



ENVIRONMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

**Thursday, June 7, 2012
5:30 PM**

Larry Schneider Board Room, Main Floor, City Hall



Office of the City Clerk

**Public Agenda
Environment Advisory Committee
Thursday, June 7, 2012**

Approval of Public Agenda

Minutes of the meeting held on May 3, 2012.

Tabled Communications

EAC12-19 **EAC12-19** Cloth Diaper Services (Tabled May 3, 2012)

EAC12-14 **EAC12-14** Pesticide Reduction (Tabled April 5 and May 3, 2012)

Communication

EAC12-21 **EAC12-21** Pesticide Reduction - Draft Revised Recommendations

Adjournment

May 3, 2012

To: Members,
Environment Advisory Committee

Re: Cloth Diaper Services

At the June 2, 2011 meeting of the Environment Advisory Committee, Karen Moore, Regional Director for the Saskatchewan Abilities Council, provided a presentation regarding the Happy Nappy Cloth Diaper Service. Discussion included the potential for Happy Nappy forming a partnership with the Environment Advisory Committee and the City of Regina. At that meeting, the committee tabled the matter to allow time for Ms. Moore to provide additional information regarding support for this type of service in other municipalities.

Ms. Moore provided the requested information and the Committee considered it at its March 1 meeting. As a result, the Committee adopted a resolution to form a working group to prepare a report that included: a position to recommend to City Council on alternatives to disposable diapers that will reduce burden to landfills, within the context of a full life-cycle analysis; and a recommendation on the proposal made by Happy Nappy Enterprise SK to the City of Regina with respect to a pilot program and reimbursement for their diaper starter kit.

A working group was formed and the attached is submitted by the working group for consideration by the Committee.

Respectfully submitted,



Elaine Gohlke, Secretary
Environment Advisory Committee

Preamble:

The City of Regina Environment Advisory Committee's (the “**Committee**”) 2011-2012 Work Plan identified a role for the Committee to provide advice and recommendations of solid waste management through partnerships, education and communication. In this context, the Committee was approached by the Saskatchewan Abilities Council (SAC) to have the Committee consider a proposal for a partnership between the City of Regina and a cloth diaper service, Happy Nappy Cloth Diaper Service. The SAC purchased the Saskatchewan franchise rights to this diaper service.

At the June 2, 2011 meeting of the Committee, Karen Moore, Regional Director for the SAC provided a presentation regarding the Happy Nappy Cloth Diaper Service (information provided at this meeting is found in Appendix A). At the conclusion of the meeting the Committee adopted a resolution to table the matter to the September 2nd meeting to allow time for Ms. Moore to provide additional information regarding other municipalities supporting this type of service. The matter was subsequently tabled several times upon the request of Ms. Moore to gather more information. New information was provided by Ms. Moore for the March 1st 2012 meeting of the Committee (information from this meeting is found in Appendix B). Ms. Moore was not in attendance for the March 1st meeting.

Background

The debate surrounding the environmental impacts of disposable diapers compared to cloth diapers can be polarizing. The environmental consequences of disposable diapers and the possible environmental benefits to cloth diapers are not always straight-forward when considered in the context of a full life-cycle analysis (i.e. Vizcarra et al. A life-cycle inventory of baby diapers subject to Canadian conditions. *Environmental Toxicology and Chemistry*. V1 13(10): 1707-1716). However, viewed singularly on the reduction to landfills, the use of cloth diapers will reduce landfill burden compared to disposable diapers.

Technological innovations have also created new choices for consumers to consider when selecting a diapering option in the context of environmental stewardship. These new options include changes to both cloth and disposable options. For example, cloth products can now include hemp (www.bynature.ca) and bamboo (www.bummis.com) alternatives to cotton, a crop that is not without its environmental burdens. As well, there is an expanding market of environmentally conscious disposable diapers, such as Seventh Generation (ca.seventhgeneration.com) and petroleum-based free products such as Gdiapers (www.gdiapers.com).

Conclusion and Recommendation:

The committee recognizes the efforts of Ms. Moore and commends her efforts to explore options for reducing the environmental impact of diapers. The committee also appreciates the additional work and effort that Ms. Moore undertook to bring additional information to the committee. However, the Committee does not think it appropriate for the City of Regina to endorse any singular form of alternative diaper use or diaper service. Therefore the committee does not

recommend that the City of Regina adopt the Happy Nappy Diapering Service submitted proposal requesting the City to subsidize users of the Happy Nappy service.

In recognition of the broader context of Ms. Moore's presentation and efforts, the Committee recommends that the Public Works Committee request City Administration to include education about alternatives to conventional disposable diapers in current and future education, as well as recycling education programs and communications.

