



File No. 0400-20

January 26, 2021

Honourable George Heyman,  
Minister of Environment and Climate Change Strategy  
[ENV.Minister@gov.bc.ca](mailto:ENV.Minister@gov.bc.ca)

**Re: Province-wide Ban on Anticoagulant Rodenticides**

The District of Sooke Council voted unanimously last night to support of the City of North Vancouver's Jan. 11, 2021 resolution calling on the Province to "consider a BC-wide ban" on anticoagulant rodenticides while also finding "new ways to address the rodent population that does not threaten the wellbeing of other animals dwelling within urban areas."

Over the last six months, the District has heard from many citizens who are deeply concerned about the impacts this class of rodenticides has on owls, other birds of prey, dogs, cats and even, in some fortunately rare but still alarming situations, children. We are aware of the BC SPCA's campaign to promote safer alternatives and have been in touch with Dr. Sara Dubois, its Chief Scientific Officer. The "Wildlife and Control Standards" published by the SPCA's AnimalKind service points the way forward to best practices as does North Vancouver's Corporate Policy Manual on pest management.

On Sept. 14, 2020, Sooke council voted to join a dozen other BC municipalities following the lead of the District of Metchosin, the City of Nelson and the District of Highlands in formally banning anticoagulant rodenticides in municipal operations. The good news we learned is that DOS staff were already using traps and less toxic alternatives on municipal properties, however that night we made this practice a formal policy.

We also requested that the DOS-funded Wild Wise Sooke Society initiate public education to inform Sooke region residents about the harmful impacts of rodenticides and promote safer alternatives.

The following day prior to the Union of BC Municipalities convention, I led a Sooke delegation that shared concerns about rodenticides and the related matter of cosmetic pesticides with Christa Zacharias-Homer, Director, Environmental Standards for Clean Air, Integrated Standards and Industry, and Kris Ord, Executive Director Environmental Standards branch.

We were encouraged to learn that both these important subjects remain on the Ministry's radar and that tighter provincial restrictions, in combination with Health Canada regulations, may be considered in ensuring the personal and environmental health of this and future generations. We join Mayor Buchanan and other BC municipalities in urging immediate action.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Maja Tait".

Maja Tait, Mayor