

AGENDA INFORMATION

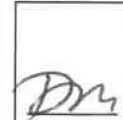
☒ Regular Meeting

☐ Other:

Date: December 7, 2020

Date: _____


Dept.
Manager


GM/
Director


CAO

The District of North Vancouver REPORT TO COUNCIL

November 25, 2020

File: 13.6770/Wildlife Concerns/Urban

AUTHOR: Richard Boase, P.Geo - Section Manager, Environmental Sustainability (Ops)
Erika Nassichuk, R.P.Bio - Environmental Protection Officer

SUBJECT: Rodenticide Use in the DNV and Corporate Pest Management Policy

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT Council approve the Pest Management – District Owned Property Policy (The Policy) (Attachment 1)

AND THAT Council receive the draft letter to the Minister of Environment and Climate Change Strategy (Attachment 2), and Rodenticide Outreach Initiatives (Attachment 3)

REASON FOR REPORT:

On June 15, 2020, Council passed the following motion:

“THAT a complete ban of anti-coagulant rodenticides on all District of North Vancouver owned properties is supported;
AND THAT staff is directed to petition the Province to ban anti-coagulant rodenticides;
AND THAT staff is directed to communicate the harmful impacts of anti-coagulant rodenticides to all residents and businesses in the District of North Vancouver and to share findings about alternatives.”

The Policy is intended to implement Council motion to ban anti-coagulant rodenticide use on DNV owned and/or controlled properties. This report also summarizes the progress made in response to the remaining two items from the June 2020 motion: outreach and communication initiatives and a request for changes to Provincial legislation regarding the use of anti-coagulant rodenticide in pest management.

SUMMARY:

Anti-coagulant rodenticide baits are commonly used in pest management practices. These products are known to cause prolonged suffering in both the target (predominantly mice and/or rats) as well as secondary non-target wildlife. Secondary animal suffering occurs when a non-target animal ingests dead poisoned rodents or by hunting and consuming poisoned live ones. The goal of the new Policy is to significantly reduce or eliminate the reliance on anti-coagulant baits in pest control programs carried out on DNV owned and/or

controlled properties where we have the legal authority to do so. Simultaneously, staff are working on educating the community and pest management practitioners on the long term benefits of alternative measures. Alternatives are available that prevent needless suffering in target and non-target animals and offer better long term pest control.

The Policy outlines the required steps that a Qualified Professional (QP) and/or service provider takes to conduct pest management on District owned and/or controlled properties as described in the Integrated Pest Management Framework that can be found in Attachment 1. The first step is an assessment to determine if a pest population exists and whether there is risk to either the building or its occupants. If pests are present and there is documented risk, the next step is to formulate an integrated pest management plan (IPMP). The IPMP will address the pest population with a plan that focuses initially on rodenticide free non-lethal management (education, structure exclusion and attractant management etc.). If lethal population control is ultimately required, the QP can recommend trapping or other forms of population control that do not rely on anti-coagulant baits.

The Policy does allow for the use of rodenticide under very limited situations such as, where there is a risk to the building or occupants. Rodenticide can only be authorized under specific circumstances as recommended by a QP and its use governed by a permit issued under the DNV Pesticide Use Control Bylaw.

BACKGROUND:

An information report to Council dated October 29, 2019 provided information on DNV research carried out over the summer of 2019 on whether rats were a significant issue at DNV owned properties as well as some partner facilities. Staff also conducted research on the efficiency of an alternative lethal trap. A follow up information council report dated July 27, 2020 provided an update on new research carried out on private property and detailed the various outreach presentations by DNV staff to other committees and municipalities.

EXISTING POLICY:

The Provincial Government specifically prohibits a municipality from enacting a bylaw to regulate the use of a pesticide outside or inside private buildings.

ANALYSIS:

While municipalities are prevented from adopting bylaws that would ban or regulate the use of pesticides in and around privately owned buildings, the DNV retains the authority to adopt a Policy to control the method of delivering pest management services to DNV owned and controlled properties.

The Policy requires pest management service providers to follow a more integrated and preventative approach to pest management. This reflects trends in the emerging scientific literature that suggests long term use of rodenticide provides only short term relief. It has also been proven that prolonged use of rodenticide baits, increases resistance in target animals, increases reproductive cycles in target animals (more pests), causes inhumane suffering and death, and exposes individuals and the community to toxic substances.

