



TO: MUNICIPAL MANAGER 1990 NOVEMBER 08

FROM: ACTING CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

SUBJECT: B.C.I.T. EXPERT SYSTEM - "GREEN" ALTERNATIVES TO THE USE OF PESTICIDES IN RESIDENTIAL VEGETABLE GARDENS

PURPOSE: TO PROVIDE COUNCIL WITH INFORMATION ON STATUS OF THE B.C.I.T. EXPERT SYSTEMS PROJECT DEALING WITH "GREEN" ALTERNATIVES TO THE USE OF PESTICIDES IN RESIDENTIAL VEGETABLE GARDENS

RECOMMENDATION:

1. THAT this report be received for information purposes.

REPORT

1.0 BACKGROUND:

At the regular Council Meeting on 1990 July 09, Council heard a delegation from B.C.I.T. and Pacific Artificial Intelligence. The delegation requested a \$10,000 contribution and some Municipal staff resources to support an Artificial Intelligence Computer Project which would provide environmentally friendly alternatives for common household pesticides. Council subsequently directed staff to report on the matter.

During the regular Council Meeting on 1990 July 24, the Municipal Manager submitted a report to the Council seeking approval for participation in the Expert Systems Project with B.C.I.T. Council received this report and approved the recommendations contained in the report.

The purpose of this report is to provide Council with information on the status of the B.C.I.T. Expert Systems Project which deals with "green" alternatives to the use of pesticides in residential vegetable gardens.

2.0 B.C.I.T. EXPERT SYSTEMS PROJECT:

As a part of Burnaby's commitment to dealing with environmental issues in an affirmative manner and with its financial support, B.C.I.T. and Pacific Artificial Intelligence have developed a demonstration system which provides "green" alternatives to the use of pesticides in residential vegetable gardens.

A pilot version of this computer-based Expert System, which was completed on schedule, was demonstrated and received favourably at the "Practical Applications of Artificial Intelligence" Conference held at B.C.I.T. on 1990 November 06 and 07.

The module on "green" alternatives to the use of pesticides in residential vegetable gardens is expected to be ready in the new year. Furthermore, there is a potential for the Corporation to offer this new approach as a resource in libraries, shopping malls, etc.

B.C.I.T. EXPERT SYSTEM - "GREEN"
ALTERNATIVES TO THE USE OF PESTICIDES
IN RESIDENTIAL VEGETABLE GARDENS
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3.0 CONCLUSION:

A pilot version of the computer-based Expert System on "green" alternatives to the use of pesticides in residential vegetable gardens was completed on schedule. A demonstration of the module at the Practical Applications of Artificial Intelligence Conference held at B.C.I.T. on 1990 November 06 and 07 was received well. Furthermore, there is a potential for the Corporation to offer this module as a resource in libraries.

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cc: Medical Health Officer
Director Administrative &
Community Services
Director Information Services
Director Engineering