

From: Legislative Services email
Subject: FW: Rodenticide Ban- JULY 29 CTF

From: Mary Polak <ENV.Minister@gov.bc.ca>
Date: Wednesday, July 21, 2021 at 1:15 PM
To: "Lisa Helps (Mayor)" <LHelps@victoria.ca>
Subject: Rodenticide Ban

Reference: 372621

July 21, 2021

Her Worship Mayor Lisa Helps
and Councillors
City of Victoria
Email: mayor@victoria.ca

Dear Mayor Helps and Council:

I am writing to provide an update on the use of anticoagulant rodenticides in B.C. Since my last correspondence to you on this topic, Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy staff have worked with me to develop a plan to improve how rodenticides are regulated in B.C.

As you may know, rodenticides are evaluated and registered for use by Health Canada. In B.C., they are further regulated under the *Integrated Pest Management Act* (IPMA) and Regulation (IPMR), administered by the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy. I acknowledge that several municipalities have requested a ban on anticoagulant rodenticides in B.C., and I am pleased to announce I have signed a Minister's Order, created under Section 8 of the IPMA, which bans the use of certain rodenticides to prevent wildlife poisonings.

The Minister's Order, effective July 21, 2021, bans the sale and use in B.C. of second-generation anticoagulant rodenticides (SGARs) that contain brodifacoum, bromadiolone or difethialone as the active ingredient. The Minister's Order will be in place for 18 months while ministry staff undertake a science review to better understand the risks of SGARs to wildlife and determine mitigation methods. Recommendations to amend the IPMR may be made based on the outcome of the science review. Exemptions to the ban are being provided for essential services and agricultural operators. This initiative forms part of the work undertaken by my ministry to mitigate unintended wildlife poisonings from rodenticide use in B.C.

In addition to imposing a temporary ban on the use of SGARs, ministry staff are taking action to address risks associated with the use of rodenticides, including:

- Conducting compliance inspections of vendors and users to ensure the products are only being used by certified operators for essential services and that an integrated pest management approach is being utilized prior to pesticide use;

- Raising awareness with rodenticide users on the impacts of misusing rodenticides with an emphasis that prevention is the only long-term strategy;
- Coordinating with Indigenous Peoples, local government, and provincial and national wildlife experts;
- Developing education materials for the public and agricultural operators to better manage rodents as part of an integrated pest management program;
- Updating materials used by individuals intending to become certified to apply or sell rodenticides; and
- Making recommendations for a long-term solution, including potential regulatory amendments.

Details of the ban, including a recorded presentation, are available at www.gov.bc.ca/RodentIPM. We will also be offering a series of live informative webinars on the Minister's Order. Please visit www.gov.bc.ca/RodentIPM for registration instructions.

If you have any questions about the Minister's Order temporarily banning the sale and use of SGARs, please direct them to BC.IPM@gov.bc.ca.

Thank you again for taking the time to express your concern regarding rodenticide use and participating in our efforts to protect wildlife.

Sincerely,

George Heyman
Minister