CLOTH DIAPERS & CLOTH DIAPER SERVICES

KEY MESSAGES

- Disposable diapers contain Dioxin¹, an extremely carcinogenic chemical listed as a hazardous substance in the Government of SK Environmental Management and Protection Act (regulations)
- Fecal matter from disposable diapers is supposed to be deposited in the toilet before discarding; however, less than 0.5% of all waste from disposables goes into the sewage system² – raw human waste is going directly to the landfill
- 92% of all single-use disposable diapers end up in a landfill²
- No one knows how long it takes for a disposable diaper to decompose – estimates say 250-500 years³
- Disposable diapers are the third largest single consumer item in landfills and in a house with one child in diapers, disposables make up 50% of household waste³
- From birth to potty training, a child in disposable diapers will contribute 2,000 pounds (1 ton) to the landfill⁴ – that's about 7,500 diapers, an average of 7 diapers per day, and about 650 lbs. per year
- 5% (maximum) of parents use cloth diapers or cloth diaper services⁵, estimates are less in Canada
- On average, children using cloth diapers are potty trained 6 months earlier than those in disposable diapers⁶

DATA FOR THE CITY OF REGINA

Births

Approximately **2,600** new births in Regina in 2010

Percentage/number of new births using disposable diapers = 95% or **2,470**

2,470 new births X 650 lbs. of disposable diaper waste/year/child = 1.6 million lbs. new diaper waste

That's more than **4 million lbs. of landfill waste** for these children from birth to potty training

Children Ages 0 to 3 Years

Estimated population of 0 to 3 year olds in Regina = **8,000**

95% X 8,000 = 7,600 children using disposable diapers

7,600 children X 650 lbs/year = **9 million lbs. of landfill waste** contributed by children in diapers in a year

WHAT CAN THE CITY DO?

First and foremost, help get the message out about the environmental (and other!) benefits of cloth diapers and cloth diaper services.

- Allow for an insert in monthly city utility bills to encourage families to use cloth diapers or a cloth diaper service
- Strike a diaper diversion working group to provide input to the Waste Management Plan specifically regarding the issue of diapers in our landfill
- Post messages on the city website regarding the positive benefits of using cloth diapers or a cloth diaper service
- Help educate the community on cloth diapering whenever possible (cross-over, networking)
- Develop an informational brochure on the benefits of cloth diapering and cloth diaper services
- Host or co-host an eco-friendly diapering awareness day, campaign, or event

Create incentives for citizens to use cloth diapers or cloth diaper services – promoting from the affirmative.

Develop a system to provide incentives to families who use cloth or a cloth diapering service

- Cash incentives through an established fund with parameters/guidelines
- Incentives on utility bill
- Tax relief
- Other

Levy restraints on disposable diapers – penalize through volume limits, service/user fees, fines.

- Change policy so that disposable diapers must be disposed through a separate collection container
- Set limits on the volumes of disposable diaper waste allowed
- Place a service fee/levy on the collection of disposable diapers across the board or place a service fee/levy on families that exceed limits
- Ensure that commercial operations (daycares and institutions) are paying for the volume of disposable diaper waste they are creating

INFORMATION ON HAPPY NAPPY ENTERPRISE SK

In the Fall of 2010, the Council made an investment in its future and purchased the Saskatchewan franchise rights to Happy Nappy Cloth Diaper Service. Happy Nappy is operating as the Council's first Social Enterprise - it operates without subsidy, provides competitive wages for people with disabilities, will provide a contribution to the Council to maintain our programming, and reduces our environmental footprint. Happy Nappy conveniently provides door-to-door weekly delivery of fresh and pick-up of soiled diapers. Operating out of the Saskatchewan Abilities Council's main Regina plant, Happy Nappy is servicing Regina, Saskatoon, Moose Jaw, and Weyburn, with other towns and cities coming on board as the operation grows.



Happy Nappy Enterprise SK, a Proud Social Enterprise of
The Saskatchewan Abilities Council
1-866-988-4040 or dial direct in Regina @ 306-569-9048
www.happynappy.ca
825 McDonald Street, Regina, SK
S4N 2X5

SOURCES

1. Allsopp, Michelle. *Achieving Zero Dioxin: An emergency strategy for dioxin elimination*. September 1994. Greenpeace.
2. Lehrburger, Carl. *Diapers in the Waste Stream: A review of waste management and public policy issues*. 1998. Sheffield, MA: Self-published.
3. Link, Ann. Disposable nappies: A case study in waste prevention. April 2003. Women's Environmental Network.
4. www.expectantmothersguide.com; www.diaperpin.com; www.cleangreennappy.com; www.cheekydiapers.com; www.greenbottoms.ca; www.thegnomesmom.com; www.happynappy.ca
5. www.planetgreen.discovery.com
6. Real Diaper (non-profit) Association, PMB #155, 3401 Adams Avenue, Suite 10, San Diego, CA 92116-2490

"B"



Report to Environment Advisory Committee

City of Regina

Prepared by Karen Moore, Regional Director

Saskatchewan Abilities Council & Happy Nappy Enterprise SK

January 2012

A presentation was made to the Environment Advisory Committee for the City of Regina in May of 2011 by Saskatchewan Abilities Council, representing Happy Nappy Diaper Service. The purpose of the presentation was to highlight the impact that single-use (disposable) diapers have on municipal landfills and the environment, and to request the support of the City to reduce this environmental footprint and cost.

The Environment Advisory Committee requested that additional information be provided with regard to how other municipalities are supporting cloth diapering vs. single-use, non-environmentally friendly diapers. I have provided information regarding jurisdictions in Canada only; however, there are many towns and cities throughout the world providing municipal incentives for the use of cloth diapers.

