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Subject: Fw: Press Release West Kelowna and Cranbrook
Date: Wednesday, May 22, 2024 12:57:40 PM
Attachments: [Cranbrook School news.png](#)

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

West Kelowna, May 22, 2024 – The West Kelowna Branch of the Kelowna Citizens Safety Association (WKB/KCSA) and the group Call To Action Cranbrook have been actively urging their respective School Boards, SD #5 and SD #23, to implement

measures protecting students and staff from exposure to the bacterial pesticide planned for aerial spraying around schools.

James Shannon, director of the Cranbrook group, expressed his satisfaction with the Cranbrook Board of Education's recent actions: "We are extremely happy that our Board of Education has listened to us and created some very important safety measures to help protect the children, but further measures are needed to protect the staff that will have to clean up the pesticide residues."

The aerial spraying of the bacterial pesticide Foray 48B, which contains 87% undisclosed ingredients, has been postponed in West Kelowna but can proceed with just 48 hours' notice displayed on a highway sign. In Cranbrook, the aerial spraying over 299 hectares is scheduled for May 26th and 27th.

Both organizations have penned letters to their School Boards, advocating for adherence to WorkSafe BC pesticide regulations to ensure the safety of workers, staff, and students from pesticide exposure. These regulations are more stringent than the measures currently proposed by SD #5. Implementation of WorkSafe BC regulations would necessitate school closures on spray days.

The WKB/KCSA has sent multiple letters to the School District urging the adoption of WorkSafe BC pesticide regulations to ensure comprehensive notification to staff, students, and parents, and to mandate the cleaning of pesticide residues.

"We are confident that School District #23 will make a decision that will protect the health and safety of students, staff, parents, and passersby's from exposure to this bacterial pesticide. Full notification and protection of all citizens in the spray zone is absolutely necessary," stated Lloyd Manchester, President of WKB/KCSA.

The Ministry of Forests must comply with WorkSafe BC pesticide regulations, which include notifying all employers, workers, and passersby's in the spray zones, and covering the costs for notification, relocation outside the spray zone, and pesticide residue cleanup. Strict adherence to these regulations is crucial to minimize exposure for everyone involved.

For media inquiries or further information, please contact:

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Additional News

Spongy Moth Spray

The Ministry of Forests will tentatively be spraying in our area for spongy moths on May 22 and 23. The spraying will be completed by 7:30am but the treatment may still be in the air until 8:30am. The forest practices branch reassures us that there is no risk to humans with this spray. We are still taking some precautions to minimize exposure so the following procedures are planned:



1. Supervision will be provided inside the school on the morning of the spray.
2. Students arriving on the bus will be brought into the school immediately.
3. Parents are encouraged to drop their child off after 8:30am once the spray has settled. Once students arrive, they will come inside.
4. All students will be entering through the main front and doors where the busses drop students off, and will be removing their shoes and carrying them to their designated shoe area.
5. Students will then wash their hands.
6. Students will be going outside at recess and lunch. They will wash their hands when they return from outside.

The SD5 maintenance team will perform the following at affected schools:

1. Turn off school air ventilation systems the night prior to application.
2. Wash all playground equipment after 8:30 am
3. Will clean the designated school entrances.

More information about the spongy moth can be found at:

<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/industry/forestry/managing-our-forest-resources/forest-health/invasive-forest-pests/spongy-moth>

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