

# CITY OF MOOSE JAW MOSQUITO CONTROL POLICY

<b>POLICY TITLE</b> <i>Mosquito Control Policy</i>	<b>ADOPTED BY:</b>	<b>EFFECTIVE DATE</b>
<b>ORIGIN</b> <i>Parks &amp; Recreation Dept.</i>	<b>RESOLUTION #</b>	<b>PAGE #</b> <i>1 of 4</i>

## 1. PURPOSE & OBJECTIVE

1.1 The purpose of this policy is to ensure appropriate measures are taken to suppress the mosquito population to minimize the nuisance factor and to respond to health concerns. It is also to ensure that the application of mosquito control products is performed in an effective, efficient, safe, responsible, environmentally sensitive manner.

## 2. STATEMENT

2.1 The City of Moose Jaw Parks and Recreation Department recognizes its responsibility to control the mosquito population in the City of Moose Jaw. It is impossible to totally eliminate all mosquitoes, so the City of Moose Jaw's Control Program attempts to reduce mosquito populations to minimize the nuisance factor and to respond to health concerns.

2.2 The primary control of mosquitoes will be through the use of larvicide control products, which kill mosquito larvae on contact before they reach the adult stage. Widespread spraying with adulticides known as "rescue spraying" shall only be used as a last resort.

## 3. DEFINITIONS

3.1 Pest – A pest is any living organism determined to be out of place, or not wanted.

3.2 Pesticide Applicator – A person employed by the City of Moose Jaw, or a contractor, who has received training in the correct handling and proper use of pesticides and is in possession of a valid Pesticide applicators license issued by the Province of Saskatchewan.

3.3 West Nile Virus – West Nile Virus is a virus carried and spread by mosquitoes that feed on the blood of infected birds. Symptoms of West Nile Virus vary from person to person. Some people experience no symptoms of illness, while others experience flu-like symptoms such as fever, headache, body aches, or a rash. Of the people who get ill, a few may develop a more serious form of the illness such as encephalitis, an inflammation of the brain, that may lead to death. This is most likely to occur among people 50 years and older, or people with poor health.

3.4 Fogging – A process of applying adulticides by spraying fine droplets of the chemical agent into the air to contact flying mosquitoes. Air currents move the droplets.

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- 3.5 Larvae – The first stage of a mosquito after it hatches from an egg. Larvae feed and develop into adult mosquitoes over a period of several weeks.
- 3.6 Adult mosquito – An airborne pest that can carry the West Nile Virus.
- 3.7 Bacillus thuringiensis israelensis (Bti – Trade Names Vectobac or Aquabac) – Bti is a bacterium found naturally in soils. Since 1982, it has been used successfully worldwide as a biological pest control agent to combat mosquitoes and black flies.
- 3.8 Larvicide – Chemical or biological agents that are used to destroy mosquito larvae. Larvicides are applied directly to standing water where larvae are developing.
- 3.9 Adulticide – Chemical agents that destroy adult mosquitoes. These products are applied to vegetation, where mosquitoes rest, or are sprayed as fine droplets in the air to contact flying mosquitoes.

## **4. CONTROL PRODUCTS**

- 4.1 The City of Moose Jaw will only use mosquito control products that meet the requirements of the US Environmental Protection Agency and the Pest Management Regulatory Agency (PMRA) of Health Canada
- 4.2 The application of mosquito control products will be conducted according to manufacturers recommendations.
- 4.3 The following types of control products will be used for the following control methods:
  - 4.3.1 Larvicide Application
    - 4.3.1.1 Bacillus thuringiensis israelensis (Bti – Trade Names - Vectobac 200 G or Aquabac 200 G) are the primary control products used for controlling mosquito larvae in standing water bodies. Vectobac 200 G and Aquabac 200 G are environmentally friendly, acceptable control products, which have no detrimental effects on the environment or to non-target organisms.
    - 4.3.1.2 Other products meeting the requirements of the US Environmental Protection Agency and the PMRA of Health Canada.

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## 5. LARVAE MONITORING AND CONTROL

- 5.1 The City of Moose Jaw will control mosquito larvae by monitoring and treating standing water in all areas within the city and within a five km radius surrounding city limits.
- 5.2 Monitoring will take place weekly beginning in early May and continuing until late August.
- 5.3 The water will be treated with a larvicide, if larvae counts reach undesirable levels.

## 6. ADULT MONITORING AND CONTROL

- 6.1 At the present time, the City of Moose Jaw does not monitor adult mosquito populations.
- 6.2 Saskatchewan Health, in cooperation with various levels of government is in the process of developing mosquito monitoring and control programs to prevent the spread of the West Nile Virus.
- 6.3 Saskatchewan Health may make it mandatory for communities to monitor and control adult mosquito populations. If this were the case, Saskatchewan Health would also develop specific criteria and guidelines to initiate widespread adulticide fogging programs known as “rescue spraying”.
- 6.4 The City of Moose Jaw would activate a response program to control adult mosquitoes based on the established criteria and in accordance with guidelines, and requirements established by Saskatchewan Health.
- 6.5 Control products, and methods of application recommended by Saskatchewan Health would be used to for reducing adult mosquito populations.

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## 7. STAFFING

7.1 The City of Moose Jaw will ensure that all employees involved in the mosquito control program have received training in the correct handling and proper use of larvicides and adulticides, and are in possession of a valid Pesticide applicators license issued by the Province of Saskatchewan.

## 8. COMMUNICATION

8.1 To ensure citizens have the opportunity to avoid all areas that have been treated, a variety of public information strategies shall be implemented. All communications shall be done in conjunction with the City of Moose Jaw Parks and Recreation Office.

## 9. RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT

The Parks and Recreation Department shall continue the practice of investigating new and alternative control products for mosquito control. New products are evaluated to determine if their use could improve the control program.

## 10. RESPONSIBILITIES

10.1 City Council shall be responsible for:

10.1.1 Approving this policy and all amendments.

10.2 The Parks and Recreation Director shall be responsible for:

10.2.1 Contacting Saskatchewan Health to obtain current information on requirements and guidelines established for mosquito monitoring and control programs.

10.2.2 The implementation, follow-up and update of this policy as deemed necessary.