This report includes the following:

- 1) A table that provides a brief description of the jurisdiction and the type of support provided for cloth diapering;
- 2) A proposal for how the City of Regina could be the first city in Saskatchewan to provide an incentive to families to reduce the volume of single-use diaper waste going to our landfill;
- 3) Numerous reference documents for your information.

I would like to express my gratitude to the Environment Advisory Committee for taking the time to hear and consider the matter of single-use diapers in our landfill. This truly is an important issue because single-use diapers represent about 4% of household solid waste, with 92% of single-use diapers ending up in landfill. The City of Regina has set a diversion target of 40% from the residential sector by 2015 and a significant effort to divert diapers from the landfill could contribute to meeting this target.

Please don't hesitate to contact me if you require additional information or if you would like me to make a presentation. Thank you.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Karen Moore".

Karen Moore
Regional Director

1. Table of Municipalities Providing Support for Cloth Diapering to Divert Single-Use Diapers from Landfill

**Municipalities Providing Support for Cloth Diapering to
Divert Single-Use Diapers from Landfill**

Jurisdiction	Description	Notes
Quebec		
Saguenay, Lac. St. Jean, MRC du Fjord, MRC du Val St-Francois, Sherbrooke, Mont St.- Hilaire	\$100 towards purchase of 25 diapers	
Beaupre, MRC de la Jacques-cartier, Levis, Beloeil, Chambly, Kingsly Falls, Otterburn Park, St-Cesaire	50% towards the cost to purchase cloth diapers, before taxes & up to a maximum of \$100	
Charlevoix-Est, Bas St- Laurent, Ste. Luce, Estrie-Brigham, Farmham, Cantley, Saint Georges, St. Prosper, Saint Charles de Borremee, Saint- Julienne, Terrebonne, Plessisville, Lyster, Victoriaville, MRC Robert-Cliche	\$100 per child for the use of cotton diapers	
MRC de l'Ile d'Orleans	\$150 cash back with the purchase of a minimum of \$250	
Maurice-Louisville	\$100 on the purchase of a \$300 package	
Coaticook, Compton, Lac Megantic, Lambton, Magog	50% of the purchase up to a maximum of \$200	

Granby	50% towards a cloth diaper package up to a maximum of \$200, and for infants 12 to 24 months, a 25% reimbursement	
Shefford	Between \$100 and \$200 subsidy	
MRC de Lotbiniere, Bethanie	\$200 reimbursement on the purchase of cloth diapers	
MRC de Roussillon, Candiac, Chateauguay, Delson, Lery, Mercier, La Prairie, Saint-Constant, Saint-Isidore, Saint Mathieu, Saint-Philippe, Sainte-Catherine	\$150 subsidy for purchase of at least 20 diapers	
Sainte-Martine	\$100 in credits applicable to other City services	
Sainte-Clotilde-de-Horton, Saint-Cyrille-de-Wendevor	50% of costs incurred for the purchase of cloth diapers up to a maximum of \$250 per child	
Montreal	\$100 towards purchase of a diaper kit	
Laval	\$100 towards use of cloth diapers	
Ontario		
Clarence-Rockland, Nation, Alfred-Plantagnet	\$200 towards the purchase of cloth diapers	
British Columbia		
Victoria	Annual Cloth Diaper Day	City supports the event

2. Proposal to City of Regina

Proposal to City of Regina

Concept: Provide, on a pilot basis, a \$100 reimbursement towards the purchase of a diaper starter kit.

Process: Recommend a 3-year pilot program, with a small fund, to determine interest going forward. Suggested value for the pilot component of the fund, based on other municipalities' approach, is \$10,000. For the first year of the program, Happy Nappy Enterprise SK would contribute \$5,000 towards the fund, as a commitment to the concept. This would allow 100 families to receive a one-time subsidy on a first-come, first-served basis. Criteria and details would have to be determined.

Based on information obtained from the City of Regina website and documents, we believe it costs a minimum of \$55 per year per baby* to send their single-use diapers to the landfill; this figure is likely conservative. With 100 families accessing the subsidy, this equates to a benefit of \$5,500; that is \$55 X 100 families. The greater the interest, the greater the savings to the landfill and the City.

The following table provides an illustration of the concept.

Year	Cost/Fund Value	Savings to Landfill	Savings to City (based on \$55/baby/year)	Net
1 st	\$10,000 (\$5,000 from Happy Nappy + \$5,000 from City of Regina)	65,000 lb. reduction	\$5,500	+ \$ 500
2 nd	\$10,000	130,000 lb. reduction	\$5,500 from Year 1 babies \$5,500 from Year 2 babies \$11,000	+ \$1,000
3 rd	\$10,000	162,500 lb. reduction	\$2,750 from Year 1 babies** \$5,500 from Year 2 babies \$5,500 from Year 3 babies \$13,750	+ \$3,760
Totals	\$25,000 (City cost)	357,500 lbs.	\$30,250	+ \$5,520

* Analysis attached

**Babies in cloth diapers generally potty-train 6 months earlier than single-use diapers

Analysis of Cost to Send Single-Use Diapers to Landfill

65,000 metric tonnes of household garbage/year¹

\$12M² cost for garbage collection

\$12M divided by 65,000 tonnes = \$185/tonne

10,000³ babies in diapers in Regina/year

10,000 X 650⁴ lbs. of diaper waste/year = 6,500,000 lbs.

