

Rat control and healthy buildings

I will establish a coordinated rat-control program that fixes the food, shelter and building defects sustaining infestations. The DTES and Chinatown will be early priorities, with the same service standard citywide.

WHAT I WILL BRING FORWARD

- Create one reporting route and a named coordinator linking sanitation, property inspection, pest professionals and health authorities. Inspect high-risk SROs and food-adjacent problem sites.
- Require secure waste containers, prompt overflow collection, sealed entry points, repaired drains and documented prevention plans. Coordinate adjacent properties and construction sites so treatment does not merely move activity next door.
- Use trained pest professionals, protected traps and follow-up inspections. Follow provincial pesticide restrictions and prioritize methods that protect children, pets and wildlife.
- Help vulnerable tenants obtain inspections and enforce owner duties. Offer narrowly targeted repair help only with compliance, affordability and repayment conditions where lawful.

Delivery. Within 100 days, publish priority areas, a costed first-year plan and a monitoring protocol. Aim to inspect every identified high-risk SRO within the first year.

Public measures. Adopt a proposed 50% reduction in standardized rat-activity indicators in treated priority blocks within two years. Establish a seasonal baseline and comparison areas first; report monitoring effort and neighbouring displacement. Set the four-year target after the first-year evaluation.

Conditions. This is an activity-reduction target, not a verified population estimate. No rat bounty, casual poison distribution or unsupported claim that research has been useless.

Connects to: 04, 14, 20, 25

Evidence notes: S02, S03, S04 in the full policy package.