



## CORPORATION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF ESQUIMALT

### LATE AGENDA ITEMS REGULAR COUNCIL

Monday, October 5<sup>th</sup>, 2020 @ 7:00 pm  
Esquimalt Council Chambers

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**(1) ADD to Item No. 6 (2): STAFF REPORTS:** Development Permit and Development Variance Permit (signage) 429 Lampson Street, Staff Report No. DEV-20-063

- Email from Russ, Bonny and Robert Eison, dated October 1, 2020, Re: 429 Lampson Street Vary Section 9.13.3 “Sign Area and Dimensions”
- Email from Olivier Neron-Bilodeau, dated October 2, 2020, Re: Variance Permit Application dated 21 Sep 2020 – 429 Lampson
- Email from Willow Easton, dated October 1, 2020, Re: Development Variance Permit: Sign at 429 Lampson
- Email from Rod and Heidi Woods, 426 Lampson Street, dated October 2, 2020, Re: Development Variance Permit Notice – 429 Lampson
- Email from Alison Eison, dated October 2, 2020, Re: Development Variance at 426 Lampson St

**(2) ADD to Item No. 8 (2): COMMUNICATIONS:** Email from Rachel Mattiuz, Administrative Assistant to the Mayor, District of Saanich, dated July 22, 2020, Re: Anticoagulant Rodenticides in the District of Saanich

- Email from Deanna Pfeifer, dated October 3, 2020, Re: Rodenticides Motion
- Email from Rob Vanzella, dated October 3, 2020, Re: Anticoagulant Rodenticides

**(3) ADD as Item No. 8 (3): COMMUNICATIONS:**

- Email from Cory Heavener, Provincial Director of Child Welfare, dated October 1, 2020, Re: Foster Family Month

**\*\*And the renumber the agenda accordingly.**

## Rachel Dumas

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**To:** alicia ferguson  
**Subject:** FW: E-mail from Cory Heavener, Provincial Director of Child Welfare

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**From:** Jessica Nichol  
**Sent:** October-05-20 1:43 PM  
**To:** Rachel Dumas  
**Subject:** FW: E-mail from Cory Heavener, Provincial Director of Child Welfare

This correspondence has been received by Corporate Services and logged in the daily mail log dated October 5, 2020 for your action, as required.

**Jessica Nichol**  
Archivist/Records Coordinator  
Tel: 250 414-7177

**For the latest on the Township's response to COVID-19, please visit**  
[esquimalt.ca/covid19](https://esquimalt.ca/covid19)

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**From:** General Feedback  
**Sent:** October-01-20 12:08 PM  
**To:** Corporate Services  
**Subject:** FW: E-mail from Cory Heavener, Provincial Director of Child Welfare

**General Feedback**  
General Delivery Email

**For the latest on the Township's response to COVID-19, please visit**  
[esquimalt.ca/covid19](https://esquimalt.ca/covid19)

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**From:** MCF Info MCF:EX [<mailto:MCF.Info@gov.bc.ca>]  
**Sent:** October-01-20 10:33 AM  
**To:** General Feedback  
**Subject:** E-mail from Cory Heavener, Provincial Director of Child Welfare

**VIA E-MAIL**  
Ref: 244644

Her Worship Mayor Barbara Desjardins and Council  
Township of Esquimalt  
E-mail: [info@esquimalt.ca](mailto:info@esquimalt.ca)

Dear Mayor Desjardins and Council:

What a year so far! With a global pandemic being the centre of attention for most of this year, I am happy to move the focus back to a familiar month of gratitude. I am pleased to announce that October will once again be declared Foster Family Month in British Columbia. It is my particular honour this year to celebrate the 30th year of Foster

Family Month proclamations. Some members of your community have been foster parents for those 30 years, and some are brand new. All are critically important to the health and safety of our province's most vulnerable children.

As the Provincial Director of Child Welfare, I am pleased to acknowledge, with deep gratitude, the many caregivers who have given their time and love to raising young people in British Columbia. This month, we recognize their dedication to improving the lives of those children who need them, and who may continue to need them as they grow.

This year has been challenging, both globally and provincially. I know that the pandemic has been difficult for most British Columbians, and most certainly for these caregivers, who have taken on the additional challenge of conducting visits with social workers and families virtually. Last year, Government announced an increase to the Family Care Rate in February, and although this will have helped to lessen the stress of this year for caregivers, we know there is more work to do. The pandemic has shown us that we need to continue being creative in finding solutions to support caregivers, children, and families.

Please join me in celebrating October as Foster Family Month to show those in your community how important the role of a caregiver is. Please make time to honour the incredible individuals and households who are dedicated around the clock to ensure children and youth in care are safe and cared for. Although the global pandemic has halted in-person festivities, I invite you to find new ways to champion and promote the hard work of these caregivers in your community.

On behalf of the Government of British Columbia, thank you for your continued support in recognizing the extended family and foster caregivers in your community.

Sincerely,

Cory Heavener  
Provincial Director of Child Welfare

*Sent on behalf of the Provincial Director by:*



**This communication and any accompanying document is confidential and is intended solely for the addressed recipient(s). If you received this e-mail message in error, please delete the e-mail and any attachments and contact the Client Relations Branch, Ministry of Children and Family Development at: [MCF.Info@gov.bc.ca](mailto:MCF.Info@gov.bc.ca).**

## Deborah Liske

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**Subject:** FW: 429 Lampson Street Vary Section 9.13.3 "Sign Area and Dimensions"

**From:** Russ Eison [mailto: ]

**Sent:** October-01-20 7:14 AM

**To:** Corporate Services

**Subject:** 429 Lampson Street Vary Section 9.13.3 "Sign Area and Dimensions"

May I please request confirmation this letter has been forwarded to Mayor and all council members

Please forward to Mayor and council.

Thank you for allowing us to voice our opinion and ask questions with regards to the variance request.

Our family owns/resides at 424 Lampson. Our property is directly across the street from the proposed sign location. Let me say one more time **DIRECTLY ACROSS FROM THE PROPOSED SIGN LOCATION.**

I have been in contact with the previous owner of 424 Lampson and understand the last sign, apparently installed without a permit, reflected the setting sun directly into the dining room and living room of our home.

Before we say "No way we want this sign" may I ask if any consideration has been to telling Aragon Properties to stay within the guidelines set out for real estate signs but maybe allow a couple of signs on an angle so oncoming traffic can see it. This would go for walk by traffic as well. If they think walk by needs a massive billboard then I would ask they come and spend an afternoon in my yard and watch the dog walkers who often stop at our yard, as it appears to be a favorite spot for their dogs to roll around on our grass. Yes this would be directly across from the angled signs I feel would be more appropriate for a residential area.

