

From: [Lloyd](#)
To: [City Desk](#); [akshay.kulkarni@cbc.ca](#); [bcassign@ctv.ca](#); [Board of Education](#); [cbcnewsvancover@cbc.ca](#); [cbo.mailing@sd5.bc.ca](#); [cbrousseau@globeandmail.com](#); [chair@rdco.com](#); [chair@rdco.com kevin.kraft@rdco.com](#); [mayorvanminsel@peachland.ca](#); [msingh@kelowna.ca](#); [gord.milsom@westkelownacity.ca](#); [glovegrove@kelowna.ca](#); [stephen.johnston@westkelownacity.ca](#); [clouie@wfn.ca](#); [dobee@timescolonist.com](#); [Ebata, Timothy FOR:EX](#); [ePapersupport@sunprovince.com](#); [info@chp.ca](#); [jaslene.atwal@sd5.bc.ca](#); [jen.zielenski@blackpress.ca](#); [Lee-Ann Tiede](#); [mayorandcouncil@kelowna.ca](#); [Mayorandcouncil@lakecountry.bc.ca](#); [mayorandcouncil@westkelownacity.ca](#); [mayorvanminsel@peachland.ca](#); [mblair@glaciermedia.ca](#); [media@interiorhealth.ca](#); [mjohnstone@vistaradio.ca](#); [news@am1150.ca](#); [news@castanet.net](#); [news@kelownanow.com](#); [okanagan@globalnews.ca](#); [publisher@cowichanvalleycitizen.com](#); [publisher@goldstreamgazette.com](#); [Publisher@langleyadvancetimes.com](#); [publisher@nanaimobulletin.com](#); [publisher@pqbnews.com](#); [ron.seymour@ok.bc.ca](#); [tdyas@kelowna.ca](#); [tips@rebelnews.com](#); [vantips@postmedia.com](#); [sarah.penton@cbc.ca](#); [Josh@nowmediagroup.ca](#); [ANALIS ELBOUJDAINI](#); [edito@e-know.ca](#); [Jack.Rabb@rci.rogers.com](#); [Cathy@not.tv](#); [john.hua@globalnews.ca](#)
Cc: [Amelia.Boulton@leg.bc.ca](#); [Amy Geistlinger](#); [bconway@cupe.ca](#); [Benjamin Isitt](#); [C C](#); [Call To Action Cranbrook](#); [Chantelle Desrosiers](#); [chodge@kelowna.ca](#); [Cnb PacPresident](#); [Constable Neil Bruce Middle School](#); [Copac President](#); [Copac Vicepresident](#); [craig.cowper@cranbrook.ca](#); [csr@ok.bc.ca](#); [Cte PacPresident](#); [Chief Tomat Elementary School](#); [dan.albas@parl.gc.ca](#); [dan.ashton.MLA@leg.bc.ca](#); [DSC](#); [FOR.Minister@gov.bc.ca](#); [Gavin.Dew.mla@leg.bc.ca](#); [gord.milsom@westkelownacity.ca](#); [Hudson Road Elementary School](#); [Ian.Paton.MLA@leg.bc.ca](#); [James Shannon](#); [jason.friesen@westkelownacity.ca](#); [john.rustad.MLA@leg.bc.ca](#); [Kari Simpson](#); [KCSA Association](#); [kell@wfn.ca](#); [Kelowna Citizens Safety Association](#); [Kristina.Loewen.MLA@leg.bc.ca](#); [lynnette.wray@cranbrook.ca](#); [Macklin.McCall.MLA@leg.bc.ca](#); [mark.fercho@cranbrook.ca](#); [Mbs PacPresident](#); [Mount Boucherie Secondary School](#); [norma.blissett@cranbrook.ca](#); [officeofcouncil@wfn.ca](#); [Premier@gov.bc.ca](#); [President CUPE](#); [rcannan@kelowna.ca](#); [Reyna Seabrook](#); [Rick.G.Manwaring@gov.bc.ca](#); [Rod Taylor](#); [ron.popoff@cranbrook.ca](#); [rwebber@kelowna.ca](#); [Sle PacPresident](#); [Shannon Lake Elementary School](#); [Tara.Armstrong.MLA@leg.bc.ca](#); [tracy.gray@parl.gc.ca](#); [wayne.carson@rdco.com](#)
Subject: West Kelowna Branch of the KCSA Leads Charge in Halting 2025 Aerial BTK Spray Program
Date: Tuesday, February 4, 2025 11:38:47 AM

WARNING: This email originated from outside Central Okanagan Public Schools. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Kelowna, BC – February 4, 2025

West Kelowna Branch of the KCSA Leads Charge in Halting 2025 Aerial BTK Spray Program

After continuous advocacy by the West Kelowna Branch of the Kelowna Citizens Safety Association (KCSA), the BC Government's Ministry of Forests has cancelled the controversial 2025 aerial BTK spray program. This decision underscores the controversial nature of the program and questions why the Ministry of Forests is spraying communities without informed consent.

In 2024, while West Kelowna was spared, twelve other communities were not as fortunate and underwent aerial spraying with BTK, sparking significant health and environmental concerns. Communities like Cranbrook faced three rounds of spraying, raising alarms about safety, particularly given the large number of daycares, schools, and a hospital within the spray and drift zones.

Lloyd Manchester, President of the West Kelowna Branch of the KCSA, praised the decision, emphasizing the importance of community education and regulatory reform. "This cancellation allows us to work collaboratively with communities to educate them about the hazards of being aerially sprayed, to push WorkSafe BC to implement aerial pesticide regulations, make presentations to school boards, and work with farmers to investigate soil contamination and effects on seedlings," Manchester stated. He also noted, "Aerial spraying of our communities is unacceptable and must be discontinued because it increases the potential to harm the elderly, immunocompromised, children, pets, and passersby."

James Shannon from Call to Action Cranbrook expressed his relief and underscored the necessity for stringent scrutiny of international regulatory bodies, such as the Canadian Food Inspection Agency(CFIA), which collaborates with the Ministry of Forests to promote BTK aerial pesticide use in BC communities like Cranbrook. "Our community was severely traumatized by these aerial sprays, and we don't want other communities to go through what we did and be exposed to the BTK bacteria. It's imperative that we address the implications of these practices to protect our environment and public health," Shannon stated.

Larry Wartel, spokesperson for the Communities United For Clean Air, highlighted the importance of pursuing sustainable pest management alternatives. "While we welcome this decision, our advocacy efforts will persist. We remain committed to ensuring informed consent and active community involvement in decision-making processes, especially those that impact public health. It is important to recognize the many reported adverse effects of BTK. People have experienced respiratory issues and other health problems. These concerns must be properly addressed," Wartel stated.

With the cancellation of the 2025 program, all groups involved will continue to collaborate on creating the change that shifts our Province away from spraying communities. There is growing concern over the potential for the Province to switch to viral sprays, which could have significant implications. We will be inquiring into the Ministry of Forests and CFIA's future plans to ensure that any changes are transparent and considerate of public health.

-50-

For more information, media inquiries, or to support the campaign, please contact:

Lloyd Manchester President, West Kelowna Branch of the Kelowna Citizens Safety Association
Email: Lloyd_kcsa@proton.me
Phone: 250-878-9352

James Shannon Call to Action Cranbrook
Phone: 250-420-1406

Larry Wartel Communities United For Clean Air
Email: CommunitiesUnitedForCleanAir@gmail.com

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