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Subject: Fw: WorksafeBC pesticide regulations need to apply to bacterial aerial spraying
Date: Thursday, May 23, 2024 4:38:03 PM
Attachments: [Kirk.Worksafe.final.05.21.docx](#)
[Foray.aerial.data.sheet.docx](#)
[FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE.05.22.24.docx](#)
[Cranbrook-Pesticide-Spray-Map-2024-v1.1.pdf](#)
[WKB.1km.spray.map.pdf](#)

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May 23, 2024

Attention:

Kevon Falcon, BC United
John Rustad, BC Conservative Party
Sonia Fursteneau BC Green Party
Rod Taylor Christen Heritage Party
Armrit Birring Freedom Party of BC

Dear BC Provincial Party Leaders,

Please find attached our letter sent today to Premier Eby, along with additional relevant documents concerning this urgent issue. As you may be aware, the BC government has issued an Order in Council legally authorizing the aerial spraying of 13 British Columbia communities with the bacterial pesticide Foray 48B (BTK), of which 87% of the formulation remains undisclosed. This morning, Victoria was sprayed today and Cranbrook is scheduled for Sunday, with the hospital located within one kilometer of the spray area. (Map attached)

The West Kelowna Branch of the Kelowna Citizens Safety Association (WKB/KCSA) firmly believes that WorkSafe BC Pesticide OHSR regulations should be applied to all employers within the spray zones across these 13 BC communities, especially considering the government is the largest employer. We urge the enforcement of regulations that prioritize informed consent and require employers to develop action plans for notifying workers about pesticide treatments and potential

exposure to residues. These plans will require proper cleaning and inspection of affected facilities, testing of air quality systems, and diligent monitoring of potential pesticide drift, and transfer of pesticide residues into other workplaces. Implementing WorkSafe BC regulations will also help inform the general population, many of whom are not aware of the spraying and could fall ill as a result.

Regrettably, the Province has not encouraged alternative treatments, whether manual or chemical, and these options have not been discussed with the affected communities. This omission is particularly troubling given that a significant portion of the Cranbrook spray zone covers residential areas. (Map Attached). The broadcast spraying of a bacterial pesticide without the consent or input of the community is unacceptable.

The Ministry of Forests communication indicates that the infestation is limited to for example 11 moths in West Kelowna which raises further questions about the necessity of such widespread aerial pesticide spraying. The potential contamination of the bacterial spray, as indicated on the label, exacerbates these concerns. Potential contamination is considered in the Pesticide Use Permit. [Pesticide Use Permit No. 738-0037-24-24](#)

We call upon you, as leaders in the Province, to stand up for the 13 communities in BC and support the immediate cessation of this program. We hope you will support this call to action. We also urge you to support the immediate implementation of WorkSafe BC OHSR pesticide regulations in all 13 affected communities. Additionally, we request your support in requesting that the Ministry of Forests take samples of the full formulation of BTK in each community application to ensure it is not contaminated and to facilitate tracking any potential illnesses that may arise from contamination. Please copy the WKB/KCSA on your correspondence on this issue.

As leaders, we encourage you to answer our questions. Your response or non-response will be noted and forwarded to the Foundational Principles Pledge site for their consideration as to whether or not it becomes part of your Politicians ScoreCard. Responses on this issue will be noted if you are a declared candidate who receives this correspondence. The WKB/KCSA supports accountability and transparency from all individuals who hold political office. The Foundational Principles Pledge is one way voters can evaluate the records of current MLAs and the potential records of candidates seeking election. You are encouraged to sign the pledge and show British Columbians where you stand on critical issues facing our Province.

[Foundational Principles Pledge - Home Page](<https://fppledge.ca>)

We look forward to responses and thank you for your attention to this critical matter.

Sincerely,

On behalf of the West Kelowna Branch of the Kelowna Citizens Safety Association

Lloyd Manchester
President
250-878-9352
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kelownacsa.org
Spray Hot-line 1-800-573-0231.

----- Forwarded Message -----

From: Lloyd <lmanchester@protonmail.com>

Date: On Thursday, May 23rd, 2024 at 12:06 PM

Subject: WorksafeBC pesticide regulations need to apply to bacterial aerial spraying

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May 23, 2024

Honourable Premier David Eby and Cabinet

Office of the Premier

PO Box 9041 Stn Prov Govt,
VICTORIA, BC V8W 9E1

Dear Premier Eby and Cabinet,

The West Kelowna Branch of the Kelowna Citizens Safety Association (WKB/KCSA) and the Call To Action Cranbrook organization are writing to request immediate compliance by the Ministry of Forests with WorkSafe BC pesticide regulations concerning the aerial spraying of a bacterial pesticide in 13 BC communities, including the spraying conducted this morning in Victoria.

Your administration has issued an Order in Council (OIC) allowing the application of Foray 48B, a bacterial pesticide with over 87% of its formulation undisclosed, across 13 BC communities. These areas include residential, commercial, industrial, park zones, government offices, and government-funded facilities such as hospitals, schools, care homes, and homeless shelters.

WorkSafe BC's mandate is to enforce the Workers Compensation Act and the Occupational Health and Safety Regulations (OHSR) to safeguard the health and safety of workers across the province. According to OHSR pesticide regulations, if pesticides are used in a workplace in BC, informed consent must be obtained from workers, mitigation plans established, re-entry plans formulated, and facilities for washing made available. Additionally, residues adhering to structures and air conditioning filters must be cleaned. The current government-sanctioned aerial pesticide applications is not following or requiring that these critical safety regulations are in place.

When the Ministry of Forests applies a pesticide from the air, it inevitably lands on people, pets, and the facilities and structures listed above. This bacterial pesticide is now **stored** on government and employer properties, requiring actions to mitigate its' presence and its' residues. OHSR, Sections 6.72 to 6.109, apply to any workplace where pesticides are used, **stored**, or handled, which means they should be in force and being followed.

We urgently request that as Premier, and your Cabinet halt these applications immediately, particularly the planned spraying in Cranbrook this weekend. The main hospital in Cranbrook is adjacent to the spray zone, raising significant concerns about spray drift entering the hospital and affecting patients and staff. Similarly, in Kelowna, spraying with only 24 hours notice will affect schools, care homes, homeless shelters, and numerous RV dealers, necessitating substantial cleanup efforts.

It is highly concerning that the use of this bacterial pesticide is proceeding without comprehensive knowledge of potential contamination or the specific Btk strain used. Each strain of Bt has a unique genetic sequence and mode of action, and strains can be genetically manipulated. You are requested to test the Btk for purity and potential endotoxin encoding and also ensure that a sample of the full formulation is taken and stored before spraying. This will allow health authorities to assess any adverse events should the Bt bacteria be contaminated and people and pets exposed.

We implore you to halt these applications immediately. Should you proceed, it is imperative that WorkSafe BC regulations are followed meticulously to protect employers and workers. This includes mitigating exposure risks, ensuring proper cleanup, and initiating a testing program to monitor pesticide residues and their breakdown metabolites over time.

As a government, you have the responsibility to lead by example by following

your own OHSR pesticide regulations meant to safeguards workplaces and the health of your constituents. We trust you will take immediate action to address these critical concerns. Please advise what actions you intend to take in this important health matter.

Sincerely,

On behalf of the West Kelowna Branch of the Kelowna Citizens Association

Lloyd Manchester

President

Nospray_kcsa@proton.me

kelownacsa.org

Spray Hot line 1-800-573-0213

James Shannon

Director

Call to Action Cranbrook

250-420-1470

[Call To Action Cranbrook](#)

Sent with [Proton Mail](#) secure email.