

# **THE BOARD OF EDUCATION OF SCHOOL DISTRICT 5 (SOUTHEAST KOOTENAY)**

## **POLICY**

## **APPLICATION OF PESTICIDES TO DISTRICT BUILDINGS OR GROUNDS**

### **SECTION 4.23**

Pesticides will not be applied for cosmetic purposes. The District defines pesticides as the broader term which includes herbicides, insecticides, fungicides or any other chemical or organic compound used to eradicate some form of infestation.

Alternative measures will be fully explored before consideration by the Board, in consultation with staff, is given to the use of pesticides.

In so doing, wherever practical and feasible, the Board requires that alternative methods of pest, insect, and noxious weed control be used rather than through the use of chemicals. Where it is deemed that a chemical control is necessary then the least noxious and environmentally detrimental chemical or organic agent will be used.

When alternative measures will not suffice for the control of non-cosmetic and/or noxious weeds (as defined by the BC Weed Control Act) and it is deemed appropriate by the Board to utilize pesticides, the Manager of Facilities or his/her designee shall ensure that:

- Application is carried out in accordance with the requirements of regulatory bodies concerned and the instructions of the manufacturer(s) of the substance(s) employed.
- Application is carried out under the supervision of the holder of a valid B.C. Pesticide Applicator's Certificate or equivalent certification acceptable to the regulatory bodies concerned.
- The substance(s) to be applied will pose as few hazards as possible.
- The school principal or supervisor of the facility concerned is given prior advice of application plans, and is requested to ensure that the school community and any employee or student with particular sensitivities to the substance(s) to be applied is advised accordingly.
- A follow-up check is made with the principal or supervisor.
- The substance(s) applied are at all times secured from all persons by the licensed applicator(s).
- The Manger of Facilities or designate will ensure that the general public and the Board of Education are advised when and where pesticides will be applied using the appropriate means available (i.e. School newsletters, school websites, SD5 website, local newspapers, electronic message boards and appropriate signage at the sites).

Before any chemical that has not been previously used in the District is applied as a pesticide, assurance is to be obtained that the chemical is safe to use as proposed. Such assurance may be provided by the school medical officer, Ministry of the Environment or other agency qualified to evaluate the effectiveness and safety of chemicals utilized in the preparation of pesticides.

The application of pesticides will utilize Integrated Pest Management/Turf Management Plans and best practice using the safest known legal product.