



Chair Bravo and Members of the Economic and Community Development Committee
Toronto City Hall
100 Queen Street West
Toronto, ON M5H 2N1

Request to Re-Evaluate the City's Rat Response Plan to Prevent Lethal Impacts on Wildlife, Pets and Human Health

Dear Chair Bravo and Committee Members,

As one of the oldest national nature charities in the country, Nature Canada has been a national voice for protecting, defending and conserving our environment and Species at Risk since 1939. We connect the dots between local action and systemic change to address the biodiversity and climate crises with a variety of our programs, one of which is [Bird Friendly Cities](#). Toronto was one of the very first cities to become certified by this program with the dedicated action from many community partners. The program is built on 3 main pillars: reducing key threats to birds such as pesticide and rodenticide use and window collisions; protecting and restoring bird habitat; and educating the public about the importance of birds in their community.

Please accept this letter as formal comment for tomorrow's July 9, 2025 Economic and Development Committee meeting on item 2025.EC22.5, [Rat Response Plan](#).

As you may know, rat poisons, such as rodenticides aim to kill rodents through the prevention of blood clotting and disrupting nervous system functions. However, it is important to note that [rodenticides do not only harm rats but pose the same lethal effects on wildlife that consume them](#) such as many Species at Risk, raptors, owls, foxes and other mammals as it moves up the food-chain in local ecosystems. Additionally, rodenticides have been found to cause death in companion animals, humans and children. At the start of this year two Snowy [Owls were found dead at Tommy Thompson Park due to rodenticide use](#). Additionally, **over 17,500 Torontonians have [called on Toronto City Council to ban rodenticide use](#)**.

It is crucial to ban the use of rodenticide to stop these preventable poisoning deaths.

Environmentally friendly alternatives, that are proven more effective than rodenticide use include:

- Sealing off all entry points into buildings
- Proper waste disposal and management in a locked container
- Rise out recyclable and remove outdoor food sources
- Do not leave pet food outside
- Hire a humane wildlife removal professional (eg:
- Keep barbeques and patios clean

By implementing these practices, we can break the cycle of infestation while protecting our environment, human health, pets and wildlife. We respectfully ask that Council consider measures to restrict the use of rodenticides within municipal boundaries and promote education on safer, more effective alternatives as listed above.

Thank you for your time and leadership in fostering a healthier, more sustainable community for all species.

Sincerely,
Autumn Jordan