If I may here are some reasons why we would not be in favor of the billboard style sign

1. During these trying time of a Pandemic our special needs son is trapped in our home and being able to sit on our front porch chatting with our neighbors as they walk by sadly is the only social interaction he gets. Having a massive sign reflecting back at him will take away from the enjoyment of sitting outside his own home
2. The majority of the traffic on Lampson appears to be residents of the neighborhood or fishermen racing by at 5:30 in the morning. Not sure who Aragon thinks is going to see this billboard that doesn't already know what's happening on the property.
3. If people have seen it on the internet and are driving by to take a look it would be more beneficial to list "look for the long ugly blue fence and C-cans" as opposed to we will have a massive billboard out front.
4. What happens if the sign is not what they propose and is a bigger eyesore than the fence and c-cans. How long to get that rectified.
5. Our opinion and thoughts may be different had the owners of 429 Lampson taken some time to think about their neighbors and install a fence a little more attractive than the not so attractive blue wire temporary fence they set up.
6. If the fence isn't bad enough there are the two C-cans that just sit there. My office window is directly across from them and not once in the past 5 months have I ever seen anyone even open them. If they are so critical to the development maybe they should be back further on the property so not only are they not an eyesore but they would actually be in a position to actually be accessible and maybe even used as intended.
7. Please don't think we are just members of the NIMBY club. You will see we have never registered any complaints about the eyesores mentioned. Although unattractive they were then when we bought and they

don't really impact our home. Now the sign may impact us greatly based on information gathered before writing this email

8. Should this variance be granted it may allow future developments throughout our neighborhood and other areas of Esquimalt, particularly residential areas, to be negatively impacted. IE: You let Aragon Properties put up a massive sign how can you say no to our request?
9. As Esquimalt residents for more than a quarter century, yes we realize we would still be listed as newbies as so many residents have made Esquimalt their home their entire lives, we want what is best for our neighborhood and all of Esquimalt.

In closing before Council makes a decision I would request each member drive by, stop, get out, stand in our driveway and imagine the massive white sign. Note the sign is the same size as having 3.5 queen size bed sheets hanging side by side 40' from our front yard.

I am happy to hang 3.5 queen size sheets if I know when you are stopping by.

Best Regards

Russ, Bonny and Robert Eison

#### WARNING - CONFIDENTIALITY NOTICE

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Any use, disclosure, copying or dissemination of this information by a person other than an intended recipient is not authorized and may be illegal.

If you are not an intended recipient, please notify the sender immediately by return e-mail, delete this e-mail and destroy any copies.

Thank you.

CORPORATION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF ESQUIMALT		
For Information:		
<input type="checkbox"/> CAO	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mayor/Council	
<input type="checkbox"/>		
RECEIVED: OCT 01 2020		
Referred: <i>Rachel</i>		
<input type="checkbox"/> For Action	<input type="checkbox"/> For Response	<input type="checkbox"/> COTW
<input type="checkbox"/> For Report	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Council Agenda	<input type="checkbox"/> IC

**Deborah Liske**

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**Subject:** FW: Variance Permit Application dated 21 Sep 2020 - 429 Lampson Street

**From:** Olivier Neron-Bilodeau

**Sent:** October-01-20 8:13 PM

**To:** Corporate Services

**Subject:** Variance Permit Application dated 21 Sep 2020 - 429 Lampson Street

Hi,

I'm writing to you regarding the last variance permit application about Sign Regulation Bylaw, 1999, No. 2252 from the owner of 429 Lampson Street.

I'm against this variance application.

Olivier Neron-Bilodeau

CORPORATION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF ESQUIMALT		
For Information:		
<input type="checkbox"/> CAO	<input type="checkbox"/> Mayor/Council	
<input type="checkbox"/>		
RECEIVED: OCT 02 2020		
Referred: <i>Rachel</i>		
<input type="checkbox"/> For Action	<input type="checkbox"/> For Response	<input type="checkbox"/> COTW
<input type="checkbox"/> For Report	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Council Agenda	<input type="checkbox"/> IC

*late item*

**Deborah Liske**

**Subject:** FW: Development Variance Permit: Sign at 429 Lampson

**From:** Willow Easton [mailto:  
**Sent:** October-01-20 8:26 PM  
**To:** Mayor and Council  
**Cc:** Corporate Services  
**Subject:** Development Variance Permit: Sign at 429 Lampson

Your Worship and Council;

I live around the corner from the proposed new sign and I oppose the requested variance permit. I think it would be too large, an eyesore, and inappropriate for the neighbourhood.

It would be too large: the bylaw governing the size of a Real Estate Sign is 1.5 sq m. The requested variance is 11 sq m which is over 7 times the size. I trust that when our Township's bylaws were created there was adequate consultation and consideration - and the maximum sign area of 1.5 sq m was the result of that process. To approve a variance of over 7 times the bylaw maximum seems to call in to question the integrity of our Township's governance.

I had the displeasure of seeing the proposed Real Estate Sign when it was briefly erected (without variance permit) last year - it was an eyesore and inappropriate for our neighbourhood. It had large, bold text with a predictable (pre)sale slogan. As a neighbour (and a marketing diploma graduate) I was disappointed to see such a waste of visual space. One can't help but look at a billboard that size and to those of us who would have to walk, drive, bike or bus by it everyday it would have such a negative mental impact. This area is known for its beautiful shoreline and gardens. Please don't approve a huge ugly billboard to be erected right in the middle of it.

Billboards of this size are usually found along highways, where they need to be big because cars are quickly zooming by them. This sign will be in a residential area school zone, where cars drive slowly and most of the people passing by are on foot. A smaller sign would be more appropriate and effective. Also, as I mentioned in a previous letter, it should be smaller and erected perpendicular to the road to have the most effective impact. Parallel to Lampson really only makes it visible to those turning left or right onto Lampson from Greenwood Ave.

A smaller sign would be more in keeping with the "hidden gem" appeal of Macaulay and Saxe Points. A smaller sign that included a commissioned design or artwork by an Esquimalt resident could be delightful! That way the sale sign could be a positive visual in our area, more original and eye-catching to potential buyers, and help support a local fine artist (who could use our support in this time of economic struggle).

The proposed sign will likely be up for many years. When you make your decision on October 5th, please consider the integrity of your bylaw office and processes, whether a sign that large would even be effective, and the responsibility we all have to steward the visual beauty of our Township and positive mental state of our residents.

Thank you kindly,  
Willow Easton  
Wychbury Ave.

CORPORATION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF ESQUIMALT  
For Information:  
 CAO  Mayor/Council  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
RECEIVED: OCT 02 2020  
Referred: Rachel  
 For Action  For Response  COTW  
 For Report  Council Agenda  IC  
late item

**Deborah Liske**

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**Subject:** FW: Regarding Development Variance Permit Notice - 429 Lampson St  
**Attachments:** Esquimalt Council\_5 Oct 2020\_English Inn Sign\_Variance Permit.pdf

**From:** H&R Woods [mailto:  
**Sent:** October-02-20 7:59 AM  
**To:** Mayor and Council; Corporate Services  
**Subject:** Regarding Development Variance Permit Notice - 429 Lampson St

Dear Mayor and Council,

Please accept our letter of protest (attached) over Aragon Properties request for variance from the Township's Sign Regulation Bylaw 1996, No 2252 to increase the size of a sign from 1.5 sq m to 11 sq m in front of 429 Lampson St.

