

Purpose/Background

The division views health, wellness and safety as the highest priority. RVS holds to the Precautionary Principle and does not approve / allow the use of chemical fertilizers and pesticides for non-essential purposes. All products used for pest and weed control should be considered in light of the division's priorities and values.

Definitions:

Precautionary Principle The precautionary principle means that appropriate preventative measures are to be taken where there is reason to believe that a pesticide is likely to cause harm, even when there is no conclusive evidence to prove a casual relation between the pesticide and its effects.

Procedures

1. The Director of Operations is directed to use organic alternatives to control undesirable weeds and insects, although pesticides may be authorized for use against any insect or plant which is harmful to human health.
2. The Director of Operations shall utilize a holistic approach, which uses organic methods in protecting the environment and promoting healthy soils and lawns.
3. The division will follow the directives set up in the House of Commons Standing Committee on Environment and Sustainable Development book entitled: *Pesticides – Making the Right Choice* (May 2002) and the precautionary principle in the management of school grounds.

Reference:

- Education Act Sections 33, 52, 53, 68, 196, 197, 204, 222, 225
- Occupational Health and Safety Act
- Public Health Act
- *Pesticides – Making the Right Choice* (May 2002)