



The Corporation of the District of Saanich | Mayor's Office

770 Vernon Avenue Victoria BC V8X 2W7 | T 250-475-5510 | F 250-475-5440 | www.saanich.ca

July 22, 2020

VIA EMAIL: premier@gov.bc.ca

The Honourable John Horgan
Office of the Premier
PO Box 9041 Stn Prov Govt
Victoria, BC V8W 9E1

Dear Premier:

Re: Ban of Anticoagulant Rodenticides

Saanich Council formally requests the Province to ban the use of anticoagulant rodenticides throughout British Columbia. It has been well-documented for over a decade that anticoagulant rodenticide (rat poison) products poison non-target wildlife in large numbers. Examples include owls, hawks, small birds, earthworms, coyotes and even cougars. They also pose a risk for pets and children to be poisoned.

Saanich Council at their meeting of July 13, 2020 resolved as follows:

“That Council:

- 1. Provide direction to staff to implement a ban of anticoagulant rodenticides on all District of Saanich properties and in all District of Saanich facilities and lands;***
- 2. Request that the Mayor write, on behalf of Council, to the Premier of British Columbia, appropriate Ministers, copying Members of the Legislative Assembly in the Capital Region, requesting that the Province of British Columbia ban anticoagulant rodenticides;***
- 3. Direct staff to communicate to residents and businesses in the District of Saanich, Council's direction on this matter, the harmful impacts of anticoagulant rodenticides, and better alternatives that are available; and***
- 4. Share this report with all other local governments.”***

A copy of the July 13, 2020 Saanich Council minutes and Report to Council dated July 3, 2020 are attached for additional information.

If there are any comments or questions I can be reached by phone: (250) 475-5510 or by email: mayor@saanich.ca.

Sincerely,



Fred Haynes
Mayor

Enc.

c. Saanich Council
CRD Region MLAs



Reference: 359654

August 10, 2020

His Worship Mayor Fred Haynes
and Councillors
District of Saanich
770 Vernon Avenue
Victoria BC V8X 2W7

Sent via email: mayor@saanich.ca

Dear Mayor Haynes and Council:

Thank you for your letter of July 22, 2020, which was also addressed to my colleague, the Honourable Doug Donaldson, Minister of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development, regarding a ban on rodenticides. As the topic you raised falls under my ministry, I am pleased to respond on behalf of my colleague.

Rat infestations can pose a risk to human health and the environment, and rodenticides are one tool that may be considered as part of an integrated pest management (IPM) process to manage rodent pests. Anticoagulant rodenticides, typically applied as bait in enclosed tamper-resistant stations, function by inhibiting blood clotting once ingested by rodents. If other animals then consume the poisoned rats, there is a risk of secondary poisoning.

Pesticides, including rodenticides, can only be used in Canada if they have been evaluated and registered by Health Canada's Pest Management Regulatory Agency (PMRA). PMRA's scientists conduct stringent risk assessments to prevent unacceptable risk to human health or the environment from pesticides. Registered pesticides are then re-evaluated every 15 years to factor in any new information and adhere to modern safety standards.

After PMRA's last re-evaluation of several anticoagulant rodenticides, Health Canada imposed new label restrictions and risk mitigation measures to, in part, reduce risk to non-target wildlife species. Commercial anticoagulant rodenticides may now only be used by farmers, certified pesticide applicators, or persons authorized in government-approved pest control programs.

...2

Under the B.C. *Integrated Pest Management Act*, the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy sets standards over and above federal label requirements for human health and environmental protection from pesticides. The use of most rodenticides on public land requires a licence and a certified applicator, and IPM principles must be used to guide pest management decisions, consider pesticide alternatives and prevent any non-essential pesticide use. My ministry also provides outreach material for rodent IPM on [its website](#). Steps are described for prevention, rodent-proofing structures, and the use of physical control methods such as traps, with the use of anticoagulant rodenticides considered only as a last resort.

Staff in my ministry are closely monitoring the impacts of rodenticide use and are engaging with Health Canada on the matter. Staff recently increased compliance activities and provided additional guidance to vendors and to structural pest control operators. If further action is needed, additional training or guidance material may be developed, more targeted compliance and enforcement may be conducted, or regulatory changes may be considered to further minimize risk; however, a provincial ban is not being considered at this time, despite our ongoing review.

Thank you again for taking the time to write.

Sincerely,



George Heyman
Minister

cc: Honourable Doug Donaldson, Minister of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource
Operations and Rural Development
Rachel Mattiuz, Administrative Assistant to the Mayor, District of Saanich



Reference: 257494

July 29, 2020

VIA EMAIL: Rachel.Mattiuz@saanich.ca

His Worship Mayor Fred Haynes
District of Saanich
770 Vernon Avenue
Victoria, British Columbia
V8X 2W7

Dear Mayor Haynes:

Thank you for your letter of July 22, 2020, regarding the Ban of Anticoagulant Rodenticides.

While I appreciate that you took the time to share your thoughts with this ministry, this topic falls under the purview of the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy. I have shared a copy of your enquiry with Honourable Minister Heyman for his review and consideration.

Thank you again for writing.

Sincerely,

Doug Donaldson
Minister

pc: Honourable George Heyman, Minister of Environment and Climate Change Strategy

Rachel Mattiuz

From: OfficeofthePremier, Office PREM:EX <Premier@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: Wednesday, August 12, 2020 10:40 AM
To: Rachel Mattiuz
Cc: Minister, AGRI AGRI:EX
Subject: (External Email) FW: 2020.07.22 - Correspondence from Mayor Haynes

This email sent from outside the District of Saanich. Use caution if message is unexpected or sender is not known to you.

Dear Mayor Haynes:

Thank you for your email regarding your request for a ban on anticoagulant rodenticides. We appreciate your taking the time to write on this important issue and apologize for the delay in response.

On your behalf we have also provided a copy of your message to the Honourable Lana Popham, Minister of Agriculture, for her review and consideration. Please be assured that your suggestions will be included in any of the Minister's related discussions going forward.

Thank you, again, for taking the time to share your thoughts and recommendations with us. We wish you all the best.

From: Rachel Mattiuz <Rachel.Mattiuz@saanich.ca>
Sent: July 22, 2020 1:38 PM
To: OfficeofthePremier, Office PREM:EX <Premier@gov.bc.ca>
Cc: Colin Plant <Colin.Plant@saanich.ca>; Judy Brownoff <Judy.Brownoff@saanich.ca>; Karen Harper <Karen.Harper@saanich.ca>; Mayor <Mayor@saanich.ca>; Nathalie Chambers <Nathalie.Chambers@saanich.ca>; Ned Taylor <Ned.Taylor@saanich.ca>; Rebecca Mersereau <Rebecca.Mersereau@saanich.ca>; Susan Brice <Susan.Brice@saanich.ca>; Zac De Vries <Zac.DeVries@saanich.ca>
Subject: 2020.07.22 - Correspondence from Mayor Haynes

Good afternoon,

Please find attached correspondence from Mayor Haynes on behalf of Saanich Council.

Could your office kindly confirm receipt of this email.

Thank you,

Rachel Mattiuz
Administrative Assistant to the Mayor
Administration Department
District of Saanich
770 Vernon Ave.
Victoria BC V8X 2W7

t. [250-475-5510](tel:250-475-5510)
f. [250-475-5440](tel:250-475-5440)
rachel.mattiuz@saanich.ca
www.saanich.ca

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