6,500,000 lbs. converts to 2,948 metric tonnes

2,948 tonnes X \$185/tonne = \$545,380

\$545,380 divided by 10,000 babies in diapers = \$55/baby/year

¹ City of Regina Pamphlet

² City of Regina Budget Documents on Website


³ Government of SK Census & Population, Table 6 extrapolated

⁴ www.expectantmothersguide.com; www.diaperpin.com; www.cleangreennappy.com;
www.cheekydiapers.com; www.greenbottoms.ca; www.thegnomesmom.com;
www.happynappy.ca

3. Reference Documents

A Better Diaper: The City of Ottawa: A Chance to Show Leadership

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January 2012

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Diapering Mom's Secret
Weapon: Tea Tree Oil
Wednesday, April 20, 2011

The City of Ottawa: A Chance to Show Leadership

There's great controversy here in Ottawa about what's happening with garbage pick-up. After extensive public consultations held a few months ago, the city has announced that garbage will be picked up bi-weekly now that green bins have reduced the amount of real garbage that goes to the curb. But thanks to some vocal parents the city is capitulating and giving *just them* a special weekly garbage pick-up by a supervisor to accommodate their diaper trash. This is very short sighted. And it ignores a wonderful opportunity for the City of Ottawa.

Back in March, some boroughs in the City of Montreal announced a subsidy for parents who use cloth diapers. Whatever the motivation for the subsidy (Quebec is notorious for encouraging more babies) the amount of garbage going to the curb is reduced and those parents wouldn't have a problem with bi-weekly pick-up.

Here's a novel idea. It's going to cost a lot of money to provide special garbage pick-up for those parents with disposable diapers. Why not simply transfer that cost (or half of it) to an incentive for the parents to switch to cloth? Then everyone wins: parents get a healthier option; Cities reduce landfill; A little less carbon is sent into the atmosphere from those special trucks; Less harmful chemicals are released.

Ottawa's citizens have a chance to take a leadership role in how we deal with waste. Let's not waste it.

Posted by Steve Duncan at 4:27 2011 5:40 AM

Categories: uncategorized

Tags: [Ottawa Subsidy](#) [Garbage](#)

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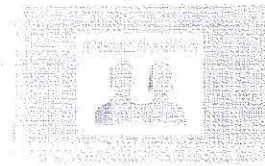
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Cloth Diaper subsidies in Ontario please!

Wall Info

Basic Info

Name: Cloth Diaper subsidies in Ontario please!
Category: Common Interest - Families
Description: October 25th is municipal election day in Ontario. This year, take action and ask to your local candidates to table and support subsidies for parents who reduce energy consumption and non biodegradable landfill waste by using cloth diapers on their children.
Privacy Type: Open: All content is public.

Contact Info

Website: <http://swaddled.blogspot.com>
Location: Mississauga, ON

Information

Category: Common Interest - Families

Description: October 25th is municipal election day in Ontario. This year, take action and ask to your local candidates to table and support subsidies for parents who reduce energy consumption and non biodegradable landfill waste by using cloth diapers on their children.

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Admins

- Louise (creator)

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Cloth Diaper Subsidy in Vancouver/Langley/Tricities

Published by Maggie Chilton on Aug 02, 2011

Recommend Send 64 people recommend this.

Target: T.B.A

Region: Canada

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35 Signatures

Background (Preamble):

To begin with cloth diapers have many benefits, including:

Environmental: Cloth diapers reduce waste for families with children in diapers by more than 50%.

Financial: Cloth diapers allow families to save more than \$2000 per child.

Health: Cloth diapers help parents reduce exposure of their babies' skin and lungs to the chemicals in disposable diapers.

A subsidy would encourage more families to switch to using cloth diapers, reducing their environmental impact, save money and lessen the stress on our resources.

Since The Great Cloth Diaper Change Event (2011) put cloth diapers into the Guinness Book of Records the image of cloth diapers has changed all over the world. The interest in using cloth diapers has been growing at a great rate in the Lower Mainland, Langley and the Tricities in the last few years. Many municipalities give subsidies for converting families to this way of life and B.C should be no different.

We should be leading the way and showing the rest of Canada that we care about our childrens environment and the legacy we are leaving behind. We need to support those families who choose to use cloth diapers by making them a more affordable choice at the beginning. With this subsidy and the knowledge base of local cloth diaper retailers we can surely change the enviromental impact in our local and global communities.

Keep in mind a disposable diaper takes approx. 500 years to start to break down! just think about that for a moment and multiply that by how many diaper changes are done in day for a single child over a 2.5 yr period - that's a dramatic impact on our environment

Petition:

We, the undersigned, request a cloth diaper subsidy in order to make a significant positive impact on our environment. As we currently have compostable facilities in most of our communities we are well on our way to helping reduce our waste in many ways.

This subsidy would go hand in hand with this initiative to help reduce the amount of disposable diapers and wipes currently filling our landfills at an alarming rate. Compostable wipes, diapers, liners etc should also be included into the subsidy as we already have the facilities (in most municipalities) to compost these items.

We will support local companies wherever possible in order to further reduce our carbon footprint.