Thank you,

Rod and Heidi Woods  
426 Lampson St

CORPORATION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF ESQUIMALT		
For Information:		
<input type="checkbox"/> CAO	<input type="checkbox"/> Mayor/Council	
<hr/>		
RECEIVED: OCT 02 2020		
Referred: <i>Rachel</i>		
<input type="checkbox"/> For Action	<input type="checkbox"/> For Response	<input type="checkbox"/> COTW
<input type="checkbox"/> For Report	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Council Agenda	<input type="checkbox"/> IC

*late item*



426 Lampson St  
Esquimalt, BC V9A 5Z2

30 September 2020

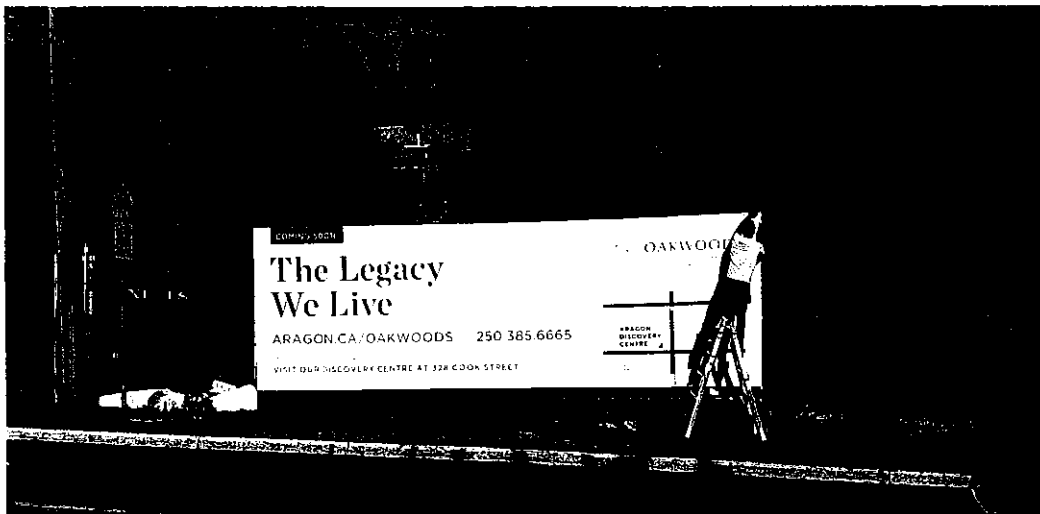
MAYOR AND COUNCIL  
Township of Esquimalt Municipal Hall  
1229 Esquimalt Road  
Esquimalt, BC V9A 3P1

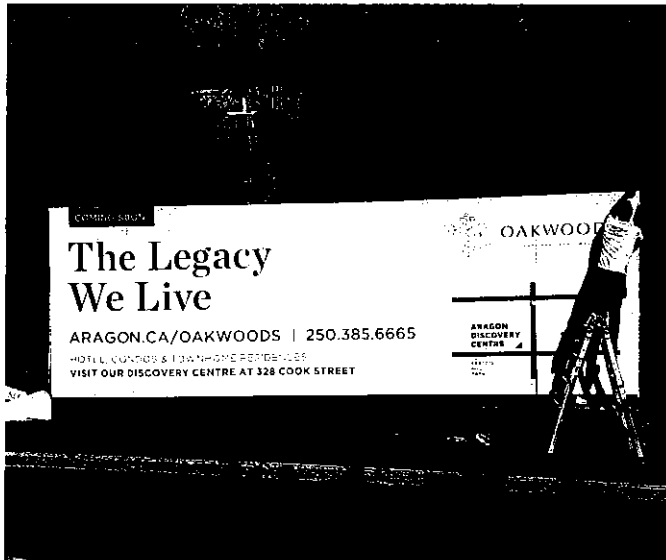
Re: Township of Esquimalt Development Variance Permit Notice, dated 21 September 2020 for registered owner of 429 Lampson St

Dear Mayor and Council Members,

We would like to share our concerns to council over the variance requested by the registered owner of 429 Lampson St to the Sign Regulation Bylaw, 1996, No 2252. Currently, the property at 429 Lampson St is undergoing construction to develop the property into multi-family residential units. The owners of the property have requested to increase the size of the sign dimension from 1.5 sq m to 11.0 sq m, an increase of 9.5 sq m.

In the summer of 2019, the owners of 429 Lampson St, installed a very large, obtrusive sign - the size of a billboard (approx. 20.5 sq m) - that one would expect to see while driving along the Pat Bay highway. They installed this sign (without having requested a permit variance) across the street from single family residential homes, at the edge of their property in front of the English Inn right next to the sidewalk (which we believe is actually township property). Even though the poster was removed after a few weeks (due to a neighbour complaint), the actual wooden structure remained in place until the first week of January 2020, when it was removed and an application for variance was requested by the property owner. Please refer to pictures below.



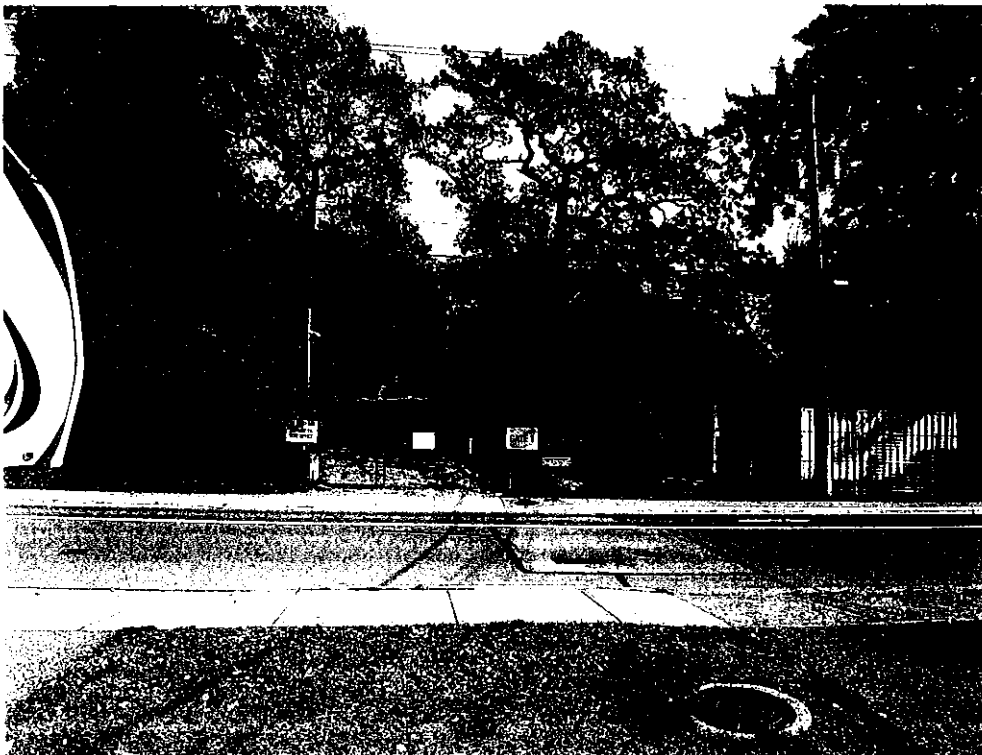
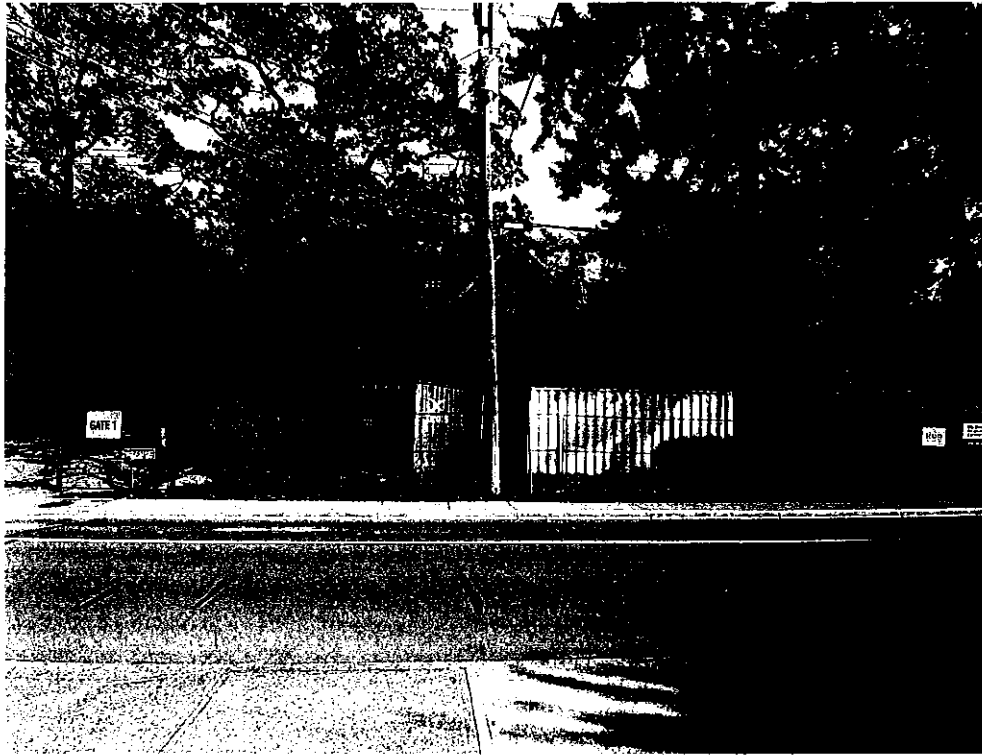


