

From: NoSpray_kcsa@proton.me
To: [Funk, Tyson](#)
Cc: [Board of Education](#); rcannan@kelowna.ca; chodge@kelowna.ca; jcoble@wfn.ca; tdyas@kelowna.ca; ireland@lakecountry.bc.ca; stephen.johnston@westkelownacity.ca; gord.milsom@westkelownacity.ca; msingh@kelowna.ca; mayorvanminsel@peachland.ca; clderrickson@wfn.ca; rlouie@wfn.ca; mayorandcouncil@westkelownacity.ca; rick.dejong@westkelownacity.ca; [Call To Action Cranbrook](#); [C C](#); [Benjamin Isitt](#); [Kelowna Citizens Safety Association](#); kevin.kraft@rdco.com; Premier@gov.bc.ca; FOR.Minister@gov.bc.ca; Rick.G.Manwaring@gov.bc.ca
Subject: WorkSafeBC pesticide regulations
Date: Monday, May 6, 2024 8:39:03 AM

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May 6, 2024

Mr. Tyson Funk
WorkSafeBC
Occupational Safety Officer
Prevention Field Services

Subject: Formal Complaint Regarding the BTK Aerial Bacterial Pesticide Program being conducted by the Ministry of Forests in thirteen Provincial Communities

Dear Mr. Funk,

I hope this message finds you well. I am writing on behalf of the West Kelowna Branch of the Kelowna Citizens Safety Association (WKB/KCSA) to formally file a complaint concerning the ongoing aerial bacterial pesticide program that is being conducted across 13 communities in Province, including several areas that encompass government offices and government funded facilities such as hospitals, schools, care homes, homeless shelters, government offices, etc.

The WKB/KCSA is concerned about the potential risks posed by these aerial pesticide applications to the health and safety of workers and the public within and around these facilities. Without informed consent in these areas will be exposed to a bacterial pesticide without their knowledge. There is currently an investigation into recent permit violations from the aerially spraying of Tsawwassen and Langley. It is alleged that the Ministry of Forests sprayed immediately after a rainfall and failed to adequately inform the public with signage which raises further apprehensions regarding the effectiveness and safety of this program. I mention this given that the Ministry of Forests is appointed by law to be the Inspectors monitoring these aerial sprays and also determining if infractions occurred. This is a classic case of the fox guarding the chicken coup!

In light of your regulations that prioritize informed consent and mandate employer action plans for notifying workers about pesticide treatments, we urge you to ensure that these regulations are rigorously implemented across all affected areas. It is crucial that measures are taken to inform and protect individuals who may be unknowingly exposed to pesticide residues, especially in workplaces like hospitals and schools.

Of particular concern is the potential deposition of pesticide residues on and in workplaces, structures, sitting areas, etc, which could pose health risks as they dry, remain for several day and then breakdown. Furthermore, the unknown composition of 87% of the BTK pesticide formulation comprising the active Bt bacteria and other undisclosed components adds complexity to the situation. Without comprehensive testing for contamination and potential genetic manipulation (GMO) and evaluation of these residues, the safety of those exposed to pesticide residues is unknown and potentially harmful.

The WKB/KCSA requests that your office take proactive steps to enforce these regulations including thorough cleaning and inspection of affected facilities, testing of air quality systems, and diligent monitoring of potential pesticide drift into workplaces. Areas like Downtown Kamloops, where many employers are concentrated in the epicenter of the spray zone, require special attention to ensure the safety of workers and the public. The West Kelowna aerial application potentially affects four schools in proximity of the spray drift with Constable Neil Bruce middle school being directly within the spray zone. Pesticide residues will coat and dry onto structures on the school grounds and will be tracked directly into the schools and enter through the air system if not shut off.

In conclusion, we implore you to act swiftly and decisively to safeguard the health and welfare of all individuals impacted by this bacterial urban aerial pesticide program. Your commitment to enforcing regulations and ensuring compliance across the Province is essential in mitigating the risks associated with these bacterial aerial pesticide applications and their potential health effects to workers and others that are unknowingly exposed.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. We look forward to your prompt response and action on this urgent issue.

Sincerely,

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

Lloyd Manchester
President
250-878-9352

Cc: Premier Eby
Cc: Minister of Forests
Cc: Deputy Minister of Forests
Cc: West Kelowna City Council
Cc: School District #23 Chair and Board of Education
Cc: Regional District of Central Okanagan Directors

On Monday, April 29th, 2024 at 1:04 PM, Funk, Tyson <Tyson.Funk@worksafebc.com> wrote:

Hi Lloyd,

As discussed, please see the following links regarding our conversation about the application of pesticides. As per the Occupational Health and Safety Regulation, all pesticide application must be conducted within -the requirements stated on the label of the pesticide, and with good application practice.

[WorkSafeBC](#) OHSR 6.70 – 6.99 (all regulation directly relating to the application of pesticides)

[WorkSafeBC](#) OHSR 6.76 Informing workers

[WorkSafeBC](#) OHSR 6.84 Safe application practice

[WorkSafeBC](#) OHSR 6.92 Cleanup of residues

Please feel free to reach out to WorkSafeBC again if you have any more questions or concerns.

Thanks,

Tyson Funk – Occupational Safety Officer
Prevention Field Services | 604.276.3100 | 1.888.621.7233

WorkSafeBC
#210 – 220 Brew St, Port Moody, BC
[worksafebc.com](https://www.worksafebc.com)



[Searchable OHS Regulation & related materials - WorkSafeBC](#)

The provincial government has made amendments to the *Workers Compensation Act* that affect return to work. Starting January 1, 2024, employers and workers will be required to co-operate with each other and with WorkSafeBC to ensure the worker can return to their pre-injury job, a comparable job, or other suitable work. For more information, [worksafebc.com/bill41](https://www.worksafebc.com/bill41).

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