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The Cloth Diaper Subsidy in Vancouver/Langley/Tricities petition to T.B.A was written by Maggie Chilton and is in the category Environment at GoPetition. Contact author [here](#). Petition tags: cloth diapers, cloth diaper subsidy, lower mainland cloth diaper subsidy, fraser valley cloth diaper subsidy

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Laval Offers Cloth Diaper Subsidies



Laval recently joined a growing number of Montreal-area municipalities that offer incentives to parents who choose cloth diapers. The city is starting a pilot project this year that offers a \$100 subsidy to Laval families who use cloth diapers.

The list of municipalities that offer similar programs includes Longueuil, Vaudreuil and Verdun. There are many more municipalities that offer subsidies, but most are outside the city. The website www.subventioncoucheslavables.com has a helpful map of the regions that offer subsidies, and ideas for proposing cloth diaper subsidies in your own municipality.

Photo courtesy of MissMessie.



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Montreal borough starts cloth diaper subsidy

Verdun to hand out \$100 to parents who switch to washable diapers

CBC News

Posted: Mar 2, 2011 7:59 PM ET

Last Updated: Mar 2, 2011 7:59 PM ET

Montreal's Verdun borough has announced a cloth diaper program to help out new families.

The program, which the borough council adopted Tuesday night, makes parents with babies under six months old eligible for a \$100 subsidy if they buy a washable diaper kit.

The initiative is the first of its kind in Montreal, although a similar initiative was adopted last April in the off-island suburb of Vaudreuil-Dorion.

The borough said it will spend \$24,000 on the new diaper program, which it hopes will encourage families to have more babies and be more environmentally friendly.

About five per cent of the population in Montreal use washable diaper kits, which cost between \$200 and \$400.

"We're hoping to keep as many families as possible in the city of Montreal, in the borough of Verdun. And we're hoping to bring back some families," said Verdun Coun. Alain Tassé.

The borough says the idea started last year when a woman called asking about subsidies for using cloth diapers. To receive the subsidy, parents will need to fill out a form and present the borough with a receipt for a washable diaper kit.

Diaper debate

However, not all mothers in Verdun are willing to make the switch.

"They need special soap for it, so I don't really like it. It's too much work," said Khaleda Begum, who said she spends \$60 a month on disposable diapers.

But cloth diaper companies say many people are misinformed.

"Things have come a long way. The products that are on the market today not only look good, they absorb well, they're easy to use, there are a lot of benefits," said Samantha Cockburn, founder of Baby Auric.

Verdun mother Julie Felx uses cloth diapers, and thinks the subsidy is a good idea.

"It's a good program. I already have those diapers for my daughter and I love it because it's less expensive," Felx said.

Felx said she is happy just knowing her diapers weren't ending up in landfills.

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About Me

I'm a busy new mom located outside of Toronto, Ontario. I am an Independent Educational Consultant for Discovery Toys, the coolest educational toys around. I am doing my best to make our home eco-friendly without breaking the bank or losing my mind. I'll share our best practices and our worst foibles as we raise our daughter to be an engaged citizen of the world

This blog will feature great gadgets, fun educational toys, cloth diapering,

Thursday, September 16, 2010

Why Quebec is the cloth diaper capital of Canada

You don't have to look hard to see the some of the differences between Quebec and the rest of Canada, but while Quebec politics are confusing and frustrating to many Canadians, there is something happening in Quebec that Canadians from east to west should get behind - an amazing cloth diaper industry.

If you buy Canadian diapers from a major manufacturer, chances are the diapers are designed and/or produced in Quebec. Bummi and AppleCheeks are both headquartered in Montreal, and they are the tip of the Quebec cloth diaper industry iceberg. Brands such as Ombaki, Mini Kiwi, La Mère Hélène and Big & Biquette are also important players on the Quebec cloth diaper scene.

Who is buying all these diapers you ask? Quebec parents! Are Quebec parents really more green than the rest of us? Do they have more disposable income? No, many Quebec municipalities offer a financial incentive for parents to start with or switch to cloth diapers to help keep disposable diapers out of their landfills.

An incentive that is both environmentally and economically sound

The cloth diaper subsidy is an amazing concept. Once parents overcome the idea of cleaning and caring for cloth diapers, the biggest obstacle to starting cloth diapering is the huge up front cost. A new cloth diaper set up can cost as little as \$320 and as much as \$1150 depending on the diapers you choose. It seems like a huge up front cost that a lot of parents can not afford as a lump sum. Many parents forget to calculate the ongoing cost of disposable diapers because the cost of a pack of diapers each week, or a case each month seems to be more palatable. A family can save \$800-\$2000 from birth to potty training, more if you use the diapers on more than one child. Cloth diapers also have great resale value, many parents recover 30-50% of their investment once their children are potty trained. Imagine how much a program that helps take the sting out of the initial investment can help!

A child will go through 5000-8000 diapers from birth to potty training. Read about how long it takes for disposable diapers to break down. Every disposable diaper ever manufactured is still in a landfill somewhere in the world because plastic takes several hundred years to break down. Most of those diapers are also leaching the chemicals that help make disposables 'stay dry', proteins, enzymes and diseases.

Swaddled: Why Quebec is the cloth diaper capital of Canada

recipes, crafty, and sometimes, money saving, projects and more

Blog Archive

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Real Men Change
(Cloth) Diapers

Apples!

