

Welcome to the Fall/Winter 2017 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* is 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!***

2017 PREP Statement of Compliance – Claim Deadline December 31, 2017

In 2017-18, the Provincial Rat Eradication Program (PREP) has funding of \$1.4 million available 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, 2017**.

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.

A Message from Grant Peeling, PREP PCO Coordinator

I hope everyone had a good summer without injury or sickness. This past summer I found it a bit easier to make calls as the roads were dry and not under water like previous years. That being said, it was kind of warm for me and the air conditioning ran hot.

We have a very good program with PREP and it's in big part thanks to the PCOs across the province and the jobs they are doing. Something to remember is that the program's focus is on getting rid of the rats but certainly not at the expense of anyone getting hurt or sick.

RM Administrators... the SPCOA High Visibility Bomber Jackets have arrived and will be available at the PREP PCO Workshops in January 2018. Safety is a priority – outfit your PCO today and include it as an eligible PREP expense.

Here's wishing everyone a joyous Holiday Season and hope to see you at the PCO Workshops in January!

PCO's - FREE to Attend! January 2018 PREP PCO Winter Workshops

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, 2018. These accredited workshops are provided **free of charge** to Saskatchewan Pest Control Officers. This year the workshop features a variety of information including licensing, baits and baiting and a Clubroot and biosecurity presentation by the Ministry of Agriculture will round out the agenda. **All workshops run 10:00 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.

- DIVISION No. 1 - Thursday, January 4, 2018 Kipling Recreation Centre, Kipling, SK
- DIVISION No. 2 - Tuesday, January 9, 2018 Heritage Inn, Moose Jaw, SK
- DIVISION No. 3 - Thursday, January 11, 2018 Days Inn, Swift Current, SK
- DIVISION No. 4 - Tuesday, January 16, 2018 Kerry Vickar Centre, Melfort, SK
- DIVISION No. 5 - Thursday, January 18, 2018 St. Anne's Church, Saskatoon, SK
- DIVISION No. 6 - Monday, January 22, 2018 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](#).

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.

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 to provide technical assistance or advice 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:	Colette Melnychuk	306-269-7067
Division 5:	Neil Mooney	306-934-4782
Division 6:	George Dresser	306-228-3184

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

2017 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	rm259reeve@sasktel.net
Division 4:	Mike Yaskowich	306-554-7477	mayasko@hotmail.com
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: The rat is the first of the twelve animals of the Chinese zodiac. People born in this year are thought to possess characteristics which are associated with rats, namely: creativity, intelligence, honesty, ambition and generosity.