

Agenda Item # 14.2

Notice of Motion: Deputy Mayor Hutchings: Support Moonbeams Call to End Aerial Herbicide Spraying

Moved By: Deputy Mayor Hutchings

Seconded By: _____

Be it resolved, that the Council of the Township of Rideau Lakes supports the Township of Moonbeam's Resolution calling on the Provincial and Federal Governments to take immediate action to end the aerial spraying of glyphosate.



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ITEM REQUEST FORM

This Item Request Form and any written submission or background information for consideration by the Clerk and the Mayor must be submitted to the Clerk by:

9 a.m. - Ten (10) calendar days prior to the requested meeting date

Requester: Luc Leonard, Mayor		
Date: July 21, 2025		
Head of Department	Councillor X	Citizen
Email Address:		
Item to be discussed: /That Council adopt a resolution for provincial action to eliminate aerial spraying of glyphosate.		
Description of Item: Following an announcement on July 17, 2025 of the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources in regards to the aerial spraying of the Gordon Cosens Forest which affects the Municipality of Moonbeam, attached is a resolution to urge the provincial government to take action to end the aerial spraying of glyphosate due to the negative impact on the environment; wildlife; use of land; drinking water; and human health.		

The Corporation of the Township of Moonbeam

WHEREAS, the use of aerial spraying of glyphosate for forestry poses significant biodiversity loss; harmful health affects on wildlife; loss of use of land for recreational, tourism, and hunting/ gathering purposes; water contamination; and concerns about the affects on human health.

- Loss of biodiversity as glyphosate kills broadleaf plants, and reduces habitat diversity. This can also lead to soil erosion due to loss of vegetation and loss of habitat and nutrient sources for wildlife, insects, and aquatic life. Glyphosate promotes monoculture, which reduces forest resilience, and also kills non-targeted species.
- Species such as moose, birds, snowshoe hares, and insects lose their food and shelter due to glyphosate spraying, and the ability to move away from spraying safely has not been adequately studied.
- Sprayed areas can look dead or scorched. The land use for recreation, tourism, and hunting/ gathering can be lost. Future growth of vegetation can be impeded, with an uncertain future for land use. Berries such as blueberries and raspberries are killed after being sprayed;
- Contamination of waterways including rivers, lakes and wetlands by winds carrying glyphosate and potential spills harming aquatic life and ecosystems;
- Contamination of drinking water sources with glyphosate, posing potential human health risks;

- Aerial glyphosate spraying can drift into nearby communities, roads, and waterways. Chronic exposure to glyphosate has suspected negative impact contributing to human health, including endocrine disruption and concerns that it is carcinogenic.

- The need for more comprehensive, long-term solutions that cannot be achieved through isolated municipal efforts;

AND WHEREAS, municipalities have a limited ability to address the issue of the aerial spraying of glyphosate, particularly on crown land, and require provincial leadership and regulation;

AND WHEREAS, the Province of Ontario has a responsibility to protect the environment and public health, and must take action to reduce the harm caused by aerial spraying of glyphosate;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

1. The Municipality of Moonbeam urges the Federal and Provincial Governments to take immediate action to end the aerial spraying of glyphosate.
2. The Municipality of Moonbeam calls for the province to form and fund an expert stakeholder advisory committee to advise on the best courses of action to protect the land, vegetation, wildlife, waterways, air and humans from the harmful effects of aerial spraying of glyphosate.
3. The Municipality of Moonbeam commits to working with the Province of Ontario and other municipalities to advocate for stronger provincial leadership on aerial spraying of glyphosate.
4. The Municipality of Moonbeam directs its staff to actively participate in any provincial initiatives or task forces related to the aerial spraying of glyphosate.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT:

A copy of this resolution be forwarded to the following: the Honourable Minister of Environment, Conservation and Parks, the Association of Municipalities of Ontario, and other relevant provincial and regional agencies.

July 21, 2025

Luc Leonard, Mayor

Brigitte Gravel, Clerk