



SCHOOL DISTRICT 5

S O U T H E A S T K O O T E N A Y

May 16, 2024

Honourable David Eby
Premier
PO Box 9041 Stn Prov Govt
Victoria, BC VSW 9E1
Email: Premier@gov.bc.ca

Honourable Bruce Ralston Minister of Forests
Room 138 Parliament Buildings
Victoria BC V8V 1X4
Email: FOR.Minister@gov.bc.ca

Dear Premier Eby and Minister Ralston,

**RE: Spongy Moth Aerial Treatment Program
School District No. 5 (Southeast Kootenay) Request**

On behalf of School District No. 5 (Southeast Kootenay), I write to convey concerns of the Board of Education and Cranbrook residents with respect to the proposed aerial spraying of the pesticide Foray 48B over approximately 299 hectares of land in the City of Cranbrook, pursuant to Pesticide Use Permit No. 738-0037-24-24.

It is our understanding that final authorization of the proposed spraying requires your approval in the form of an Order-in-Council.

We therefore write to urge you to withhold this approval, to allow time for adequate public consultation, in order to obtain the informed consent of Cranbrook residents for any aerial spraying of our community.

It is our understanding that spraying of Foray 48B by the Ministry of Forests in 2023 resulted in an asthma attack and other respiratory symptoms, rashes and other adverse effects among members of the public. We also understand that pets have been impacted. We further understand that the Ministry of Forests has admitted that Foray 48B will kill all butterflies and other Lepidoptera species within the spray zones for a period of approximately three years.

We note that the rare Grey Copper Butterfly (also known as the Dione Copper Butterfly, *Lycaena dione*) populates habitat within approximately one kilometre of the spray zone.

Doug McPhee (Chair) • Trina Ayling • Bev Bellina • Irene Bischler
• Alysha Clarke • Nicole Heckendorf • Chris Johns • Sarah Madsen • Wendy Turner

Based on this information, we respectfully request that the Cabinet withhold authorization for the proposed 2024 spray program by refusing to approve an Order in Council, to allow time for adequate public consultation, in order to obtain the informed consent of Cranbrook residents for any aerial spraying of our community.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Doug McPhee', with a large, stylized flourish above the name.

Doug McPhee, Chairperson
Board of Education
School District No. 5 (Southeast Kootenay)

Doug McPhee (Chair) • Trina Ayling • Bev Bellina • Irene Bischler
• Alysha Clarke • Nicole Heckendorf • Chris Johns • Sarah Madsen • Wendy Turner