Landscape Manitoba Recommendations for E.P.C. September 19,2007

Good Morning

Thank you for the opportunity to give you some feedback from the green industry on the pesticide issue.

My name is David Hinton. I am vice president of Landscape Manitoba and I have owned and operated a lawn care company in Winnipeg for the last 22 years. I am the first Manitoban to obtain the designation of Certified Landscape Professional issued by the Canadian Nursery and Landscape Association.

Landscape Manitoba represents the green industry in Winnipeg and the rest of the province. Our members include garden centres, nursery growers, landscape installation and maintenance companies, wholesale and supply distributors and lawn care companies. We are "PRO PLANT HEALTH" not "PRO PESTICIDE". We use pesticides, both natural and synthetic, to control specific problems in our customers valuable landscapes.

Landscape Manitoba recognizes the great work done by the Ad-Hoc committee. The recommendations that have been put forward represent a "common sense" approach to a very complex issue. We applaud the committee's diligence to wade through what must have been a huge mountain of information and come up with a bylaw that actually makes sense.

Notifying neighbours with a sign when pesticides are used on a property makes sense and has worked well in other jurisdictions like Ontario.

We are not opposed to the requirement for a buffer zone around a property if it is implemented as in Brandon. The bylaw in Brandon requires medical proof that sensitivity to a pesticide exists before a buffer zone is put in place.

After weeks of research, it is obvious that the committee realizes that banning pesticides outright is not practical or enforceable. Some feel the proposed bylaw is not restrictive enough and naively think the City should just ban all pesticides. Other communities in Canada have tried complete bans only to find out that they do not work. Home owners can still legally purchase the products at garden centers, hardware stores and other retail locations. Banning takes the products out of the hands of the people properly trained to use them. Pesticide use can actually increase

as untrained home owners who used to rely on professional lawn care companies are forced to take matters into their own hands.

We recommend that restriction on pesticide usage come directly from Health Canada. Health Canada's Pest Management Regulatory Agency is the authority on pesticides and must approve the use and sale of all pesticides in Canada. The PMRA has over 400 scientists, toxicologists and doctors who ensure that any pesticide sold in Canada does not pose any unacceptable risk to people or the environment. Years of testing and research is done, and only when a product passes all criteria, is it allowed to be sold and used in Canada. Health Canada has the toughest registration process in the world and reevaluates products on a regular basis to ensure safety. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) in the United States and the World Health Organization all agree with Health Canada on the use of these lawn care products.

We feel the City should not be involved with evaluating the health and safety of particular products as the testing has already been done by Health Canada. The City should spend it's time and limited resources on issues with in its control.

To Sum Up:

- **Landscape Manitoba agrees with the Ad-Hoc Committee's common sense recommendations.**
- **We feel that restrictions on particular pesticides should come from the experts at Health Canada. If there are any new concerns with any of the products used for pest control in Canada, the PMRA will restrict the use immediately.**
- **As the availability of effective, natural alternatives increases, home owners and the green industry will move to them without the need of a restrictive, unenforceable bylaw.**
- **Educating the public to properly maintain their landscapes will result in the largest reduction of pesticide use and a better looking city.**

Thank You for your time

David Hinton