



ALBERTA  
AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION

*Office of the Minister  
MLA, Highwood*

April 2, 2026

Dear Stakeholders,

I am writing to provide an update regarding the emergency use application for 2% liquid strychnine to address the growing challenges associated with Richardson Ground Squirrel populations in Alberta.

As a result of sustained advocacy efforts, the federal government has approved an Emergency Use Registration (EUR) of two per cent liquid strychnine for the control of RGS. The approval is valid for 19 months, from March 30, 2026, to November 1, 2027.

This approval comes with federal conditions in order to mitigate risks as outlined by PMRA. Alberta agreed to these requirements to ensure producers once again have access to an effective tool to manage Richardson Ground Squirrel populations. An overview of the additional requirements is as follows:

- Restricted access to only eligible areas with demonstrated economic thresholds and significant infestations (see attached map)
- Mandatory training for all users and distributors prior to accessing the product
- Strict application requirements, including use in burrows to reduce non-target risks
- Mandatory monitoring and reporting, including carcass collection and documentation
- Strong compliance and enforcement mechanisms, including audits and loss of access for misuse

These measures reflect an enhanced stewardship model developed to address concerns expressed by PMRA to protect nontarget species and species at risk.

Based on observations and farmer input, it was obvious there was a serious issue. GSD populations had reached levels that were causing considerable damage to crop, grazing land, and infrastructure, and were contributing to broader economic and environmental losses across affected regions.

While approval has been granted, there will be a period of implementation before strychnine is available for use. Mandatory training will be completed in advance, so producers are ready to use the product as soon as it becomes available. Timing will depend on procurement of the material required to manufacture the product and the subsequent distribution process.

Additional information on training requirements, timelines, and program rollout will be shared in the coming days.

We appreciate the continued engagement from producers, municipalities, and stakeholders on this issue. Your input has been instrumental in advancing this work and ensuring producers have access to the tools they need.

Kind regards,

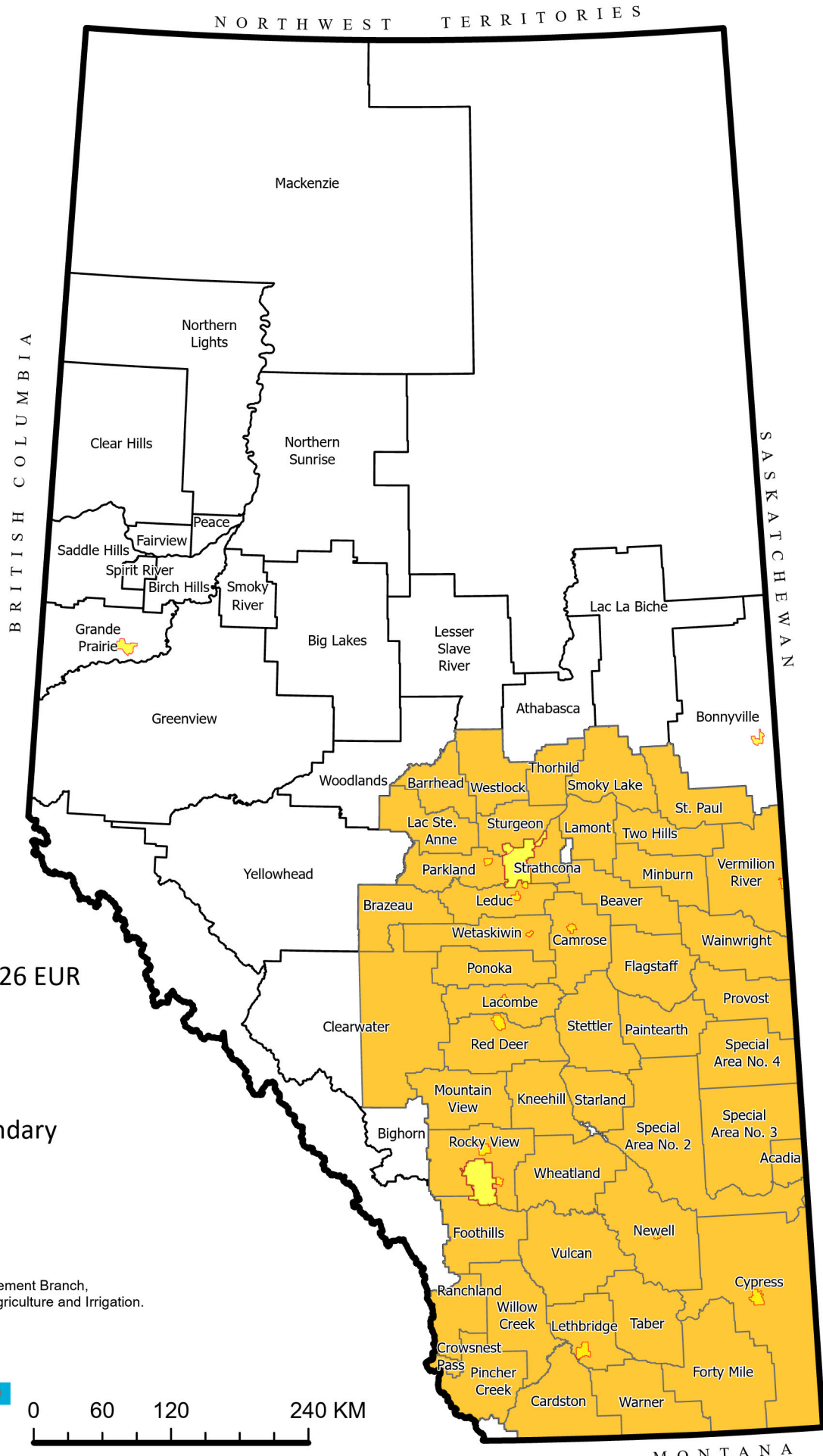
A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'RJ Sigurdson', with a stylized, sweeping flourish at the end.

Honourable RJ Sigurdson

Minister, Agriculture and Irrigation

# Focus Area for 2026 EUR

NORTHWEST TERRITORIES



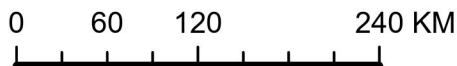
## Focus Area

## All Focus Area for 2026 EUR

- Focus Area
- Municipalities
- Cities
- Provincial Boundary



Map created on 2026-03-23.  
 Prepared by Natural Resource Management Branch,  
 Primary Agriculture Division, Alberta Agriculture and Irrigation.  
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