



MINISTER OF CONSERVATION

Legislative Building
Winnipeg, Manitoba, CANADA
R3C 0V8

July 21, 2010

His Worship Mayor Sam Katz
City Hall
510 Main Street
Winnipeg MB R3B 1B9

Your Worship:

Mosquito control is an important issue for all Manitobans. The provincial government shares the City of Winnipeg's position that there is a need to review and update the fogging requirements in place in Winnipeg. This must be done with a view to supporting the desires of the many of Manitobans who are in favour of increased mosquito control, while respecting the views of those with concerns about the use of pesticides on their property.

The "Mosquito Control Program" report passed by the Executive Policy Committee on July 14, 2010 and by City Council on July 21, 2010 contains seven recommendations. Four of these recommendations involve the province, and I can advise that our government is open to all of them. It is important to note that three of these recommendations would require a change of the City of Winnipeg's Pesticide Use Permit. For the province to grant a revision to the permit, the City of Winnipeg Insect Control Branch must formally apply to the Environmental Assessment and Licensing Branch of Manitoba Conservation. I am informed that your revised application will be reviewed expeditiously by the Licensing Branch once received.

In the interest of advancing this important issue quickly, I am pleased to provide a response on behalf of the provincial government to the four report recommendations with implications for the province:

- 1. That the City of Winnipeg Public Service request the Province of Manitoba to reduce the size of the buffer zone currently stipulated in the 2010 Pesticide Use Permit.*

The buffer zone size of 100 metres on either side of a property is based on past advice from the City of Winnipeg. As previously recommended by the Clean Environment Commission, a buffer zone should be in place to respect the preferences of individuals who do not wish to have their property directly sprayed as a part of mosquito control efforts.

Consistent with the views expressed by City officials, the provincial government feels that the wishes of these individuals should be respected and that a buffer zone at least the size of an individual's property should remain in place. However, the province is open to an application to reduce the size of the buffer zones from the current 100 metres.

I can also advise that my officials will be engaging the federal Pesticide Management Regulatory Agency (PMRA) to confirm that they continue to support the use of malathion as the most rigorously reviewed product currently available in Canada for adult mosquito control. We will also be asking them for advice on any potential alternatives under their review. We would invite you to participate in this process, and to partner on funding a study on potential alternatives to malathion.

2. *That the City of Winnipeg Public Service request the Province of Manitoba to amend the minimum criterion for fogging of 3 consecutive days (of greater than 25 nuisance mosquitoes) to 2 consecutive days.*

The province is in favour of this change and I am advised that the Environmental Assessment and Licensing Branch would be amenable to this revision to the Pesticide Use Permit. As noted above, formal approval requires an official submission to the Branch from the City of Winnipeg.

3. *That the City of Winnipeg Public Service request the Province of Manitoba to reduce the 48-hour initial notice time to start a fogging program to 24 hours.*

The province is also in favour of this change, and similar to the recommendation above, the Environmental Assessment and Licensing Branch is open to reviewing a revised permit application. However, approval of the reduced notification period would be subject to the inclusion of additional measures to assure notification of individuals with registered buffer zones of the upcoming fogging in their neighbourhood. These increased notification measures could include radio advertising or direct contact with residents, in addition to the measures already in place.

7. *That the City of Winnipeg request the Province of Manitoba to increase the amount of new incremental funding provided to the City of Winnipeg, including provision of full funding (100%) for the current and any expanded nuisance mosquito larviciding program that is conducted in 10 neighbouring Capital Region Municipalities, to assist in transitioning to a 100% biological larviciding program by 2012.*

The provincial government recognizes the merit of the larviciding program in the City of Winnipeg and in the capital region municipalities in ultimately reducing the adult mosquito population and the need to fog in residential areas. The provincial government also recognizes the importance of moving forward on increased biological larviciding.

As such, I can advise that the provincial government will consider further cost-sharing options as a part of the budget process for 2011/2012. By way of this letter, we request that the City of Winnipeg provide a more detailed proposal which includes a comprehensive plan to enhance the larviciding program in neighbouring municipalities as recommended.

I look forward to working further with you in the interests of Manitobans living in Winnipeg and the capital region.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bill Blaikie". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of the first and last names being capitalized and prominent.

Bill Blaikie
Minister of Conservation

- c. City Councillors
Fred Meier, Deputy Minister, Conservation
Linda McFadyen, Deputy Minister, Local Government