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Subject: Aerial spraying of four West Kelowna Schools imminent.
Date: Monday, May 13, 2024 12:03:53 PM

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May 13, 2024

Lee-Ann Tiede, Chair
Board of Education
School District No. 23 (Central Okanagan)
1040 Hollywood Rd S.
Kelowna, B.C. V1X 4N2

Re; Concerns Regarding Lack of Response of the Board of Education to the Imminent Aerial Spraying and residues of BTK in/on West Kelowna Schools

Dear Lee-Ann Tiede, Chair and Members of the Board of Education,

The West Kelowna Branch of the Kelowna Citizens Safety Association (WKB/KCSA) is once more reaching out to you concerning the upcoming aerial application of BTK Foray 48B bacterial pesticide over West Kelowna, and its potential effects on the health and safety of students, staff, and parents. The WKB/KCSA remains concerned due to the lack of response to our previous communications regarding safety measures for your staff, students, and parents. It has been advised that not only should there be a plan to inform your staff, parents, and students, but also measures should be in place to decontaminate play structures, handrails, and air conditioning filters from any pesticide residues, as highlighted in our letter dated April 25th to the Board of Education.

Below are those recommendations stated in the April 25, 2024 letter.:

You are encouraged to consider implementing the following Health Precautions to protect students, staff, and the public from potential exposure.

1. Please inform Custodial staff of the proposed spray application dates to prepare an action plan to deal with the residues that will accumulate and cake onto school structures, handrails and will be tracked into the schools.

2. Keeping this bacterial pesticide out of the schools is essential to reduce exposure to this bacterial toxins which includes, *Bacillus thuringiensis*, subsp. *Kurstaki*, strain ABTS – 351, fermentation solids, spores and insecticidal toxins) and 87% of the unknown ingredients in the formulation on the day of spray application. Please take precautionary measures such as closing and sealing off roof vents and shutting off air conditioners to stop the spray from entering them. The vents and air intakes of the air conditioners should be wiped down after each spray. (3 aerial sprays are planned}. The tentative dates for the first planned aerial application is May 6-7.
3. Provide on-site Nursing support to address any potential exposure incidents. For example, someone may touch a handrail and rub their eyes. The label states to wash the eyes gently for 15 to 20 minutes. School staff should have a label or pesticide registration number should they need to call Poison Control.
4. Provide temporary washing facilities at schools to ensure children, staff and parents can take precautions such as washing their hands.
5. Respiratory and dermatological effects are known to result from exposure and incident reports of exposure have been documented from previous spray operations. Please see kelownacsa.org for those incident reports from Health Canada.
6. Clean or wash all handrails and structures that may be touched when entering the school. This should be done prior to people entering these schools. Floors of the schools should be washed during the day of application.
7. The label states “Repeated exposure to high concentration of microbial proteins can cause allergic sensitization”. Tim Ebata, MOF employee has stated in a letter to the Cranbrook Call to Action Group, “Staying indoors is a voluntary recommendation that effectively eliminates direct contact with the aerial liquid droplets which may be the cause of most cases of irritation. “
8. The WKB recommends that your custodial staff at Shannon Lake Elementary and Chief Tomat Elementary, be supplied with Kromecote spray cards (same as the MOF uses to detect drift). The WKB can supply these cards for your staff should the Ministry of Forest not want to do so. This precaution will allow your staff to ascertain whether the spray drift has been deposited on these schools. Similar precautions should be implemented such as closing and sealing air intakes in case the spray is deposited outside the buffer area which is a potential likelihood.
9. Mr. Ebata, MOF employee, speaks to the residues that remain on structures for days after each aerial spray application. He states, “Children should always follow good hygiene practices by simply washing their hands before eating after playing outdoors and by doing so would also remove any of these residues”.

Please be informed that a letter regarding your compliance with WorkSafe Regulations has also been sent to you. We have not received any acknowledgment of our previous correspondence. Is this how the Board of Education conducts its business? This is a grave issue that could impact the health of your staff, students, parents, and passersby. Your lack of response is unacceptable. We anticipate an immediate reply detailing the actions you will take to adhere to WorkSafe regulations, or alternatively, the measures you will enact in the coming days to safeguard the health of your students, staff, parents, and passersby.

Sincerely yours,

Lloyd Manchester

President

West Kelowna Branch of the Kelowna Citizens Safety Organization

NoSpray_kcsa-@proton.me

Spray Hotline 1-800-573-0231

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