

TOXICS/PESTICIDES

West Coast Environmental Law	B.C. Liberals	B.C. NDP	BC Green Party
<p>An Act which takes a science based approach to identifying, reducing and eliminating the use of toxic substances. Such legislation would generally ban the use of highly toxic chemicals or toxic chemicals for which non-toxic alternatives are readily available, and develop and implement plans to phase out the use of toxins for which no alternative currently exists.</p>	<p>Not addressed in platform.</p>	<p>"Requiring clear food labeling to reduce harmful carcinogens, toxic substances and genetically engineered foods." (p. 36)</p> <p>"End the sale of pesticides for residential and cosmetic use to help protect public health, safety and the environment ..." (p. 43)</p>	<p>"Eliminate toxins that contribute to poor health ... Legislate a province-wide ban on the use of cosmetic pesticides for residential, institutional and business properties, remove chemical pesticides from retail sales and work with the agriculture and forestry industries to reduce and eliminate pesticide use; Implement Right-to-Know Product labeling legislation ...; Eliminate the import and use of products containing the most toxic substances..." (p. 23)</p> <p>"Phase out chemical pesticides" (p. 55)</p>

Analysis:

"Right to know" refers to labeling requirements so that consumers can avoid toxins; "cosmetic pesticides" refers to pesticides that are used to beautify areas, rather than for economic or production reasons. Right to know legislation and cosmetic pesticide bans are all useful first steps towards our recommendation. The Green Party platform calls for the elimination of the most toxic pesticides in addition to labeling and a cosmetic pesticide ban, giving its platform the top score. Two private member's bills related to toxins and chemicals – the *Toxics Reduction Act* and the *Right to Know Act* introduced by the NDP in 2008 provide further details about the approach this party might take on this issue.

