

City of Pickering

MEDIA RELEASE - FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: Wednesday February 14, 2007

Pickering City Councillor Jennifer O'Connell wants to set a new Benchmark for East GTA, by banning the use of cosmetic pesticides in Pickering

"The motion put forward by myself and Councillor Pickles will make Pickering the first Municipality in Eastern GTA to have a balanced by-law that will put a ban on pesticide use together with public education," says Councillor O'Connell.

"The banning of pesticides and the denial of its impact is like the first debate communities faced on the banning of second hand smoke. Exposure to pesticides is not only damaging our environment but poses a serious health risk and can no longer be ignored," states O'Connell  
Pesticides have been linked to numerous diseases such as neurological problems, brain and lung cancer, leukemia, Parkinson's disease, kidney damage, non-Hodgkin's lymphoma and reproductive disorders, including endocrine disruption, low sperm count, and sterility.

The Cancer Society says evidence linking pesticides with cancer is growing, and it simply doesn't make sense to use a substance that could cause cancer to make a lawn look pretty. (CBC News, [http://www.cbc.ca/canada/nebrunswick/story/2006/04/12/nb\\_banpests20060312.html](http://www.cbc.ca/canada/nebrunswick/story/2006/04/12/nb_banpests20060312.html))

Councillor O'Connell is encouraging residents to attend and speak up at Monday's meeting and urge Council to do the right thing. There are safe alternatives to pesticides and with Community support Pickering and other communities will be healthier and safer.

For those who wish to address Council on Monday February 19, 2007, 7:30pm regarding this matter, must register with the Clerk's Office by phoning 905.420.4611 by noon on Friday February 16, 2007.

Media Kits will be available at the meeting

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