It wasn't until the 3 February 2020 council meeting that Aragon officially requested a variance to the sign dimensions from 1.5 sq m to 20.5 sq m. In the meeting on 3 Feb 2020, the Aragon rep admitted that this sign was not imperative to their sales operation as they have a sales office downtown that will largely be the driving force behind the unit sales and the sign is there just to bring attention to their development. Aragon also stated that the sign was to remain in place until construction is completed. Fortunately, Esquimalt Council members voted down this request as the size was too large for the neighbourhood.

Aragon is again asking for a variance increase from 1.5 sq m to 11 sq m (roughly half the size of the original billboard they put up). We would like the Mayor and council members to remember why the sign regulation bylaw size restriction was limited to 1.5 sq m in the first place - to maintain and enhance the aesthetic environment and minimize the potentially adverse effects of signs on private and public property.

This sign is still too large for the neighbourhood. If the mission of the sign is to bring attention to what is happening to the site, a 3 sq m sign will be more than sufficient. A sign of 11 sq m is still too large for pedestrians walking by, become an eyesore for the neighbours across the street from it and will be ineffective for vehicles transiting through the neighbourhood.

As the owners of 426 Lampson St, the property directly across the street from 429 Lampson St, we feel we would be the most impacted by this variance request. We will have to see this sign every day when we look out our windows or leave our house. The size of the requested sign will obstruct our view of the natural wooded area in front of the English Inn and will surely further depress our feelings towards this development. Please refer to the pictures below to see what the current state of 429 Lampson property is from our viewpoint and how an exceedingly large sign will impact our view on a daily basis:



We understand that the owners need to advertise their development; and we would be comfortable with a slight increase in the sign dimensions, from 1.5 sq m to a more respectful 3 sq m (as allowed by Sign Regulation Bylaw 1999, No 2252, Section 9.13.3 "Sign Area and Dimensions" for a "Real Estate Sign"). In addition, we also feel that the sign should be set back from the sidewalk by at least 3m.

We also recommend that Aragon property owners place a scrim along their fence line to hide the unsightly construction work being done on their property. The fencing that they have up now is just another eyesore to this development project.

We feel that the property owner has had a history of disrespecting the surrounding neighbours throughout their process of developing the property grounds at 429 Lampson St, from increased noise levels, requesting variances on encroachments and offsets, removal of trees, and attempts to appropriate Hither Green Park as an emergency access route. This is just another example of their arrogance in thinking that they can just get away with doing what they want to their property without due process or respecting the values of their neighbours.

We ask that you deny this variance request as it stands, and let the property owners that they must respect the community bylaws and neighbours.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signatures of Rod and Heidi Woods. The signature on the left is 'R Wood' and the signature on the right is 'H Woods'.

Rod and Heidi Woods

# Corporate Services

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**From:** Alison Eison  
**Sent:** October-02-20 19:49  
**To:** Corporate Services  
**Subject:** Development Variance at 426 Lampson St.  
**Attachments:** Sign Variance Letter October 2020 .docx

Please find attached a letter regarding the Development Variance at 426 Lampson St.

Thank you,

Alison Eison

CORPORATION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF ESQUIMALT		
For Information:		
<input type="checkbox"/> CAO	<input type="checkbox"/> Mayor/Council	
<input type="checkbox"/>		
RECEIVED: OCT 05 2020		
Referred: <i>Rachel</i>		
<input type="checkbox"/> For Action	<input type="checkbox"/> For Response	<input type="checkbox"/> COTW
<input type="checkbox"/> For Report	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Council Agenda	<input type="checkbox"/> IC

*late item*

Esquimalt Mayor and Council  
1229 Esquimalt Rd.  
Esquimalt, BC  
V9A 3P1

October 2, 2020

Re: Development Variance at 429 Lampson St.

Dear Mayor and Council,

Once again I am writing this letter in regards to the development variance that the owners of 429 Lampson Street have applied for. My husband and I are strongly against a change to Sign Regulation Bylaw, 1999, No.2252, which would allow the owners to display an advertising sign nearly 10 times larger than what the current bylaw allows.

We love the residential feel of this area, an 11.0 square meter advertising sign placed outside of our front window will take away from the residential feel that we sought out when we purchased our home. The current property owners do not seem to have any care or concern for the upkeep of the boulevard where the sign would be situated. The current state of the boulevard is absolutely appalling and the addition of a giant advertising sign will become a huge eye sore. There is no need for a sign that large in this area of our community. We are strongly opposed to this bylaw variance and hope that you take into consideration the concerns and input from the surrounding neighbors.

Regards,  
Alison and Derek Eison  
434 Lampson Street.

