



**Animal Alliance
of Canada**



August 2010

Dear Friend,

I am writing to ask for your help. The Alberta and Saskatchewan governments use toxic poisons, Strychnine and Compound 1080 to kill wildlife when they come in conflict with humans. They are the last two provinces in Canada using these draconian substances.

These poisons are highly toxic and extremely cruel. Strychnine causes convulsions and seizures which occur shortly after ingestion and increase in frequency and strength. Poisoned animals are conscious and in intense pain. Studies show that death can occur from 15 minutes to as long as 6 hours.

Compound 1080 is highly toxic, with no known antidote. Once exposed, victims of 1080 poisoning die slowly. Symptoms appear 30 minutes or more after exposure and may last from hours to days. The animals experience repeated vomiting, involuntary hyperextension of the limbs, convulsions and intense pain. Compound 1080 is so potent that animals eating tainted carcasses—even months after that animal has died—can succumb to secondary poisoning.

The label for Compound 1080 reads:

PRECAUTIONS: KEEP OUT OF REACH OF CHILDREN AND OTHER UNAUTHORIZED PERSONNEL - EXTREMELY POISONOUS IF SWALLOWED – No effective antidote is known, but treating the symptoms is effective in 50% approximately of human cases.

Similar symptoms are experienced with Strychnine poisoning.

Yet despite the horrendous cruelty to the animals, the risk of poisoning non-target species and the risk to humans, Health Canada's Pest Management Regulatory Agency approved the release of these substances into the environment.

In Alberta, the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development and the Minister of Sustainable Resource Development have applied for and received approval to poison bears, wolves, coyotes and skunks. In addition, Saskatchewan's Minister of the Environment can poison wolves and coyotes.

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Under what restricted circumstances might the poisons be used? The registration approval form for Alberta describes the circumstance as follows:

For control of offending problem wolf, coyotes or black bears where property damage due to predation has occurred and where adequate protection is being provided to other domestic animals; for control of problem wolf, coyotes or black bears to ensure the safety of people particularly in and around remote northern communities; and for control of problem wolf, coyotes or black bears when predation has been shown to be one of the primary mortality factors which is limiting a specific wildlife population density and where the wildlife population is threatened with extirpation or where the wildlife population is economically or ecologically important.”

In other words, poison can be used in virtually any circumstances where conflict might occur. With your help, we must fight to stop the Saskatchewan and Alberta governments from using these poisons. The Saskatchewan government must provide a notice of intent to renew their application to use Compound 1080 by September 24, 2010. They have not done so to date.

We have an opportunity to oppose the renewal. I have included a sign on letter urging the Premier of Saskatchewan to stop the use of Compound 1080.

The deadline for Alberta's renewal of Strychnine is December 2012. However, we have included a sign-on letter to the Premier of Alberta to withdraw their request for Strychnine.

In addition, the federal Pest Management Regulatory Agency reviews restricted products like Strychnine and Compound 1080. The agency fails to consider the cruel nature of the poison, the matter of secondary poisoning and the broader and long term impacts of the poison on the environment. We intend to engage the Agency regarding the obvious inadequacies of the review and approval process.

Please take the time to mail in the sign on letters. Let the Premiers know that you are concerned and horrified by the actions of their governments. And I would be very grateful if you could give a small donation towards our campaign to ban Strychnine and Compound 1080. Thank you so much for helping us fight for the animals.

Sincerely,



Liz White
Director / Leader

The Honourable Brad Wall, Premier
226 Legislative Building
Regina, Saskatchewan
S4S 0B3

Dear Premier,

I am writing to ask you not to renew your application for Compound 1080 with the Pest Management Regulatory Agency. Compound 1080 is highly toxic to target and non-target animals and humans, with no known anecdote. Symptoms include repeat vomiting, involuntary hyperextension of the limbs, convulsions and intense pain. Once exposed, victims die slowly. Compound 1080 is so potent that animals eating tainted carcasses—even months after that animal has died—can succumb to secondary poisoning.

Effective, cost-efficient human wildlife conflict prevention and non-lethal intervention programmes exist which should be used instead of such draconian methods.

With these concerns in mind and for the sake of Saskatchewan's wildlife and environment, I urge you to implement the following suggestions:

1. Do not renew Saskatchewan's federal permit for Compound 1080 which expires at the end of this year;
2. Ban Compound 1080, as all other Canadian provinces have done; and
3. Implement a prevention and non-lethal intervention programme that seeks to resolve human wildlife conflicts in an effective, humane, environmentally sensitive cost efficient manner.

Yours sincerely,

Signature

Name

Address

City

Province

Postal Code

Date

Premier Ed Stelmach
Room 307, Legislature Building
10800 - 97th Avenue
Edmonton, Alberta, T5K 2B6

Dear Premier,

I am writing to ask you to withdraw your application for Strychnine with the Pest Management Regulatory Agency. Strychnine is a highly toxic and extremely cruel poison. It causes convulsions and seizures which occur shortly after ingestion and increase in frequency and strength. Poisoned animals are conscious and in intense pain. Studies show that death can occur from 15 minutes to as long as 6 hours.

The Strychnine label reads, "*KEEP OUT OF REACH OF UNAUTHORIZED PERSONNEL. Do not contaminate feed and foodstuffs. Keep away from children and domestic animals. May be fatal if swallowed. This product is toxic to wildlife. Exposed baits and poisoned carcasses may be hazardous to birds and other wildlife.*"

Safe, humane, effective, cost-efficient human wildlife conflict prevention and non-lethal intervention programmes exist which should be used instead of such draconian substances. With these concerns in mind and for the sake of Alberta's wildlife and environment, I urge you to implement the following suggestions:

1. Do not renew Alberta's federal permit for Strychnine which expires December 2012;
2. Ban Strychnine for animal use; and
3. Implement a prevention and non-lethal intervention programme that seeks to resolve human wildlife conflicts in an effective, humane, environmentally sensitive cost efficient manner.

Yours sincerely,

Signature

Name

Address

City

Province

Postal Code

Date