

Welcome to the Fall/Winter 2015 issue of the *PREP Update* newsletter; sharing valuable information, contacts and current happenings with RMs and PCOs regarding information relevant to rat control in our province. Twice a year, Spring/Summer and Fall/Winter, the *PREP Update* will be circulated to all RMs and PCOs. PREP asks that RMs share this information with your PCOs to ensure they don't miss out and are PREP Updated!

2015 PREP Statement of Compliance – Claim Deadline December 31, 2015

In 2015-16, the Provincial Rat Eradication Program (PREP) once again has received funding to \$1.4 million for this program year. Program forms and guidelines are available on the PREP website at prep.sarm.ca and claim deadline for this program year is **December 31, 2015**.

In order for an RM to be eligible for the PREP grant the following minimum level of service must be provided:

- An RM must have a Pest Control Officer (PCO) with a valid Pesticide Applicator's License.
- **Each site within an RM where agriculture produce is (or was) stored or where livestock or poultry are housed (or have been housed) must be inspected by the licensed PCO at least once a year. This includes both occupied and abandoned sites.**
- The RM must provide reports as required by SARM, the Ministry of Agriculture and the Federal Government under *Growing Forward 2*.

Ensure your RM is compliant and able to receive funding by following the Program Guidelines which include the requirements for eligibility, lists eligible expenses to be claimed, along with the resources PREP makes available to RMs each year.

January 2016 PREP Winter PCO Workshops – FREE to Attend!

Don't let your PCO miss out on this valuable free training and networking opportunity!

PREP is hosting its annual PCO workshops – **one in each of the six divisions** this coming January, 2016. These accredited workshops are **provided free of charge** to Saskatchewan Pest Control Officers. This year, the workshop features topics such as the requirements of being a PCO, types of baits and baiting requirements as well as information on biosecurity measures. **All workshops run 9:00 am – 3:00 pm**. The agenda and registration form is available at www.prep.sarm.ca, or contact Annette Ellert, PREP Manager at (306) 761-3744 or aellert@sarm.ca to register.

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| • DIVISION No. 1 - Tuesday, January 12, 2016 | Whitewood Curling Rink, Whitewood, SK |
| • DIVISION No. 2 - Thursday, January 14, 2016 | Heritage Inn, Moose Jaw, SK |
| • DIVISION No. 3 - Monday, January 18, 2016 | Gull Lake Elk's Hall, Gull Lake, SK |
| • DIVISION No. 4 - Thursday, January 21, 2016 | Kerry Vickar Centre, Melfort, SK |
| • DIVISION No. 5 - Tuesday, January 26, 2016 | St. Anne's Church, Saskatoon, SK |
| • DIVISION No. 6 - Thursday, January 28, 2016 | Tropical Inn, North Battleford, SK |

Succession Planning for PCOs

It's not just the Baby Boomers leaving the work force or changing occupational directions. Just as with rural administrators, experienced PCO's are preparing to leave the workforce. Your RM may have a succession plan in place for your administrator but what about your pest control officer? This is a vital role that requires training and practical experience to ensure the best job is being done for municipalities, ratepayers and the public in general.

If your PCO is expected to retire in the near future, your RM may want to consider preparing for that day so you have a seamless transition in that role. Having an experienced PCO mentor an individual not only provides valuable insight into tried and true practices but also into relationships built with your ratepayers.

Is there an individual interested in training to become a pest control officer? Perhaps your RM would like to train someone in that role for succession purposes? Visit the PREP website for an information sheet on *How to Become a Pest Control Officer*

(<http://prep.sarm.ca/+pub/File/PREP/How%20To%20Become%20A%20Pest%20Control%20Officer%202015.pdf>)

Training and licencing courses are available through the Pest Program at Saskatchewan Polytechnic. For more details visit their website at <http://saskpolytech.ca>.

Did you know... PREP PCO Supervisors (one in each SARM division) are available to assist and train a newly licenced PCO. If your RM doesn't have the opportunity to engage in a succession plan, PREP can help! The PREP Provincial Coordinator along with the six Regional PCO Supervisors are ready and able to provide mentorship and hands-on support in dealing with rat control issues. Be sure to contact Grant Peeling, Provincial Coordinator at (306) 631-7141 for more information.

REMINDER: Importance of Contracts between RMs and PCOs

As with any job/position, it is important to have a contract between parties laying out the guidelines and expectations of any job. This is no different when hiring a Pest Control Officer. PREP has available sample PCO Employment Contracts on their website at <http://prep.sarm.ca/rat-control-resources>. When an RM appoints an individual as a PCO, to act on their behalf when enforcing *The Pest Control Act*, a contract in place between the RM and the PCO serves to clarify duties, expectations and remuneration for all parties involved.

SOMETHING NEW! *Are you an RM looking for a PCO? A PCO looking for an RM to work with?*

PREP would like to assist RMs and PCOs by providing a forum for them to connect. Are you an RM looking for a PCO to fill a vacant position or maybe to fill a future position through your PCO succession plan? Are you a PCO currently seeking employment or wanting to add to the number of RMs you currently service?

Contact PREP and we will add this information to our PREP Home website page, <http://prep.sarm.ca>. Simply contact Annette Ellert at aellert@sarm.ca to provide the information you are seeking along with your contact information and wait for the calls to come pouring in!

PCO’s receive assistance and in-field training from PREP Supervisors

Regional supervisors ensure that the policies of the PREP board are carried out uniformly at the ground level. The supervisors ensure consistency in inspection procedures and baiting processes. They provide assistance during outbreaks. They also meet with municipal councils when requested.

Should the RM or PCO find they are unable to complete the requirements of PREP guidelines, don’t hesitate to contact Grant Peeling, PCO Provincial Coordinator, as PREP can assist with the necessary resources to ensure your RM is in compliance.

If you require assistance please contact the PCO Supervisor located in your SARM Division:

- Division 1: Henry Fieseler- 306-743-7875
- Division 2: Ryan Budd- 306-631-7350
- Division 3: Stewart Biech- 306-778-0715
- Division 4: Dennis Friend- 306-528-4320
- Division 5: Neil Mooney- 306-934-4782
- Division 6: George Dresser- 306-228-3184

PCO Provincial Coordinator, Grant Peeling – 306-631-7141

2015 PREP Board Members

The PREP Board is made up of elected RM officials who set program parameters and deal with issues that arise with rural municipalities, ADD Boards, government, and others. They focus on developing effective policies and procedures to eradicate rats in Saskatchewan.

Division 1:	Teresa Walker	306-435-7224	teresa.walker@sasktel.net
Division 2:	Ray Beck (Chair)	306-436-7405	norlandcreek@sasktel.net
Division 3:	Bill Owens	306-962-7462	bill259@sasktel.net
Division 4:	Kelvin Holowaty	306-269-7766	kelvin.h@sasktel.net
Division 5:	John Serhienko	306-497-4008	dustydog@xplornet.com
Division 6:	Gerald Gerlinsky	306-843-2902	sw13acres@gmail.com
SPCOA:	Grant Peeling	306-631-7141	gpeeling@sasktel.net
Ministry of Agriculture:	Richard Wilkins	306-787-5207	richard.wilkins@gov.sk.ca
SARM Board of Directors:	Carmen Sterling	306-861-1097	sarm.sterling@sasktel.net

RAT Fact: An adult rat can squeeze into your home through a hole as small as the size of a quarter.