CORPORATION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF ESQUIMALT  
 For Information:  
 CAO  Mayor/Council  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 RECEIVED: OCT 05 2020  
 Referred: *Rachel*  
 For Action  For Response  COTW  
 For Report  Council Agenda  IC  
*late item*

## Corporate Services

**From:** Deanna Pfeifer  
**Sent:** October-03-20 13:52  
**To:** Corporate Services  
**Subject:** Ecosystem impacts  
**Attachments:** SGAR Fact Sheet 14-09-2020 (2).pdf; Copy of HumaneSolutions\_Brochure (2).pdf; Draft Motion \_ Rodenticides - BC Municipal UPDATED (3).pdf

To the Mayor and Councilors of the District of Esquimalt,

I am writing to request your support on an initiative to ban rodenticides in all District of Esquimalt owned properties, and to encourage council to petition the Province to amend its legislation to prohibit these dangerous products.

Recent owl deaths in BC have raised awareness of the harmful effects of rodenticides on British Columbia's wildlife, and have inspired a long-awaited shift away from these products. Rodenticide use is regulated at the Provincial level and therefore under current legislation Esquimalt is unable to enact a complete ban. However, local governments can create policies which eliminate their use on all municipal owned properties.

Since the District of North Vancouver's landmark motion in June, numerous local governments have united against the unacceptable risks these rodenticides pose. For your convenience, I have included a list of these jurisdictions below as well as links to their respective reports and motions. It is essential for the District of Esquimalt to take a strong position as well.

As someone who recently discovered a poisoned owl, I have been determined to learn more about SGAR's and potential solutions. That said, I have done extensive research over the last 11 months and am deeply concerned about the negative impacts these products have on our ecosystem, human health, wildlife, and domestic pets.

Holding the dead owl in my arms has had a profound effect on me. I made a promise to the owl which is a symbol of wisdom in our community that I will do whatever I can to prevent more poisonings. I have dropped everything and am dedicated to create awareness and make changes.

### Common misinformation propagated by the pest control industry

The pest control industry claims that rats return to their dens underground to die once they have been poisoned, and that banning poisons will make a rat problem worse. In fact, studies indicate that the pre-lethal effects of ARs instead make them more accessible to predators, and that rats do often die above ground, increasing the risk of exposure of both predators and scavengers. The reality is that our reliance on poisons is facilitating the rebound of infestations. Clearly poisons do not work, evidenced by the fact that pest control companies remain on contracts to supply poisons for indefinite durations of time.

The TRUTH:

**A single owl eats around 1,000 rats per year**, whereas we do not even know how many rats are killed each year from ARs because pest control operators are not monitoring the bait stations they set out. It is simply irrational to repeatedly pay for a company to release poison into the environment, while owls will control our pests for free (if we just stopped killing them).

**AR's do not address the root cause of rodent infestation problems.** Rats are drawn to food and shelter. Structural access to these resources must be addressed if rodents are to be permanently removed. By eliminating a resident population using AR's, another will move in. Also, in response to poisoning, rats will mate faster in the days to weeks before they die, thereby increasing their population.

**Cheaper, more humane, more effective alternatives do exist.** For example, snap traps (which can also be placed in a secure tamper proof box) and an easy to use automatic resetting trap such as described in the District of North Vancouver report (see Appendix D). Humane Solutions, a company in the Lower Mainland, provides sustainability-oriented pest management services, and offers to price match other pest control companies.

Whether or not municipalities currently use ARs on their own property, it is vital that municipalities take a strong stance against these products in order to pave the way for others to take likewise action themselves. The extensive data before us evidences that mere restrictions are not enough. ARs need to be a thing of the past, and as stewards of the environment, local governments must protect our environment, wildlife and future generations against the devastating harms they pose. Municipalities need to unite and bring this to the attention of the Province, but also to the attention of the public.

Below I have included a more detailed discussion on the harmful impacts posed by rodenticides, specific recommendations for action by the District of Esquimalt and supporting reference materials, including a campaign Fact sheet and Draft Provincial Resolution. Please feel free to contact me as you review.

Thank you in advance for your consideration,

Deanna Pfeifer  
Saanich

## **BACKGROUND**

### **Anticoagulant rodenticides**

Rodenticides, colloquially referred to as "rat poisons," are pesticides formulated as tasty baits used to kill rats, mice and other target rodents. The B.C. government acknowledges that anticoagulant baits "cause death by internal bleeding and present a moderate to high risk of secondary poisoning to other animals that might eat the poisoned rat," yet provincial laws permit their continued use.

### **Harmful impacts**

Many of B.C.'s treasured wildlife species face serious risks of anticoagulant rodenticide poisoning. It has been well-documented for over a decade that these products poison non-target species on all levels of the food chain. Examples include owls, hawks, small birds, earthworms, coyotes, and even cougars. It is not uncommon for pets and children to be poisoned as well.

Non-target species can be impacted by direct (primary) and indirect (secondary) poisoning:

- **Primary poisoning:** Anticoagulant rodenticides are administered in a tamper-proof black box. Rats feed on poison bait blocks inside these boxes. Any animal the same size or smaller than a rat can directly retrieve the poison in this same manner and have demonstrated a willingness to do so. Many non-target species, including songbirds and shrews, are directly poisoned in this way.
- **Secondary poisoning:** When a rat or other small animal consumes the poison, they are not killed immediately. In fact, they can continue to live for days to weeks following the initial consumption. During this time, they continue to feed on the poison (recognizing it as a food source). The highly toxic, persistent, bio accumulative nature of second-generation anticoagulant rodenticides makes them particularly dangerous to secondary consumers, especially where the prey animal has ingested several doses. Nearing death, poisoned animals become lethargic and more vulnerable, making for an easy meal for predators. Owls and other birds of prey are at a disproportionately high risk of secondary poisoning because of their dependence on rodents as a food source.

Not only are owls a treasured species in our community, they are natural predators to rats and other rodents. A single owl eats around 3 rats per night, approximately 1000 per year. By allowing the use of anticoagulant rodenticides, we are killing off the natural predators and helping the rat population to grow overall. It is entirely counter-productive.

## **RECOMMENDED ACTIONS BY THE DISTRICT OF ESQUIMALT**



## That Council:

1. Adopts the policy of introducing a complete ban of anticoagulant rodenticides on all District of Esquimalt owned properties, with immediate effect.
2. Directs staff to communicate to communicate this policy direction to residents and businesses including information on the harmful impacts of anticoagulant rodenticides and the availability of ecologically sustainable alternatives.
3. Request the Mayor write, on behalf of Council, to the Provincial Minister of Environment requesting that the Province of British Columbia introduce a Province wide ban of the use of anticoagulant rodenticides, to increase protection for wildlife species.
4. To incorporate humane practices in regards to pest control in all District of Esquimalt properties.

## Reports on Anticoagulant Rodenticides

On February 28, 2020, the BC SPCA released a [news story](#) outlining the harmful impacts of anticoagulant rodenticides. In this article, the organization is encouraging their readers to “push our municipalities in the right direction to reduce the use of rodenticides in parks and near greenbelts and areas that are home to B.C. wildlife.”

Marie Turcott, Law Student at the University of British Columbia, published a [comprehensive report](#) examining the harmful impacts of anticoagulant rodenticides and critiquing the provincial and federal government's current approach to regulating these products.

