



Dear Candidates for the 2021 Edmonton Municipal Election,

Please carefully read the “background” (below) and attached Pesticide Myths vs Realities document to educate yourself on pesticide use. Then, by October 12, 2021, email your answer to the question at the end of this email by replying to this email. When you do so, please confirm which ward you're running in or, if you're running for Mayor. We will publish all responses on Pesticide Free Edmonton's website and social media page, and will list candidates who do not respond.

Background

Edmonton is one of the last major municipalities in Canada to not have a cosmetic pesticide ban; we are twenty-five years behind the rest of the country. A cosmetic pesticide ban means protection from non-essential use of pesticides (including herbicides, fungicides and other biocides). People across the political spectrum support these bans because they understand that eliminating unnecessary use of toxic chemicals means better health and environmental protection for their families, pets, and green spaces.

A cosmetic pesticide ban does not mean our city will be “overrun by weeds.” Vancouver has a cosmetic pesticide ban and is by all accounts beautiful. Montreal, Halifax, Toronto, and the entire province of Ontario have cosmetic pesticide bans.

Edmonton instead has an “integrated pesticide management” (IPM) approach. This approach is largely promoted by the chemical industry to continue use of pesticides. In fact, the chair of Edmonton's IPM advisory committee was, until recently, a former employee of Crop Life, the marketing arm of pesticide companies. Pesticide use has *increased* significantly over the past few years. For example: from 2019 to 2020:

- ˆ 2,4-D amine (deemed a possible carcinogen by the World Health Organization [WHO]) use increased from 202.5 kg to 312.8 kg (54% increase)

- ˆ Glyphosate (deemed a probable carcinogen by WHO) use increased from 161.6 kg to 297.9 kg (84% increase)

- ˆ Acephate (acetylcholinesterase inhibitor impacting the central nervous system, and possibly linked to lower IQ and verbal comprehension in children) use increased from 0.9 kg to 64.04 kg (7019% increase)

As we deal with an ecological crisis and a global pandemic, we need to prioritize protecting the environment and ourselves. **Pesticide Free Edmonton is campaigning for a cosmetic pesticide ban in Edmonton too. You can read the details here:**

<https://edmontoncouncilofcanadians.ca/pesticide-free-edmonton/>

Question: Would you, if elected to Edmonton city council, support a cosmetic pesticide ban?

With our growing understanding of the harms associated with some pesticides, many jurisdictions have implemented extensive restrictions on pesticides for cosmetic uses. I think the City should move in the direction of further restricting cosmetic pesticide use much like other cities across the country.