



Structural Pest Management Association of British Columbia



SPMABC response to The Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy's Minister's Order, dated July 21, 2021.

The SPMABC is providing this update in response to the Minister's Order above. Firstly, we want to point out that this order is not a permanent change to The Integrated Pest Management Act. The Minister's Order is for an 18-month ban to study the effects and consult before making permanent changes to the Act after a scientific review and consultation period is completed. Please review the following passage:

"The Minister's Order will be in place for 18 months while ministry staff undertake a scientific review to better understand the risks of SGARs to wildlife and identify appropriate mitigation methods. Recommendations based on the outcome of the science review will be used to inform future policy options."

The SPMABC's position is that we must take action during the 18 months to lobby on behalf of our industry. The first opportunity to do so is webinars. We want to encourage our member companies to engage with the stakeholders with which they work, such as property managers, strata managers, homeowners and any other business affected by this ban. We have included the list of webinars below and will be keeping the membership up to date with any future meeting or webinars.

Webinar schedule

Webinars are tailored for specific audiences:

General audience

August 3, 2021, 1:00 pm

Indigenous peoples

August 4, 2021, 9:00 am

Vendors

August 4, 2021, 1:00 pm

Agricultural operators

August 5, 2021, 9:00 am

General audience

August 10, 2021, 1:00 pm

Webinar registration e-mail BC.IPM@gov.bc.ca to register. You can register for more than one.



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Secondly, the SPMABC board will be advocating for one specific change. After reviewing the entire document, we feel the most important point we will focus on changing is the interior ban. Moreover, we feel that it is a moot point to try and overturn the entire order; the best opportunity to advocate for a change is to use a science-based approach to show that the interior ban adds nothing to harm reduction when looking at wildlife impacts.

Our voice as an industry will not carry the same emotional impact that first-hand stories of rodent infestations and the lasting impacts that infestations have on our communities. Our opposition has been very effective using emotional response to dead owls to push their agenda. We will be using science to refute certain claims, but we need partners to provide context to the science. We need to ensure that we use the emotion behind the important work that we do with these products to convey how important it is that we still have the opportunity to have them in our toolkit for interior use.

Lastly, the SPMABC board wants to convey our disappointment that the Ministry of Environment did not give a grace period with the enactment of this order. Our industry needs time to make the changes necessary in order to stay compliant and still protect the health, properties, businesses, and critical infrastructure in our communities. We have already had supply chain challenges due the ongoing pandemic, and now we have an entire industry that needs to change a large portion of how they do business. Please exercise empathy with our industry partners, as they will have the same issues we do.

We will adapt, but that takes time. I have been assured by the MOE that enforcement and compliance inspections will continue, but that they will take an educational tone. For our members, it is important to act to ensure compliance. There will be instances of misapplication or questions about the proper placement; it is vital that you reach out to the MOE to have these questions answered by the experts that are the final authority.

At the Structural Pest Management Association of British Columbia, we want to be good stewards of the environment. We recognise the important work we do to protect human health, property, and the food chain has impacts on the environment we live in. We constantly strive for balance, and I am confident that with our ingenuity, we will again find an equilibrium.

Christopher Day
President