The following municipalities have committed to prohibiting the use of ARs on all municipal-owned properties within their jurisdiction, and have formally requested action by the provincial government:

- [District of North Vancouver](#), June 15, 2020
- [District of Saanich](#), July 13, 2020.
- [District of Sooke](#), September 14, 2020.
- [City of Colwood](#), August 24, 2020.
- [City of Port Moody](#), September 8, 2020.
- [City of Victoria](#), September 17, 2020.
- [District of Oak Bay](#), September 28, 2020
- [City of North Vancouver](#), On September 14, 2020

## CONCLUSION

Anticoagulant rodenticides pose serious threats to BC wildlife, the environment, and human health. The permitted and continued use of these harmful poisons is inconsistent with the obligations owed by the government to protect its citizens and the environment from harmful chemicals. Anticoagulant rodenticides are dangerous, ineffective and unlawful - the City/District must take action to reduce the use of these products and petition the BC government to implement a province-wide ban.

## RESOURCES

BC SPCA, 2020. *Rat Poison Injuring Wildlife*. Viewed 21 July 2020. <<https://spca.bc.ca/news/rat-poison-wildlife/>>

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< <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1bTwO IO4k4sbkYWlwLeLQpT93dOtRVcR/view?usp=sharing> >

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< [https://drive.google.com/file/d/1ROIbRUoiG8r6-EEF\\_Hj8SmYxOh8s\\_rX8/view?usp=sharing](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1ROIbRUoiG8r6-EEF_Hj8SmYxOh8s_rX8/view?usp=sharing) >

Turcott, M., 2020. *Defending Nature Against Rodenticides*

<https://static1.squarespace.com/static/5a766a60bce176c268d99786/t/5ec70e48e553460f8682ce60/1590103627704/Turcott+Defending+Nature+Against+Rodenticides.pdf>

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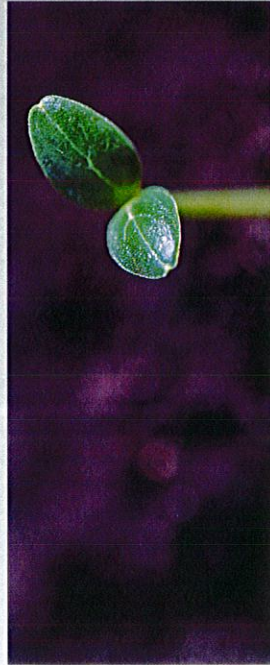
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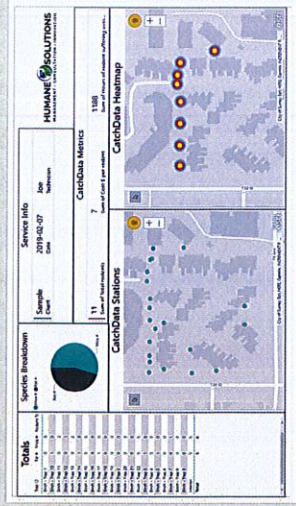
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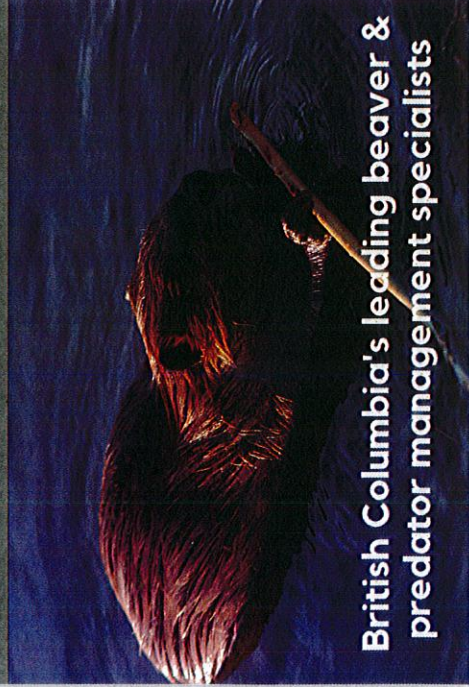
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# BAN RAT POISONS

## that are Killing B.C. Wildlife

### Summary

Second-Generation Anticoagulant Rodenticides (SGARs) pose serious threats to B.C. wildlife species, the environment and human health. While SGARs are legal, their permitted use is inconsistent with the obligations owed by the government to protect its citizens and the environment from harmful chemicals. SGARs are dangerous, ineffective and unlawful - the government must take immediate action to prohibit the use of these products.

### Background

The federal and provincial governments have an obligation to treat the well-being and protection of the environment as a primary consideration. It follows that SGARs should not pose any unacceptable risks if their use is to be permitted. To the contrary, despite acknowledging that SGARs are highly acutely toxic compounds that pose serious threats to the health and safety of children and non-target species, the federal government continues to register these products for commercial use.

### Problem

#### SGARs are Dangerous

##### Poisoning native and endangered wildlife species

Many of B.C.'s treasured species face serious risks of SGAR poisoning. Small non-target mammals, birds and invertebrates feed directly on the SGAR baits, giving rise to the contamination of the food-chain and wider ecosystem when poisoned prey animals are eaten by predators. Rodenticides can enter the soil via decomposing carcasses, and have even been found in the aquatic food web.

The highly toxic, persistent, bioaccumulative nature of SGARs makes them particularly dangerous to a wide range of predators and scavengers, including raptors, crows, raccoons, coyotes, weasels and snakes. Owls and other birds of prey are at a particularly high risk of secondary poisoning because of their dependence on rodents as a food source. Between 1988 and 2003, 70% of dead owls from B.C. had residues of at least one rodenticide - and the number of owls dying by poisons has only escalated over the recent years.

##### Threatening children and pets

The American Association of Poison Control Centers receives approximately 10,000 reports of rodenticide exposures in children annually in the United States. Health Canada has determined observations in the U.S. to be representative of the situation in Canada. Since rodenticides are intended to be palatable for their target species, pets will also be inclined to consume these toxic products. Dogs and cats may also hunt or catch poisoned rodents, putting them at risk of internal bleeding and death.

### SGARs are Ineffective

#### Short-term and counterproductive

SGAR baiting is not an effective method of controlling infestations long-term. Clearing a resident population simply makes space for new groups to move in, and poisoned rats mate faster to compensate for their thinning numbers. By distracting from the root of the problem (i.e., accessible food and shelter), relying on SGARs permits infestations to rebound. SGARs also reduce the efficacy of free, natural rat control by poisoning raptors and other rodent predators. For instance, a single barn owl consumes an average of 1,000 rodents per year.

### SGARs are Unlawful

#### Failure of risk mitigation measures

SGARs should not present any unacceptable risks to the environment if their use is to be legally permitted. While SGARs are evidently harmful, the risk mitigation measures are inadequate. Requiring SGARs to be kept in tamper-proof bait boxes does nothing to stop target and non-target animals from directly consuming these products and thereafter being ingested by predators. Rats have been shown to feed on highly toxic indoor-restricted baits and move outdoors. Further, poisoned rats have been found to spend more time outside of their dens during all hours of the day and die above ground. Since rodents will disperse away from buildings and into surrounding natural habitats, the secondary-exposure risk for predators is not acceptedly mitigated.

