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Subject: Please Stop the Aerial Spraying planned for Cranbrook June 2nd and 3rd
Date: Friday, May 31, 2024 12:11:33 PM

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May 31, 2024

Ms. Polloch
Interior Health Corporate Office
505 Doyle Ave.
Kelowna, BC
V1Y 0C5

Dear Ms. Polloch,

The West Kelowna Branch of the Kelowna Citizens Safety Association (WKB/KCSA) and the Call to Action Cranbrook group are writing to follow up on our May 24, 2024 letter, with you regarding the proposed aerial spraying of Foray 48B BTK over West Kelowna and Cranbrook. Your lack of response to this serious issue indicates that you have little respect for the health of citizens, and you have no intentions of providing informed consent for the spraying of a bacterial pesticide in the remaining two communities of the currently sprayed 13 communities.

Your lack of monitoring the health effects of these aerial applications of pesticides is alarming. To our knowledge, you are not making Emergency Rooms and Health professionals aware of the side effects of being exposed to this bacterium. You have taken no action to provide citizens with information that they may be exposed to a BTK bacteria containing spores and insecticidal toxins, with 87% of its formulation unknown and not disclosed to health authorities including you. Does this not bother you, or in your eyes, is it okay to spray people randomly without their knowledge and have no way to track or provide help to the community?

The City of Cranbrook is slated to be aerially sprayed on Sunday and Monday. What precautions have you issued to the community regarding minimizing exposure to this pesticide? Have you checked with your medical professionals regarding treating eye infections caused by exposure to BTK? Is bacterial pesticide exposure to the eyes different from exposure to carbon-based chemical pesticides? Are doctors made aware of potentially different antibiotics that should be used to treat bacterial infections as opposed to chemical-based exposure?

Why are you as a health agency endorsing the blanket spraying of a residential area in Cranbrook that has 13 children's day care centers, 6 schools, old age care homes, dog parks, water parks, Joseph Creek running through the zone, and Elizabeth Lake's endangered Blue Copper Butterfly?

You have received copies of our letters to other agencies, including School District #23, School District #5 and Premier Eby. We are aware that Foray 48B BTK contains 87% unknown ingredients, which may include surfactants, adjuvants, spreaders, and UV blockers. The toxicities of these additional ingredients are unknown, and it is concerning that the Ministry of Forests claims they are inert. This assertion is unfounded and scientifically implausible.

The Cranbrook aerial spray is scheduled to take place this coming Sunday and Monday, June 2 and 3rd, and Kelowna could happen at any time with notice provided on via Highway Signs. The Cranbrook Hospital is within the one-kilometer spray drift zone and will have bacterial pesticide residues deposited on structures and in their air flow system including the Hospital. We trust that given this application is proceeding, are you okay with Transport Canada issuing an exemption to fly 100 feet over residential areas and right beside the East Kootenay Regional Hospital. When you look at the Cranbrook spray zone map attached, you can see that the plane must fly East-West or West-East across the zone. Looking at the top of the map nearest the hospital, the plane will have to veer right or left to miss the hospital. How is this safe in a residential community? We hope you have an emergency plan in place should this aircraft malfunction while transiting the area near the hospital.

The WKB/KCSA and the Call to Action Cranbrook organization believe that Interior Health, as an employer, is required to follow WorkSafe BC pesticide regulations and notify staff, patients of the imminent aerial pesticide application near or on the hospital property and care facilities under your control. These WorkSafe pesticide regulations require informed consent and a plan to mitigate exposure to this pesticide and its residues, which contain both the active bacterial spores and unknown ingredients. Residue cleanup through the spray zone is essential given they will continue to break down and release spores and insecticidal toxins into the environment.

Your immediate support to **cancel** this aerial application is requested. You are also requested to immediately initiate an action plan to deal with what will be a massive exposure to the people of Cranbrook including the facilities within the spray zone. The community has numerous events planned in the spray zone for the weekend, including the GoByBike Challenge starting Monday, which encourages citizens to bike to work. On Monday, school children and staff will be biking to work and school early in the morning should the spraying proceed. How many people are aware of this application?

It is time to act now on this important health matter and stop this application and the potential harmful side effects to the entire community and the possible extirpation of the endangered Blue Copper butterfly. Please advise what actions you will take to ensure that this pesticide application never takes place.

Sincerely yours,

On behalf of the West Kelowna Branch of the Kelowna Citizens Safety Association and Call To Action Cranbrook.

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Foundational Principles Pledge
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