

Box 358

Bella Coola, B.C.

25 March 2014

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Central Coast Regional District

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Box 186

Bella Coola, B.C.

Dear Directors;

I noted with concern that the Cariboo Chilcotin Coast Invasive Plant Committee is about to offer a course here leading to certification of area residents as Pesticide Applicators. During my two terms as a CCRD director, the board took the position that no pesticides or herbicides should be applied on public lands within our district's boundaries. This position was communicated to the Invasive Plant Committee, and non-chemical means of weed control along highway 20 were undertaken.

Shortly after the beginning of your present mandate, the board reversed this objection to the use of chemical pesticides, violating its own procedural bylaw in the process. It is my considered opinion that the credibility of the present board began its precipitous decline with this unpopular decision, a decision which to the best of my knowledge involved little or no research by the directors or staff into the risks posed to both our environment and those many residents who walk along highway 20 regularly, right past those little white warning signs that signal a recent herbicide application.

For more than thirty years, I've devoted much of my energies here to reducing/eliminating the use of chemical pesticides in our forests and on other public lands; I've done this because I believe that these chemicals cause significant harm to our fish, wildlife and selves. I am asking you to revisit this issue, in the hope that you will realize that the carefully considered position of the previous CCRD directors was the correct one.

The most recent research (2013) regarding the toxicity of RoundUp and its active chemical glyphosate, issuing from sources as diverse as MIT scientists who've studied it for more than three decades, Reuters News Agency and the NY Times, and the pages of Prevention



magazine implicate even “very tiny levels of exposure” in the development of twenty five diseases (and counting...) in people. RoundUp has been labelled “the driving force behind some of modern society’s most common ailments”, including autism, infertility, Parkinson’s disease, allergies, various cancers and other neurological disorders. When you understand how this chemical pesticide works on a cellular level, this conclusion would not be at all surprising. Even less surprising is the fact that RoundUp is particularly toxic to aquatic invertebrates and fish fry; a number of the RoundUp applications we’ve witnessed here in the past couple of years have regrettably been in very close proximity to these aquatic environs. This new research alone should provide ample justification for my request that you again adopt a position in opposition to pesticide use within the CCRD.

I hear strong objections voiced all the time regarding the Northern Gateway Pipeline proposal or the Prosperity mine, generally because of environmental concerns. There needs to be consistency between these views and our willingness to keep our own local public areas free of noxious contaminants. I also know that there is general and widespread concern about the lack of jobs for our young people, and would simply point out that this community would generate far more income and many more lengthy periods of employment if non-chemical methods of weed control were utilized along highway 20. Thank you for considering my request.

Sincerely,



Kevin O'Neill

cc. Coast Mountain News