#### Inconsistent with the current regulatory framework

SGARs are dangerous, ineffective and inadequately regulated - their permitted use is inconsistent with the obligations owed by the government to protect its citizens and the environment from pest control products. Contrary to B.C.'s Integrated Pest Management Act, SGAR use is not being replaced by non-toxic measures of pest control. In B.C. alone, brodifacoum sales have increased by 19% and bromadiolone sales have increased by 279% between 2003 and 2015, with a total of 91kg of rodenticide active ingredient sold in 2015. While this may not seem like a significant amount, most SGARs are formulated at less than 0.01% active ingredient given their high toxicity.

### Solution

The precautionary principle enunciated by the federal Pesticide Control Products Act provides that full scientific certainty is not required to amend or cancel the registration of a product where there are reasonable grounds to believe such action is required to deal with a threat to the environment. It follows that SGARs should cease to be registered. In the interim, B.C. must take action to protect its precious wildlife by (a) implementing a regulation that prohibits the sale, purchase or use of SGARs; and (b) urging the Minister of Health to initiate a special review of the registration of SGARs.



## Questions & Answers

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### What are Rodenticides?

Rodenticides, colloquially referred to as “rat poisons,” are pesticides used to kill rats, mice, and other rodents. Rodenticides are typically formulated as baits, which are designed to attract animals by incorporating flavours such as ground meat, vegetables, fish oil, molasses, or peanut butter. Most of the rodenticides used today are anticoagulant compounds that interfere with blood clotting and cause death from excessive bleeding. Deaths typically occur between four days and two weeks after rodents begin to feed on the bait.

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### What are Second-Generation Anticoagulant Rodenticides?

SGARs were developed in the 1970s to control rodents that are resistant to first-generation anticoagulants (FGARs), and such as, were designed to be highly toxic and persistent. Despite delivering a lethal dose in a single feeding, these poisons cause a slow, painful death for all consumers. Today, SGARs are the predominant form of rodent control worldwide. SGAR active ingredients that are currently registered in Canada include brodifacoum, bromadiolone, difenacoum and difethialone.

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### Why should we ban SGARs?

Wildlife advocates believe that banning SGARs is imperative to protect vulnerable and endangered species, including barn owls, who are critically threatened by the widespread use of SGARs in agricultural and urban areas. SGARs are particularly dangerous in comparison to other means of rodent control because they are highly toxic, but take days to kill. This means that rodents may continue to feed on the bait and end up ingesting far beyond the lethal dose by the time of their deaths. Worse yet, these poisons can persist in animal tissues at high levels, posing greater risks to non-target species that feed upon animals that have consumed the bait.

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### Will banning SGARs make rat problems in B.C. worse?

No - in fact, SGARs may actually be making rat problems worse. Again, by poisoning animals that feed on rodents, SGARs are effectively reducing a natural and chemical-free method of pest control. By eliminating the ability to rely on poisons, the pest control industry will be incentivized to develop informed, efficacious rodent management solutions. Some humane and sustainably-focused pest management companies have introduced more effective means of approaching rat infestations that do not involve harmful chemicals.

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### If poisons are ineffective, why do people still use them?

Poisoning is the easiest and cheapest method of controlling rats, and it is in the economic interests of pest control operators using poisons not to inform customers that results will only be temporary if preventative measures are not implemented. Surveyed pest control professionals have admitted that poisons alone fail to provide a long-term solution. Broader public education is needed to dispel the myth that using SGARs is the key to managing rodent infestations.

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### What alternative methods of pest control are available?

The primary step that sustainability-oriented pest management companies (like Humane Solutions) recommend is “rat-proofing” the premises of your home by addressing the active and potential access-points in structures. Food and other resources that attract rats must be secured or eliminated. There are many resources online that can help homeowners manage rat problems themselves. Goodnature traps are nontoxic, and have been shown to be an effective, more humane option. Though they will require regular monitoring, snap-traps placed in boxes are cheaper alternatives.

### How are Rodenticides Regulated in Canada?

Pesticides in Canada are regulated by a multi-tiered legislative scheme. The mandate of the federal *Pest Control Products Act (PCPA)* is to protect the health of Canadians and the environment against unacceptable risks from the use of pesticides. Reasonable certainty that no unmitigable harm to the environment is required to justify the registration of pest control products. B.C.'s *Integrated Pest Management Act (IPMA)* builds on this mandate by implementing a proactive and preventative approach to managing pest populations. Toxic chemicals must be treated as a last resort, and used in a manner that minimizes hazards to the environment.

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### How does the Federal Government Regulate SGARs?

The PCPA sets the standards for regulation of pesticides in Canada. The Pest Management Regulatory Agency (PMRA) is the Health Canada branch responsible for administering the PCPA and Regulations. Its main responsibilities include registering pest control products, re-evaluating pesticides currently on the market, and promoting sustainable pest management strategies. Pesticides must be registered under the PCPA before they can be manufactured, possessed, handled, stored, imported, distributed, or used in Canada. The PMRA must conduct a science-based evaluation of a product's risks and efficacy controlling the intended pest before approving registration.

SGARs are currently registered for commercial use only, meaning that they are not available to the general public for use around the home. However, farmers are still able to purchase and apply commercial rodenticides, even without professional training. In response to concerns regarding secondary exposure risks, the PMRA imposed requirements that SGARs must be contained in tamper-resistant bait stations or placed in locations inaccessible to children and animals. While SGAR products containing bromadiolone can be placed outside, all other SGAR products are restricted to indoor-use.

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### Does B.C. have jurisdiction to regulate SGARs?

Yes - Provinces may further restrict or prohibit the use, sale, storage, transportation and disposal of pesticides in their jurisdiction through the enactment of regulations, as long as they are consistent with and no less protective than the federal legislation. B.C.'s IPMA sets out requirements for the use and sale of pesticides in the province. Licenses are required to sell, use or provide a service respecting SGARs. The IPMA Regulation sets out that licensees must act in accordance with integrated pest management principles (e.g., considering practical alternatives to pesticide use and the protection of human health and the environment). When they are needed, pesticides must be used in a manner that minimizes hazards to human health and the environment.

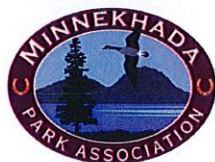
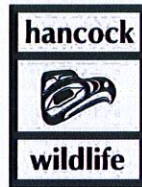
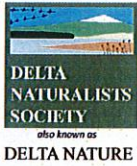
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### What can municipal governments do?

While municipalities do not have the jurisdiction to pass community-wide bans on rodenticides, they can implement bans on the use of poisons on City-owned property. Local governments can also submit and endorse resolutions to the Union of B.C. Municipalities for consideration.

In June 2020, the District of North Vancouver adopted a landmark motion to ban anticoagulant rodenticides on all District-owned properties and petitioned B.C. to follow suit. The ban was met with tremendous support as recent owl deaths have raised awareness of the harmful effects of rodenticides on wildlife. The District of Saanich council unanimously passed its own motion in July, followed by Colwood in August. The City of Richmond is currently considering a similar motion that has been referred to staff and will be heard in fall 2020. Numerous other municipalities, including Port Moody, Sooke and Victoria, have added like-motions to their agendas.

