

Reference: 375549i

April 19, 2021

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

Dear Peter Luckham:

Thank you for your letter April 12, 2021, regarding the use of anticoagulant rodenticides and requesting a ban on their use in British Columbia. I share your concerns regarding the protection of wildlife in our province and I appreciate that you requested action on this important topic.

I am aware that anticoagulant rodenticides pose unintended risks to wildlife in B.C. through primary and secondary poisoning. I am also aware of reports in 2020 regarding owl deaths as a result of their use. My ministry maintains a commitment to protect wildlife from adverse impacts resulting from pesticide use. Ministry staff are taking action to address risks associated with the use of these products, including increasing compliance verification of current Integrated Pest Management Regulation requirements; raising awareness with rodenticide users on the impacts of misusing rodenticides; coordinating with provincial wildlife experts and Canadian Wildlife Service staff; and developing education materials for the public and pest control operators to better manage rodents within an integrated pest management system.

I have asked ministry staff to develop options for improvements to how rodenticides are regulated in B.C., including consideration of bans, and I will write back to you with details on our next steps once they have been determined.

Thank you again for taking the time to write and participating in our efforts to protect wildlife.

Sincerely,

George Heyman
Minister