can ban such uses as Hudson has successfully shown.
> Their success has far reaching implications for municipal law and you
> can read about it at the FCM site.*

> *It is not a matter of banning all pesticides or chemicals - they do a*
> *lot of good when properly chosen and responsibly applied.*
>
> *I have a 'file' which I would be glad to share with you. Ah, if only I*
> *had hours to type.....*
>
> *I have not seen Ernie's motion but will read it and get back to you.*
>
> *Angela*
>
>
>
> *On 15/4/02 1:55 PM, "John Hunter" <johnhunter@idmail.com> wrote:*
>
>> *Wants them banned on public and private property in DNV. No list of*
>> *which ones in his report -- all I guess.*
>>
>> *Fertilizer and lime next? Insect repellent? Bear spray when in the*
>> *woods? Where do we stop? The lawn police? Prove you hand picked*
> *all*
>> *your weeds. Lawn spraying by flashlight?*
>>
>> *Not even sure if there is a report on it in any detail. Very brief*
>> *uninformative one on the web (Ernie's).*
>>
>> *One of the other councils looked at this with a report live. Not sure*
>
>> *what they decided.*
>>
>>
>> *Hammer on a fly?????*
>>
>> *Ban on idling car engine over two minutes passed - unenforceable and*
>> *silly, if politically correct.*
>>
>> *Tried to ban wood fires in DNV homes, and leaf blowers (I'm fine on*
>> *noise level bylaw, but banning the machine?)*
>>
>> *What next?*
>>
>> *The feds have jurisdiction here.*
>>
>> *Unenforceable, and I think a big stretch. If there are a few*
>> *chemicals that are clearly very bad actors, and particularly if there*
>> *are workable options, perhaps OK at the municipal level.*
>>
>> *Your thoughts?*
>>
>> *John*
>>
>>
>>
>
>

