

# Request for Decision



To: Regular Meeting  
From: **Bylaw Services**  
Date: October 6, 2025  
Subject: Pesticide Regulation  
Recommendation: **THAT Council give third reading to Pesticide Use Control Bylaw No. 2118.**

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## Purpose

To provide Council with a draft Pesticide Use Control Bylaw and related information for consideration of enacting pesticide use regulation within the City of Grand Forks.

## Background

At the Committee of the Whole Meeting on February 12, 2024, a delegation presented and provided supporting information to request a ban on use of cosmetic pesticides in the City of Grand Forks. At the Regular Council Meeting of February 12, 2024, Council passed the following resolution:

### **Resolution #:R027/24/02/12**

**THAT Council receive the submitted package regarding a use of pesticides bylaw for information and explore educational opportunities.**

**AND THAT Council works with Staff to ensure a best practice approach be taken regarding the use of pesticides within City limits.**

At the Committee of the Whole Meeting on March 4, 2024, the same delegation attended and requested reconsideration of the request to ban cosmetic pesticide use in the City of Grand Forks. At the Regular Council Meeting of March 4, 2024, Council passed the following resolution:

### **Resolution #:R050/24/03/04**

**THAT Council receive the item for information and THAT staff bring back the item in October, 2024 for consideration, accompanied with a Draft Bylaw;**

**AND THAT Staff confirm with other municipalities, regarding impacts, enforcement opportunities, and challenges.**

At the October 21, 2024, Regular Meeting, staff presented a memo addressing the above resolutions of Council and Council passed the following resolution:

**Resolution #:R216/24/10/21**

**THAT the City post to Social Media that a draft Pesticide Use Bylaw has been presented and give an opportunity for feedback to be attached to the November Committee of the whole agenda.**

At the November 4, 2024, Committee of the Whole Meeting, staff provided public feedback received to that date. During the Public Participation portion of the meeting, Christina Abbott spoke regarding the draft bylaw. Council passed the following resolution:

**THAT the draft pesticide bylaw be deferred to the January Committee of the Whole meeting, to allow for additional public comment and feedback.**

At the February 10, 2025, Committee of the Whole Meeting, Christina Abbott attended as a delegation along with a number of citizens in support of the bylaw. Council passed a resolution to allow the group to speak in regard to the draft bylaw. The group provided additional information regarding pesticide bylaws and presented an educational brochure with the idea that these types of educational documents would be shared with residents, with the first distribution funded by the citizens' group. The group expressed support for the bylaw draft with minor revisions.

At the February 10, 2025, Regular Meeting, Council passed the following resolutions:

**Resolution #:R032/25/02/10**

**THAT Council give first two readings to the Pesticide Use Bylaw and refer the draft bylaw for ministerial review as required by the Community Charter.**

**Resolution #:R033/25/02/10**

**THAT Council is in support of the educational endeavors of the citizen advocates for health safety group regarding awareness of risks of pesticide use.**

Staff sent the bylaw for ministerial review and received a response on June 12, 2025. The review determined that approval under section 9(3) of the Community Charter was not required. However, they made some content suggestions and requested a copy of the bylaw, once adopted, be forwarded to a Legislative Advisor.

The Ministry provided the following notes about the draft bylaw:

- *The bylaw excludes treatment of noxious weeds but not invasive weeds. Is there a reason for this?*
- *Also excluded are "fruit gardens and fruit trees" but not vegetable gardens. Is there a reason for this?*
- *Terms such as "constitute a danger" in section 5 may be problematic as they can be subjective.*

We acknowledge that noxious weeds and invasive weeds carry different meanings within the provincial framework, and the omission of invasive weeds was not done to exclude those plants. Similarly, the distinction between fruit and vegetable gardens was not intended to be exclusionary, and both sections of the bylaw (5.5, 5.8) have been updated to include the additional categories. The language in section 5.2 was updated to be more objective.

The implementation of this bylaw is intended to utilize existing staff following the Policy on Bylaw Enforcement. In other words, complaint-driven and reactionary from the enforcement angle. Per the Policy on Bylaw Enforcement, the City will strive for education as the first pillar toward controlling the use of cosmetic pesticides.

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## Benefits or Impacts

### General

Implementation of this bylaw would give the City the ability to regulate the use of pesticides in the City.

### Finances

The citizen advocates for this bylaw plan to issue the first educational brochure, however the City may have some advertising costs seasonally to promote awareness. Enforcement will be done using existing staff on a complaint-driven basis during the current work plan, which should not materially increase costs. At this time, we are not planning to do chemical analysis or other lab testing of products which would incur operating costs.

### Strategic Impact

N/A

### Risk Assessment

#### Compliance:

*Community Charter s.8(3)(i,j), subject to concurrent authority (Pest Control Products Act, Integrated Pest Management Act, etc.)*

#### Risk Impact:

Low

#### Internal Control Process:

Staff are following the legislated requirements for adoption of a Pesticide Use and Control Bylaw and have completed consultation with the Ministry of Environment and Parks.

### Next Steps / Communication

The proposed bylaw will be returned to the October 27, 2025, Regular Meeting for final reading and adoption.

## **Attachments**

Bylaw2118-PesticideUseControlBylaw-3rd reading  
Bylaw2118-PesticideUseControlBylaw-Draftv2

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## **Recommendation**

**THAT Council give third reading to Pesticide Use Control Bylaw No. 2118.**

## **Options**

1. Council could choose to not support the recommendation.