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To: [Board of Education](#)
Cc: [Kelowna Citizens Safety Association](#); [C C](#); [James Shannon](#); [Benjamin Isitt](#); [rlouie@wfn.ca](#); [Nospray_kcsa@proton.me](#)
Subject: Aerial Spraying and residues of BTK in/on West Kelowna Schools
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Attachments: [West-Kelowna-Pesticide-Spray-Map-2024-v1.1.pdf](#)

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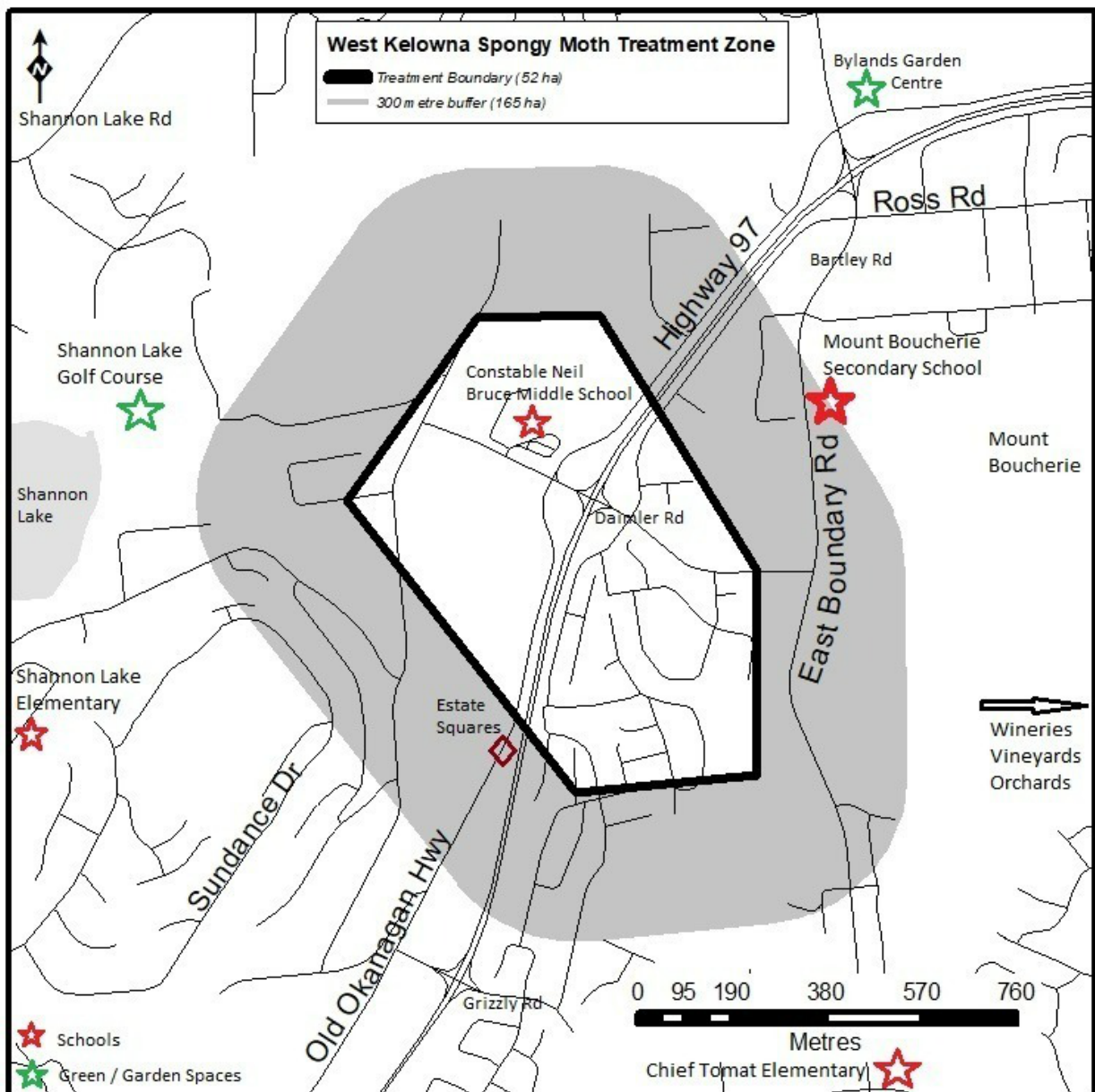
April 25, 2024

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 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) wishes to express our grave concerns regarding the planned aerial spraying of the bacterial pesticide BTK Foray 48B, over West Kelowna and the potential impact on the health and safety of students, staff and parents.



As you can see above, the Constable Neil Bruce school is at ground zero of the Spray Zone and Mount Boucherie on the fringe of the spray buffer zone, with the other two other schools on the edge or just outside the buffer zone. The buffer zone is an arbitrary measurement and depending on wind and the spray can travel for kilometers. These schools in the target area will be sprayed at least three times with the bacterial insecticide Btk and its' 87% unknown ingredients.

Informed consent is lacking amongst parents, teachers, students and passerby's regarding the aerial application of Btk. Many are unaware of the potential exposure levels and health risks associated with attending school on Spray days. The undisclosed ingredients in the formulation of the formulation further exacerbates concerns about exposure. 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".

We urge School District 23 to prioritize the well-being of students, teachers, and staff by advocating for a stay of this aerial pesticide application to the Provincial government. We look forward to your response as to whether as a Board of Education will request a stay or be implementing a plan that will reduce exposure to this bacterial pesticide.

Sincerely yours,

Lloyd Manchester

President

West Kelowna Branch of the Kelowna Citizens Safety Association.

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