

# HOW TO BECOME A PEST CONTROL OFFICER

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Before you can deliver pest control services for your municipality, you need to become a licensed Pest Control Officer (PCO). The information to follow is specific to focusing on rat eradication and control.

## **Formal Training Requirement**

To become a licensed PCO you must successfully complete a recognized training course. Saskatchewan Polytechnic (formerly SIAST) offers the following two classes related to rodent control, through home study or in a classroom setting. Either course is acceptable for providing municipal rat control. These courses are:

- 1) **[The Rat Control Pesticide Applicator \(PEST 177\)](#)** – This course focuses on the use of rodenticides and fulfills the requirements for licensing for municipal officers.
- 2) **[The Structural Pesticide Applicator Course \(PEST 174\)](#)** – This course covers pest control in and around structures such as homes, businesses, public buildings and storage facilities. Course content includes rodent control on public and private land. Commercial pest control service providers are required to have this course, so if you are planning to contract your PCO services, this course is recommended.

You may contact the Pest Program at Saskatchewan Polytechnic at (306) 775-7473 or toll free at 1-866-467-4278 for more details or you can visit the Saskatchewan Polytechnic website at <http://saskpolytech.ca/> for more details on Pesticide Applicator training.

Saskatchewan Polytechnic also offers other courses specific to agricultural crops, weeds, diseases and insects if you are interested in increasing your level of expertise:

<http://saskpolytech.ca/programs-and-courses/continuing-education/programs.aspx>

## **Licensing**

Once you have successfully completed your training, you must obtain your PCO license from Saskatchewan Ministry of Agriculture. You are required to provide proof of training and a \$50.00 licensing fee. Contact the Ministry's Pesticide Licensing department at (306) 787-4662. For more information on Pesticide Applicator licensing and application forms, visit the Ministry's web site at: <http://www.saskatchewan.ca/business/agriculture-natural-resources-and-industry/agribusiness-farmers-and-ranchers/crops-and-irrigation/pesticide-licensing-program/pesticide-applicator-licence>.

## **Continuing Education**

Every five years, you are required to refresh your training. You have a few different options to do this:

- By successfully completing a re-certification exam; or
- By obtaining 15 continuing education credits within the five years (with no more than 10 credits in a single year). Credits can be offered at seminars, conferences, workshops, field demonstrations or online and classroom learning.

PREP offers annual accredited workshops in six regions of the province in the month of January. Go to PREP's website [www.prep.sarm.ca](http://www.prep.sarm.ca) for updates and information, or contact Annette at (306) 761-3744 or [aellert@sarm.ca](mailto:aellert@sarm.ca).

The Saskatchewan Pest Control Officers Association (SPCOA) holds an annual convention, providing information, accredited presentations, and tradeshow booths. Visit the SPCOA website at [www.spcoa.org](http://www.spcoa.org) or contact Neil Mooney at 306-934-4782 for more information on the SPCOA.

## **Rat Eradication Resources**

PREP is supported through the Agriculture Fieldworker's Grant through the Ministry of Agriculture and administered through the Saskatchewan Association of Rural Municipalities (SARM). We provide grants to rural municipalities and develop best practices, recommendations, resources and information for municipalities, pest control officers and the general public. Some of our resources include: *PREP Quarterly* newsletter, rat prevention and baiting brochures, and the P.A.I.R. Zero Tolerance StRATegy. Visit our website to access these documents and more at: [www.prep.sarm.ca](http://www.prep.sarm.ca).

Once you have completed your training and become a PCO, PREP offers a number of support mechanisms for you as a municipal PCO. Six Regional PCO Supervisors and a Provincial Coordinator are ready and able to provide mentorship and hands-on support in dealing with rat control issues. The attached map shows contact information to access help in your region, or you can visit: <http://prep.sarm.ca/+pub/File/PREP/PCO%20Regional%20Map%202017.pdf>