Warm and fuzzies for
FuzziBunz

8 things I had never
heard of a year ago -
but can ...

Every Little Bottom

My go everywhere mat

Play for Peace and
make a difference this
September ...

Discovering play

Why Quebec is the cloth
diaper capital of
Canada

The Learning Tree

My new toy

I wouldn't want to wear
plastic underwear

I'm an environmental
activist - or maybe I'm
just ...

► July (1)

Labels

my favorite things (9)
Discovery Toys (8)
cloth diapering (7) eco-
friendly (7) for baby (7)
giving back (3) crafts (2) outings (2) food
(1) gender (1) mom the vote (1) nightmares (1)

Followers

The City of Toronto Green Bin program eliminates the guilt without eliminating the waste

Many of my friends who live in the City of Toronto have told me that they considered cloth diapering because of their concern for the environment but because the city's Green Bin Program accepts diapers in with the organics waste, they feel ok about using disposable diapers. So the City of Toronto is providing a disincentive to parents who want to be environmentally conscious by making them think that their disposable diapers are being composted. In reality, "the diapers are considered diverted when placed in the compost stream, but are immediately screened out." So the thousands of diapers that parents place dutifully and guilt free in the green bin actually end up in an incinerator in Michigan.

When you compare Toronto's approach to diverting diapers with the approach taken by some municipalities in Quebec, it's easy to see why Quebec is a hotbed for innovative diaper design and manufacturing.

Every little bit helps

Waste is managed at the municipal level so not every city offers them and they differ from one city to another. In most cases proof of purchase is required. Some of the offers include:

- Flat rate refund per child (\$100, or \$150 in most cases)
- 50% of the cost of diapers up to a maximum (in many cases, a maximum refund of \$100, but in some cities, up to \$200)
- Up to \$200 with a minimum number of diapers purchased (in most cases 24 diapers)

These are significant incentives for parents who want to cloth diaper but who need help with the start up costs.

Ask for your subsidy

October 25th is municipal election day in Ontario. Take a few minutes to write to or call your local candidates to tell them that you want your municipality to recognize your efforts to keep disposable diapers out of your waste stream. Join my Facebook group to call for cloth diaper subsidies in Ontario, get your friends and political candidates to join us too. Together we can reduce waste and make it easier for parents to start cloth diapering!

Posted by Louise at Thursday, September 16, 2010



0 comments:

The Extraordinary Baby Shoppe

TUESDAY, MARCH 29, 2011

Dear City of Ottawa,

I would like a little clarification about the new **'diaper service'** that is going to be implemented with the city's plans to move to a bi-weekly garbage pick-up (which I applaud). As a person who has chosen to use cloth diapers with all four of our children, I certainly hope that I am not going to end up covering the cost of special treatment for those families who make the decision to use disposable diapers. If they are going to gripe and moan about the mess they create, they had better be ready to pay for it! Are they paying extra fees to have their waste picked up?

I have contacted the city on *numerous* occasions to suggest a cloth diaper subsidy for families who make use cloth diapers. This kind of subsidy is commonplace in the UK, and it has been instituted in many municipalities across Quebec (most recently in Montreal). The city of Ottawa pays approximately \$94/tonne to haul trash to the dump; When parents make the decision to cloth diaper a child, they are diverting approximately one ton of waste from our landfills. Furthermore, they can reuse the same set of cloth diapers with future children, diverting even more waste from our landfills. It stands to reason that if people are saving the city money with their responsible decision to use cloth diapers, the city should compensate them for their efforts.

If people use cloth diapers, they do not have to worry about the stink of having diapers sit in the trash for two weeks (and quite frankly, the contents of disposable diapers are supposed to be emptied into the toilet before they are tossed into the trash anyhow, I don't even see how 'stink' should be a concern if ppl are using disposable diapers in the correct manner). If you want to encourage positive change, why not consider implementing a cloth diaper subsidy that will help parents with the startup costs of cloth diapers? There are many (many!) businesses in Ottawa that sell cloth diapers, accessibility is not a concern, but ppl are often intimidated by the upfront costs, and fear of the unknown.

We are hosting an event on April 23rd that will see 35+ parents changing their babies cloth diapers at once, the **"Great Diaper Change"** is happening throughout the world at 12pm EST in an effort to establish a new Guinness World Record. I would love for any Ottawa city councillors who are concerned about disposable diapers and bi-weekly pickup to come out and join us, you can talk to families who use cloth diapers, and you can learn about what's involved in using cloth diapers (aside from the fact they are washable, they are just as easy to use as disposable diapers).

I certainly hope someone takes the time to get back to me about this. I have been rather disappointed in the limited responses I have ever received when I've tried to contact Ottawa councillors about this matter. Perhaps now that it's election time again, you'll have my attention. I know

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The Extraordinary Baby Shoppe: Dear City of Ottawa,

I won't be the only parent annoyed that I have to pay for other parents who don't consider the environmental effect of single-use diapers.

best regards,

Susie Pearson

Posted by [The Extraordinary Baby Shoppe](#) at **Tuesday, March 29, 2011** 

Recommend this on Google

Labels: [cloth diapers](#)

Reactions: [funny](#) (0) [interesting](#) (1) [cool](#) (0)

23 comments:

Amanda Lutwick Mar 29, 2011 05:34 PM

I love it!!