## Organizational Supporters



For more information, please visit:  
**Owl Watch BC:** [www.facebook.com/owlwatchbc](http://www.facebook.com/owlwatchbc)  
**Defend Them All Foundation:** [www.defendthemall.org/pagero](http://www.defendthemall.org/pagero)  
 Contact: [marie.turcott@defendthemall.org](mailto:marie.turcott@defendthemall.org)

# DRAFT Notice of Motion

**To:** Mayor and Council  
**From:** Councillor \_\_\_\_\_  
**Date:** [Publish Date]  
**Subject:** Anticoagulant Rodenticides in the [City/District] of \_\_\_\_\_

## **RECOMMENDATION**

*That Council:*

- 1. Adopts the policy of introducing a complete ban on use of anticoagulant rodenticides on all City/District of \_\_\_\_\_ owned properties, with immediate effect.*
- 2. Directs staff to communicate this policy direction to residents and businesses, including information on the harmful impacts of anticoagulant rodenticides and the availability of more ecologically sustainable alternatives.*
- 3. Requests that the Mayor write, on behalf of Council, to the provincial Minister of Environment, requesting that the Province of British Columbia introduce a province-wide ban on the use of anticoagulant rodenticides, to increase protection for wildlife species.*
- 4. To incorporate humane practices in regards to pest control in all City/District of \_\_\_\_\_ properties.*

## **BACKGROUND**

### **Anticoagulant Rodenticides**

Rodenticides, colloquially referred to as "rat poisons," are pesticides formulated as tasty baits used to kill rats, mice and other target rodents. The BC government acknowledges that anticoagulant baits "cause death by internal bleeding and present a moderate to high risk of secondary poisoning to other animals that might eat the poisoned rat," yet provincial laws permit their continued use.

Rodenticide use is regulated at the Provincial level and therefore under current legislation the City/District of \_\_\_\_\_ is unable to fully ban anticoagulant rodenticides. However, we are able to create policies which would eliminate their use in all City/District of \_\_\_\_\_ -owned facilities and lands.

### **Harmful Impacts**

Many of BC's treasured wildlife species face serious risks of anticoagulant rodenticide poisoning. It has been well-documented for over a decade that these products poison non-target species on all levels of the food chain. Examples include owls, hawks, small birds, earthworms, coyotes, and even cougars. It is not uncommon for pets and children to be poisoned as well.

Non-target species can be impacted by direct (primary) and indirect (secondary) poisoning:



- **Primary Poisoning:** Anticoagulant rodenticides are administered in a tamper-proof black box. Rats feed on poison bait blocks inside these boxes. Any animal the same size of or smaller than a rat can directly retrieve the poison in this same manner. Many non-target species, including songbirds and shrews, are directly poisoned in this way.
- **Secondary Poisoning:** When a rat or other small animal consumes poison from the bait box, they are not immediately killed. In fact, the animal can continue to live for days to weeks following the initial consumption. During this time, they continue to feed on the poison having recognized it as a food source. The highly toxic, persistent, bioaccumulative nature of second-generation anticoagulant rodenticides makes them particularly dangerous to secondary consumers, especially where the prey animal has ingested several doses. Nearing death, poisoned animals become lethargic and more vulnerable, making for an easy meal for predators.

Owls and other birds of prey are at a disproportionately high risk of secondary poisoning because of their dependence on rodents as a food source. Not only are owls a treasured species in our community, they are natural predators to rats and other rodents. A single owl eats around 3 rats per night, approximately 1000 per year. By allowing the use of anticoagulant rodenticides, we are killing off the natural predators and helping the rat population to grow overall. It is entirely counter-productive.

### **Reports on Anticoagulant Rodenticides**

On February 28, 2020, the BC SPCA released a [news story](#) outlining the harmful impacts of anticoagulant rodenticides. In this article, the organization is encouraging their readers to “push our municipalities in the right direction to reduce the use of rodenticides in parks and near greenbelts and areas that are home to B.C. wildlife.”

Marie Turcott, Law Student at the University of British Columbia, published a [comprehensive report](#) examining the harmful impacts of anticoagulant rodenticides and critiquing the provincial and federal government's current approach to regulating these products.

The following municipalities have committed to prohibiting the use of ARs on all municipal-owned properties within their jurisdiction, and have formally requested action by the provincial government:

- [District of North Vancouver](#), June 15, 2020
- [District of Saanich](#), July 13, 2020
- [District of Sooke](#), September 14, 2020
- [City of Colwood](#), August 24, 2020
- [City of Port Moody](#), September 8, 2020
- [City of Victoria](#), September 17, 2020
- [City of North Vancouver](#), On September 14, 2020
- [District of Oak Bay](#), September 28, 2020

### **CONCLUSION**

Anticoagulant rodenticides pose serious threats to BC wildlife, the environment, and human health. The permitted and continued use of these harmful poisons is inconsistent with the obligations owed by the government to protect its citizens and the environment from harmful chemicals. Anticoagulant

rodenticides are dangerous, ineffective and unlawful - the City/District must take action to reduce the use of these products and petition the BC government to implement a province-wide ban.

## **RESOURCES**

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< [https://drive.google.com/file/d/1ROIbRUoiG8r6-EEF\\_Hj8SmYxOh8s\\_rX8/view?usp=sharing](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1ROIbRUoiG8r6-EEF_Hj8SmYxOh8s_rX8/view?usp=sharing) >

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Drafted by:

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J.D. Candidate, 2021  
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## Corporate Services

**From:** Robert Vanzella  
**Sent:** October-03-20 14:09  
**To:** Corporate Services  
**Subject:** 05October20 Agenda item: anticoagulant rodenticides

Hello Esquimalt Mayor and Council,

I would like the support of the Mayor and Council to ban Rodenticides in Esquimalt municipal properties and to support safer alternatives, increase awareness, and urge the Province of BC to ban anticoagulant rodenticides.

The deaths of our owls in Saanich due to toxic levels of rodenticides (brodifacoum, bromadiolone, difethialone) has had an impact in our community in several ways.

The owl is nature's way of controlling rodent population consuming up to 1000 rats per year, he is also very popular for bird watchers, and residents enjoy seeing him in our Green Space.

Since these deaths my wife and I and many others provincially have been very diligent in making people aware of the ecosystem impact these rodenticides have caused and will cause in the future.

The Owl has returned to our Green Space and I encounter people on a daily basis enjoying and watching the [Kings Nature Space Owl](#) I make it a point daily to go see him and make sure he is ok. He is such a beautiful animal and it would be devastating to see the loss of another owl anywhere due to poisoning.

I hope the Township of Esquimalt will take steps as other jurisdictions have in banning the use of anticoagulant rodenticides and urge the Province of BC to ban anticoagulant rodenticides.

Thank You for your support,

Rob Vanzella  
[Kings Nature Space owl video clip](#)



CORPORATION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF ESQUIMALT  
 For Information:  
 CAO  Mayor/Council  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 RECEIVED: OCT 05 2020  
 Referred: *Rachel*  
 For Action  For Response  COTW  
 For Report  Council Agenda  IC  
*late item*