

Alberta Rat Control Program

WHEREAS the Alberta Rat Control Program has been in existence since the early 1950's; and

WHEREAS it is estimated that rats cause about \$200 billion in damages worldwide; and

WHEREAS rats are among nature's most prolific breeders; and

WHEREAS rats potentially pose a health hazard to humans; and

WHEREAS EDRR – Early Detection, Rapid Response is clearly the method needed to maintain Alberta's rat free status; and

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Province of Alberta continue to maintain adequate funding to ensure the effectiveness of the Provincial Rat Control Program.

Background

The Provincial rat control program has been in existence for approximately 50 years, this program has, no doubt, saved Albertans millions of dollars over this time frame. Alberta's rat free status is maintained by the "Rat Patrol" that operates along Alberta's eastern border. The rat patrol maintains a rat free buffer that extends into Saskatchewan.

The recent infestation in Southern Alberta has proven that no matter how vigilant we are, rats were able to not only survive but multiply unnoticed in an area frequented by people. This infestation is being handled quickly and professionally by Alberta rat patrol as well as other municipal pest control officers. The fact that this infestation occurred is reason enough to reiterate to the province that funding to support the rat program needs at minimum to be maintained, and in all reality should likely be increased. The last thing anyone wants to see is the province lose its' "Rat Free" status.