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July 15, 2022

Mayor Amarjeet Sohi
City of Edmonton
2nd Floor, City Hall
1 Sir Winston Churchill Square
Edmonton, AB T5J 2R7

Dear Mayor Sohi:

Re: City of Edmonton Motion for report to eliminate cosmetic pesticide use

I understand that the above report is set to be discussed by the Community and Public Services Committee in early August.

If history is any measure, you will hear from a small number of vocal individuals and organizations who opposed the use of pesticides within the City of Edmonton. Please look to the City's own 311 statistics currently for the sheer number of submissions related to "weeds" and/or "park maintenance" issues.

As Alberta's leading professional landscape organization, I view our role as providing fact-based information that allows policy makers, such as yourself, to make informed decisions in matters such as this. Much as we saw during the pandemic a small group of highly vocal individuals can have profound impact on public policy and opinion. Just as we saw with policy decisions around public masking and vaccination mandates for City staff, I would hope that science can be the guide in your decision making.

All pest-control products in Canada are approved and regulated under the authority of Health Canada. In Alberta, commercial application of pesticide products is enforced through licensing under the jurisdiction of Alberta Environment. These are the experts we trust with our own safety and that of employees and customers alike.

Municipal restrictions are costly to enforce and are ineffective as products remain for sale. Removing products from trained, licenses, and insured professionals while allowing access to the public for 'secret' use is a plain backwards approach.

In this regard, I have enclosed our three-page overview of urban pesticide use. This easy-to-read publication addresses some of the contentious points frequently raised during these

discussions. To build a comprehensive report that includes up to date environmental scans and significant stakeholder input would take significant time and resources. As the science has not changed since the previous updates to the IPM Policy we request you consider making a motion to rescind the need for a report on elimination of pesticides to focus time and money on more pressing issues.

I'm available to speak with you personally if you would like to discuss in-depth the scientific and regulatory aspects of this matter. Please feel free to contact me at: joel.beatson@landscape-alberta.com or 780-489-1991.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Joel Beatson". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Joel Beatson
Executive Director