



NATIONAL ALLIED GOLF ASSOCIATION - BRITISH COLUMBIA BRIEFING NOTE REGARDING FURTHER RESTRICTIVE PESTICIDE LEGISLATION

ISSUE

The members of the National Allied Golf Association - British Columbia (NAGA - BC) are requesting the support of the BC Government to exempt golf course grounds from any further restrictive legislation pertaining to the use of federally regulated pest control products.

BACKGROUND

Due to the harsh and variable Canadian climate, golf courses in British Columbia are challenged by any number of disease, weed and insect infestations that can negatively affect the quality and playability of the course. At times, the severity of such damage can render a golf course, or portions thereof, completely unplayable.

The members of NAGA - BC will suffer unnecessary economic hardship if provincial regulations supersede Health Canada's stringent pesticide control act [by enacting an outright ban].

- Golf courses **are not motivated** to apply more pesticides, in fact, the opposite is true. Golf courses do not make more money by applying more pesticides; they are only used within an Integrated Pest Management program which is proven to use up to 60% less pesticides.
- **Use of pesticides on golf courses is not cosmetic.** A four-year study at Cornell University concluded that "nonchemical management [is] not sustainable given the current technology and negative impact on revenue from reduced golfer play."
- The golf industry collectively allocates **significant funds toward research programs** that helps ensure golf courses are being managed in a sustainable and environmentally friendly manner.
- **Nine BC golf courses have been certified by the prestigious Audubon International Society** and many more are in various stages of the certification process. The Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary Program for Golf Courses is a voluntary 3rd party program of environmental stewardship that promotes an extremely high level of Integrated Pest Management, beyond even BC's own *IPM Act*.

Understanding that pest control products are already highly regulated at both the federal and provincial levels, it appears that any further regulatory requirement is completely unnecessary. It should be noted that in every jurisdiction where pesticide legislation has become more restrictive, golf courses have been exempted.

The Regulations

The BC Ministry of Environment is responsible for the protection of human health and the environment in British Columbia. The BC *Integrated Pest Management Act (IPMA)*, which relates to the sale and application of pesticides, was passed in the Legislature in October, 2003, replacing the *Pesticide Act*. The *Integrated Pest Management Regulation* was brought into force on December 31, 2004.

British Columbia was the first jurisdiction in North America to enact legislation that required an integrated approach to plant health where pesticides were used only as a last resort. The primary goals of the *Integrated Pest Management (IPM) Act* and Regulation are to:

- Establish regulatory requirements based on degree of risk to human health and the environment;
- Promote environmental stewardship and integrated pest management; and
- Set clear and enforceable standards for the protection of human health and the environment.

The *Act* and Regulation require the use of Integrated Pest Management for pesticide use on public land; on private land used for forestry, transportation, public utilities and pipelines; and for pest control service companies.

The *Act* links to provisions established under the federal *Pest Control Products Act* regarding pesticide classification and labeling and for unregistered pesticide uses for research purposes.

Federally, Health Canada's Pest Management Regulatory Agency (PMRA) is responsible for administering the *Pest Control Products Act* (PCPA) on behalf of the Minister of Health. The PCPA regulates the products used for the control of pests.

The *Pest Control Products Act* (PCPA) received Royal Assent on December 12, 2002, and came into force on June 28, 2006

The PMRA must also consider other Acts, such as the *Pesticide Residue Compensation Act* (PRCA) and the *Food and Drugs Act* (FDA), which have an impact on pest management.

REQUEST TO BC GOVERNMENT

The members of NAGA - BC have great confidence in the systems and legislation currently in place that safeguard the registration, transportation, dispensing, storage, application and disposal of pest control products. We trust that like our own initiatives, these programs are not static and are constantly evolving as needs change and new technology/information arrives.

NAGA - BC believes that further restrictive pesticide use legislation and regulation on a provincial level is unnecessary and asks the BC Government to exempt golf courses from a proposed provincial pesticide ban – the same treatment as all other jurisdictions where pesticide bans have been enacted.

NAGA - BC also asks that any future legislation addresses the problem of the trend toward municipal pesticide by-laws and regional inconsistencies that ensue.

About NAGA - BC

NAGA - BC comprises all sectors of the golf industry including golf course owners (NGCOA), golf professionals (PGA of BC), golf course superintendents (BCGSA), the governing body for amateur sport and players (BCGA) and the body charged with turfgrass research and development (WCTA).

Golf is the number one sport in Canada based on participation and is played by an estimated 812,000 resident golfers in **British Columbia** at over 316 golf course facilities.

The BC golf industry employs 47,000 people generating \$1.08 billion in household income, \$160.7 million in property and other indirect taxes and about \$256.5 million in income taxes.

Golf in **British Columbia** generates \$4.05 billion in total gross production through direct, indirect and induced spending impacts. The total direct economic activity (total direct sales) resulting from the **British Columbia's** Golf Industry is estimated at \$2.01 billion. Of this total, the revenues generated directly by golf courses, and their associated facilities is estimated at \$617.1 million.

For further information, please contact NAGA - BC Chair, Barrie McWha at barriemcwha@gmail.com.