The most successful approach to controlling pests is to prevent infestations. Under the new Policy, integrated pest management will follow a systematic process designed to keep pests out of buildings by eliminating or reducing access points, eliminating or reducing favourable pest harbourage and removing and managing attractants. If a QP follows the Policy and unacceptable risk still persists then population control can be the next step to complement the completed work.

Avoiding the use of rodenticide is a priority. The vast majority of pest management can be done rodenticide free. Where there is a documented structural risk or human health concern, the use of rodenticide may be permitted where the proposed use of rodenticide is supported by a QP report and a permit issued by the District.

Where long-term leases are in place, the Policy would not affect these terms of those agreements and could not be enforced on the leaseholder. It would be used as a moral suasion for a transition to more humane pest management on those lands. Any leases of District land entered into after this Policy was in force would be subject to the Policy, therefore the policy would eventually apply to all District Property as leases are renewed.

Timing/Approval Process:

Upon adoption of the Policy, staff will begin working with DNV property managers and agents on a conversion to rodenticide free pest management.

Concurrence:

The draft Policy has been circulated to the Real Estate and Properties, Facilities and Parks Departments and has undergone legal review. Environment staff have also reviewed the conceptual policy framework with a select number of industry service providers.

Financial Impacts:

Initial research has shown, where lethal population control is required, alternative trapping methods can be cheaper in the long term. Where work is required to block access to buildings from rodents, initial cost may be higher, however, these costs will then decrease because a pest control contractor will not be required to service rodenticide bait boxes for an indeterminate period. Initial costs could also be higher if work needs to be done around attractant management, but again, if attractant management is done correctly and is carried out by the property manager and tenants, the need for a pest control services long term should decrease.

Liability/Risk:

No increases to liability or risk is anticipated at this time. Using the Corporate Pest Management Policy will create a framework for property managers to follow and will allow them to work with their QP to continue to conduct pest control where needed.

Social Policy Implications:

The community, including prominent organizations have spoken up about the inhumane effects that anti-coagulant rodenticides have on both target and non-target wildlife. By reducing or eliminating the use of toxic materials in pest management the DNV is supporting new social policy through leadership and innovation.

Environmental Impact:

Removing anti-coagulant rodenticide bait from the environment will have a significant positive impact on wildlife living in North Vancouver. Anti-coagulant rodenticide has unfortunately been found throughout the food web, meaning that many non-target species are being negatively impacted. Removing this poison from the environment will promote population increases in animals that prey upon pests. For the North Shore, this will benefit owls, hawks, eagles and other small mammal predators. In time, we hope these species will provide natural population control, resulting in a more balanced ecosystem.

Public Input:

Staff have undertaken numerous presentations within the community at large and other municipalities detailing the results of our own research. There is very strong community support to reduce or eliminate the amount of anti-coagulant use in our community. Staff are currently working with Communications to prepare information materials as generally described in Attachment 3.

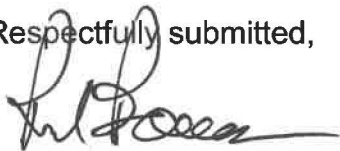
Conclusion:

Adopting the Policy will reduce the amount of anti-coagulant rodenticide in the environment. The Policy will also be used as a model to affect positive change to the current industry practices, and be a catalyst for change.

Options:

That the Corporate Pest Management Policy be adopted and implemented.

Respectfully submitted,



Richard Boase, P.Geo - Section Manager, Environmental Sustainability

(s.s.) Erika Nassichuk, R.P.Bio - Environmental Protection Officer

Attachments

1. Corporate Pest Management Policy
2. Draft Letter to the Minister of Environment and Climate Change Strategy
3. Rodenticide Outreach Initiatives

REVIEWED WITH:					
<input type="checkbox"/> Community Planning	_____	<input type="checkbox"/> Clerk's Office	_____	External Agencies:	
<input type="checkbox"/> Development Planning	_____	<input type="checkbox"/> Communications	_____	<input type="checkbox"/> Library Board	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Development Engineering	_____	<input type="checkbox"/> Finance	_____	<input type="checkbox"/> NS Health	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Utilities	_____	<input type="checkbox"/> Fire Services	_____	<input type="checkbox"/> RCMP	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Engineering Operations	_____	<input type="checkbox"/> ITS	_____	<input type="checkbox"/> NVRC	_____
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<input type="checkbox"/> Human Resources	_____	<input type="checkbox"/> Bylaw Services	_____		
<input type="checkbox"/> Review and Compliance	_____	<input type="checkbox"/> Planning	_____		

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