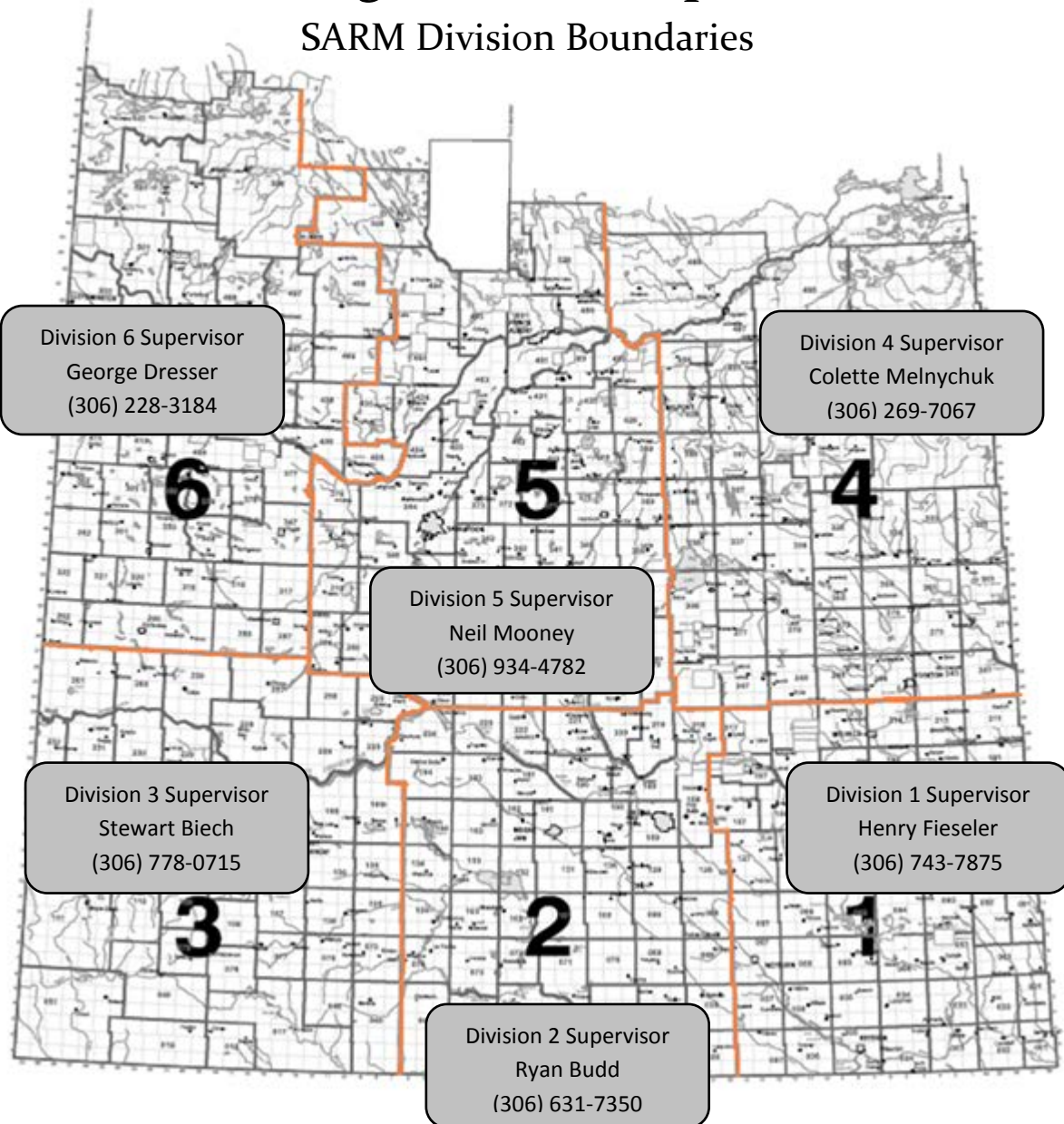
Contact Grant Peeling, Provincial Coordinator for more information, (306) 631-7141.

PREP also offers the following PCO supplies free of charge through SARM:

- Rat Bait warning posters & stickers
- "Your PCO Called" door hangers
- Rat Inspection Forms, Notice to Destroy Forms, Rat Infestation Reports
- PREP Brochures
- *Rat Control in Saskatchewan* information booklets

# PREP Regional PCO Supervisors

## SARM Division Boundaries



## Grant Peeling

PCO Provincial Coordinator

(306) 631-7141

### PREP Board Members

*Division 1: Teresa Walker - 306-435-7224*

*Division 2: Ray Beck (Chair) - 306-436-7405*

*Division 3: Bill Owens - 306-962-7462*

*Division 4: Mike Yaskowich - 306-554-7477*

*Division 5: John Serhienko - 306-497-7008*

*Division 6: Gerald Gerlinsky – 306-843-2902*

For more information about PREP

visit: [www.prep.sarm.ca](http://www.prep.sarm.ca)

Contact:

Annette Ellert, PREP Manager

[aellert@sarm.ca](mailto:aellert@sarm.ca)

(306) 761-3744

**PREP**

PROVINCIAL RAT  
ERADICATION  
PROGRAM