[Reply](#)



Angie Mar 29, 2011 06:30 PM

You rock Susie!

[Reply](#)



PamJam Mar 29, 2011 06:37 PM

hear hear!

[Reply](#)

Jennifer Walker Mar 29, 2011 06:49 PM

Have you tried reaching out to David Chernushenko? I am a member of his ward (and a supporter of your shop!). First and foremost David is a sustainability advocate who has produced 2 films about living lightly. Check out his website: <http://davidc.ca/Home.html>

Here is how to contact him at City Hall. <http://www.capitalward.ca/1/Contact.html>

Good luck!

[Reply](#)

Anonymous Mar 30, 2011 07:24 AM

I support cloth diapering, baby wearing, breastfeeding etc, but your posts (not just this one) leave me with a negative feeling about all of these things. I'm not sure why you feel the need to be so self righteous about all of your parenting decisions. Calling people lazy or stupid for not cloth diapering probably isn't going to sway anyone to take it up. Likewise, criticizing successful women for using nannies, pointing out the 'cruelty' of strollers and overstating the case for breastfeeding don't do a lot to promote anything, they just make people who are already doing these things feel self congratulatory and isolate people who for many reasons do not share your choices

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April 5, 2012

To: Members,
Environment Advisory Committee

Re: Pesticide Reduction

The Environment Advisory Committee, at its September 1, 2011 meeting, considered a report from the Community & Protective Services Committee with respect to the status of pesticide-free park spaces and after hearing delegations from the Canadian Cancer Society and the Saskatchewan Environmental Society, adopted a resolution to form a working group to study the issue of “pesticide free”.

A working group was formed and a report submitted to the November 3 meeting after which a subsequent report was requested for the February meeting. The working group presented possible recommendations at the March 1 meeting. At that time the committee adopted the following resolution:

“That the working group provide a further report to the April 5 meeting that includes information to support the proposed recommendations, as well as possible timelines for implementation.”

Attached is further information provided by the working group.

Respectfully submitted,



Elaine Gohlke, Secretary
Environment Advisory Committee

ENVIRONMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE WORK GROUP REPORT

Cosmetic Pesticide Ban

Background

The City of Regina's Environment Advisory Committee (the "**Committee**"), at its September 1, 2011 meeting, was addressed by the Canadian Cancer Society. The presentation focused on the need for the City of Regina to adopt a ban on the cosmetic or non-essential use of pesticides citing health implications.

It is important to note that two months prior, in June 2011, the City of Regina's Community and Protective Services Committee recommended extending the pesticide-free designation of Gordon and Al Pickard Parks and Queen Elizabeth II Court (City Hall grounds). These parks were designated to be pesticide-free beginning in May 2010 on a one-year pilot project.

Michael Berry, Norm Henderson, Bruce Kellett and Sharon Rodenbush, each members of the Committee, volunteered to form a working group to further consider the Canadian Cancer Society's address.

Reasons for recommending a cosmetic or non-essential pesticide use ban

- There is considerable research that connects chemical exposure from pesticides with:
 - The increased likelihood of number of different types of cancers, including: non-Hodgkin lymphoma, multiple myeloma, prostate, kidney and lung.
 - Disruptions or delays in proper development of neurological, reproductive, immune and endocrine systems.
- Research shows that children are more vulnerable.
- Pesticides are not being properly monitored to ensure they are being applied according to label directions and as stipulated by Health Canada to ensure maximum health and safety.
- The City of Regina does not ensure the proper disposal of pesticides used by the public.
- There are no guarantees that pesticides can be contained and held free from harm. Pesticides can:
 - absorb into the soil;
 - leach into water systems; and,
 - drift through the air.
- We are unsure of the total effects of pesticides on our environment and wildlife.

Jurisdictional Analysis

- In April 2003, Quebec implemented the Quebec Pesticides Management Code. The regulation targets 20 active ingredients that are classified as carcinogens (including probable and possible carcinogens) by at least one of the following specified reference agencies: the International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC), the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, the U.S. National Toxicology Program, the California Environmental Protection Agency and the European Union. These 20 active ingredients are found in approximately 200 lawn pesticides, which are now banned.
- In 2008, Ontario passed amendments to The Pesticide Act which came into effect in 2009. The amendments banned the use of pesticides for cosmetic purposes on lawns, vegetable and ornamental gardens, patios, driveways, cemeteries, and in parks and school yards. There

are **no** exceptions for pest infestations (insects, fungi or weeds) in these areas, as lower risk pesticides, biocides and alternatives to pesticides exist. More than 250 pesticide products are banned for sale and over 95 pesticide ingredients are banned for cosmetic uses.

- As of December 2009, New Brunswick banned the sale and use of more than 240 over-the-counter lawn care pesticide products.
- As of April 2010, Prince Edward Island also banned the sale and use of more than 240 over-the-counter lawn care pesticide products.
- As of January 2010, products containing a combination of fertilizer and herbicide (commonly known as weed and feed) will no longer be available for sale or use in Alberta.
- In May 2010, Nova Scotia passed the *Non-essential Pesticide Control Act*. The Act, which prohibits the sale and use of non-essential lawn care pesticides, came into effect in the spring of 2011 and will extend to outdoor trees, shrubs, flowers, and other ornamental plants in the Spring of 2012.
- British Columbia has not adopted a province-wide ban, but a number of cities have adopted their own bylaws addressing the use of pesticides.
- Recent newspaper articles also suggest that Manitoba is considering a non-essential pesticide use ban.

