

December 4, 1998

ACS1998-PW-ENV-0002
(File: EW-1704-2)

Department of Urban Planning and Public
Works

Ward/Quartier
City Wide

- City Council / Conseil municipal

Information

Pesticides

Pesticides

Information

On July 2, 1998, Council passed a motion regarding the application of pesticides in the City of Ottawa (Document 1). In summation, the motion required: that “the City not use pesticides on City trees pending a review of (the 1990 proposed Integrated Pest Management Strategy) policy”; and that “the application of pesticides to city property be limited to non-cosmetic uses, where a human health risk is identified.”

This information item is an update to Council Members, advising them of the current status of the work related to the motion.

In 1990, City Council approved the development of an Integrated Pest Management Strategy (IPM) in 1990. However, in 1991, funding for the development of the strategy was eliminated during the budget process, and no formal pursuit of IPM was ever carried out. It should be pointed out that, over the years, staff were able to implement some IPM related approaches out of existing resources, and that any pesticide management approaches used by the city, were basically developed under IPM philosophies, i.e. using minimum pesticide applications for maximum effect, and only where there was a risk to human health.

As directed by the July 2, 1998 motion, the 1990 proposed IPM development strategy was circulated to departments within the corporation, the Environmental Advisory Committee, the Urban Forest Citizens Committee, and the Sierra Club for review and comments. Each of the parties provided comments, which will be used as part of the IPM development process. The responses also have led to staff organizing a meeting of the area municipalities, the NCC, RMOC, Ministry of the Environment and the Ministry of Natural Resources, to determine if there is an interest in establishing a partnership for the development of a more regional IPM strategy. This is done under the belief that developing a regional IPM strategy is more cost effective for the partners if they can share the cost of developing one comprehensive strategy, rather than developing one for each municipality. In addition, the environmental value of developing and implementing a wider-scale IPM strategy is significantly higher than if the strategy were to be implemented by only Ottawa.

Once the potential partnerships have been established, staff will prepare a report on the proposed time-lines and the City's portion of the cost of developing and implementing the strategy.

Should you have any questions about this project, please contact Onno Gaanderse of the Environmental Management Branch at extension 3364.



December 7, 1998 (2:54p)

Edward Robinson
Commissioner of Urban Planning and Public
Works

OG:sf

Contact: Onno Gaanderse - 244-5300 ext. 1-3364

City Council Decision - December 16, 1998

Moved by Councillor Émard-Chabot, Seconded by Councillor Arnold
That this item be referred to the next meeting of the Community Services and Operations
Committee, for discussion.- *Carried*

List of Supporting Documentation

Document 1 Council Motion of July 2, 1998

Part II - Supporting Documentation

Document 1

- 16-3 -

CITY COUNCIL MEETING

JULY 2, 1998

Item 8 - Ref.: ACS1998/8800-012 CC1F1582 [City Wide]

Policy - Use of Insecticides/Pesticides/Herbicides

16/5. Moved by Councillor Arnold, Seconded by Councillor Howard,

That the following replace the Community, Services and Operations Committee recommendations:

WHEREAS public concern has been expressed regarding the use of chemical pesticides on City trees;

AND WHEREAS the human health risks of pesticide use are of growing concern to the general public;

AND WHEREAS in 1990 the City adopted a policy of implementing an Integrated Pest Management Strategy to reduce the human health risks of use of pesticides;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the City not use pesticides on City trees pending a review of City policy;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the application of pesticides on City property be limited to non-cosmetic uses, where a human health risk is identified;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT accurate, timely information is provided to the public when pesticides are used on City property;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the review include consideration of healthy alternatives, staff training requirements and public education proposals;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Environmental Advisory Committee and Urban Forest Committee be asked to participate in the review;

AND THAT staff report back to Community Services and Operations Committee within three months on the status of the review, including recommendations for changes to City policy and requirements for further study;

AND that the review include an information item on the prohibition and reduction of the use of insecticides, pesticides and herbicides on all non city owned property within the City of Ottawa. - ***Carried.***