



200 – 1627 Fort Street, Victoria BC V8R 1H8
Telephone **(250) 405-5151** Fax (250) 405-5155
Toll Free via Enquiry BC in Vancouver 660-2421. Elsewhere in BC **1.800.663.7867**
Email information@islandstrust.bc.ca
Web www.islandstrust.bc.ca

April 12, 2021

File No: 0110-20

Via Email: ENV.Minister@gov.bc.ca

The Honourable George Heyman
Minister of Environment and Climate Change Strategy
Room 112 Parliament Buildings
Victoria, BC V8V 1X4

Dear Minister Heyman:

Re: Rodenticide Free British Columbia

I am writing on behalf of the Islands Trust Council to request that the Province of British Columbia introduce a Province-wide ban on the use of rodenticides to increase protection for wildlife species.

At the Islands Trust Council meeting on March 11, 2021, during a presentation by Rodenticide Free BC, we learned that over the last decade numerous wildlife organizations and animal welfare groups have noted that anticoagulant rodenticides used to kill rats, mice, and other target rodents poison non-targeted species at all levels of the food chain. We are concerned that while the B.C. government acknowledges that these rodenticides are highly toxic and present a moderate to high risk of secondary poisoning to other animals and birds of prey, the B.C. *Integrated Pest Management Act*, SBC 2003, c. 58 (“*IPMA*”) permits their continued use.

Species that have been significantly impacted by these rodenticides include eagles, owls, hawks, small birds, earthworms, coyotes, cougars, as well as children and family pets. We learned that researchers in the U.S. have recently measured traceable levels of ingestible rodenticides in the milk supply. In the pest management industry, rodenticides are recognized as only a short-term solution. Other preventative measures, including remediating structural access points, are known to be far more effective in reducing pest issues over the long term.

We understand the use of a popular rodenticide, bromadiolone, has increased 279% over a recent 12-year period. Not unexpectedly, countless reports of dead or dying eagles, owls, hawks, and other raptors have been published in the media over the past several months. In response to growing public concern, numerous municipalities across British Columbia have banned anticoagulant rodenticides on city-owned properties and are calling for a province-wide ban of these rodenticides, as they lack the necessary jurisdiction. Over thirty animal, wildlife, and environmental protection organizations have publicly endorsed this ban.

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We would like to join this call for change by requesting a Province-wide ban on the use of anticoagulant rodenticides which are known to move through the food chain endangering wildlife.

Thank you for considering this request. Both the Islands Trust and the Islands Trust Conservancy remain committed to the fulfilment of the Islands Trust Object to preserve and protect the Trust Area and its unique amenities and environment for the benefit of residents of the Trust Area and of British Columbia more broadly. We do this in cooperation with First Nations, municipalities, regional districts, improvement districts, other persons and organizations, and the Government of British Columbia.

Yours sincerely,



Peter Luckham
Chair, Islands Trust Council
pluckham@islandstrust.bc.ca

cc: Islands Trust area MLAs
Bowen Island Municipal Council
Deanna Pfeifer, Rodenticide Free B.C.
Islands Trust Council
Islands Trust website

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