Recommendation

The EAC recommends that (1) the City of Regina adopt a bylaw eliminating the cosmetic or non-essential use of pesticides; (2), this bylaw be developed in accordance with best practices of jurisdictions elsewhere in Canada that address this issue; and (3), City Council strive to adopt such a bylaw within three years preceded by a two year education campaign.

June 7, 2012

To: Members,
Environment Advisory Committee

Re: Pesticide Reduction – Draft Revised Recommendations

Over the past year, the Environment Advisory Committee has been considering the issue of pesticide reduction and in September 2011 a working group was formed to study the subject of “pesticide free”.

The working group reviewed the practices of other jurisdictions and prepared a report with their recommendations for submission to the Committee’s April meeting. At the April meeting, the Committee received presentations from several delegations in response to the working group’s report. At that time the Committee adopted a resolution to table the matter to the May 3 meeting to allow time for members to review a policy paper titled “Protecting Public Health & the Environment: The need for a pesticide reduction bylaw in urban areas”. This paper was being prepared by the Saskatchewan Environmental Society for release on April 30.

At the May meeting the Committee received presentations from additional delegations and as the policy paper was not available for review prior to the May meeting, but was expected to be available prior to the June meeting, the Committee adopted a resolution to further table the matter to the June 7 meeting. This would allow time to review the policy paper and to consider the submissions made by delegations at the April and May meetings.

After careful consideration of previous research, submissions by delegations, and the above-mentioned policy paper, the working group has prepared a further report with revised recommendations for consideration by the Committee. The working group’s report is attached and should be considered in conjunction with report EAC12-9 which was tabled on May 3.

Respectfully submitted,



Elaine Gohlke, Secretary
Environment Advisory Committee

DRAFT PROPOSED RECOMMENDATIONS RE. PESTICIDE USE IN REGINA

Recommendations:

- (1) The City of Regina adopt a policy of avoiding cosmetic or non-essential pesticide use in the management of lands owned or administered by the City.
- (2) The City encourage Wascana Centre Authority to also avoid cosmetic or non-essential pesticide use in the management of lands under the jurisdiction of Wascana Centre Authority.
- (3) The City encourage residents to minimise cosmetic or non-essential pesticide use on their own lands.
- (4) The City review the effectiveness of its pesticide policies after two years and continue or modify them as appropriate at that time.

Background and Discussion:

Concerns around pesticide use in urban areas centre around issues of possible risk to human health, and possible environmental contamination of soil, water and air, and to possible damage to biota beyond the pesticide-targeted species. An increasing number of jurisdictions within Canada have curtailed the use of various pesticides for non-essential purposes in recent years. These actions have sometimes taken place at the provincial level (as in Ontario, Quebec and the Atlantic provinces) or at the municipal level. At present the City of Regina manages three parks on a pesticide-free basis, but has no bylaw in place with regard to pesticide use.

The City of Regina Environmental Advisory Committee considered whether the City should adopt a bylaw eliminating the cosmetic or non-essential use of pesticides in the City. The draft recommendation for a bylaw to that end attracted numerous spirited presentations and submissions.

Those in favour of the draft recommendation were concerned about possible health impacts of pesticide use in urban areas, and with possible negative impacts to the environment of pesticide use. They maintained that the synergistic effects of multiple different pesticides are generally not tested for, that the evidence of the negative consequences of non-essential pesticide use is increasing, that children were at higher risk, and that more and more jurisdictions were moving to restrict non-essential pesticide use.

Those against the draft recommendation stated that there is a functioning national framework in place for the approval of pesticides for use in Canada (Health Canada's Pest Management Regulatory Agency) and that pesticides approved through that framework are safe for use (when used as directed). Those against the draft recommendation were also concerned with possible negative impacts on local landscape care businesses. Other concerns were that management of some areas without non-essential pesticides could be too costly or impractical; that the bylaw could be too difficult to enforce; that it would be an infringement on personal choice; and that the issue is better regulated at a federal or provincial level, i.e. not via a bylaw.

In light of the information, the presentations, and strong public and stakeholder feeling, the Committee does not feel it appropriate to recommend that the City adopt a bylaw restricting the cosmetic or non-essential use of pesticides. Businesses and citizens should be free to continue to use federally-approved pesticides.

However, the Committee does believe that reduction of pesticide use within the City, so far as practicable, is an important objective, and that the City itself should model best possible practice, and that it can do more than it now does to this end. Therefore the Committee recommends that in its own management of City properties, the City should adopt a policy of avoiding cosmetic or non-essential pesticide use. As working guidance on what is or is not cosmetic pesticide use, the City could follow a framework such as the Government of Ontario's Pesticide Classification Guidelines, or some other appropriate model.

Adopting the Committee's recommendations would not require a bylaw, and would not infringe on private landholders' or businesses' use of pesticides. The Committee recommends that after a two-year period the City examine the success of the policy, and continue it or modify it as appropriate at that time.