

August 10, 2023

**Subject: Urgent Action Needed: Revisiting the Bear Problem in Prince George**

Dear Mayor Yu and Council Members,

I am writing to raise a critical issue that demands immediate attention – the persistent bear problems in Prince George. This year has seen an escalation in bear encounters, posing significant risks to both our community and the bear population. One of the leading factors contributing to these incidents is the improper management of garbage.

I'm located in the Hart and there are multiple bear problems here every day.

Bear human Interactions compromise public safety and endanger bears. Additional measures to address this ongoing issue are clearly needed.

To effectively address the bear problem and enhance public safety, I recommend the following:

**Renewed Public Awareness Campaign:** Launch an intensified public awareness campaign to educate residents on the importance of securing garbage bins adequately. This could be done in collaboration with the Conservation Officer Service as has been done in the past.

**Strengthened Compliance and Enforcement Measures:** Enforce existing bylaws related to waste management more rigorously. People are leaving garbage cans unsecured in their driveways or elsewhere on their properties. They can be fined up to \$300, however, many people disregard these consequences.

I suggest bylaw officers can easily locate these infractions and issue warnings and follow up tickets as needed. Additional resources will likely be needed to increase the effectiveness of this measure.

**Bear-Proof Bins:** Reevaluate the feasibility of providing bear-proof garbage bins for residents. I believe the earlier test was flawed, only one design was tested. As well, the latches required cleaning and lubricating once a year, likely most people were not aware of this.

There are now multiple certified containers available. They are being used in many communities, examples include Anchorage, Alaska, and within BC, Whistler, Squamish, Revelstoke, and Maple Ridge.

Prince George should be a leader in this endeavour not lag behind.

I urge you to allocate the necessary resources and prioritize the implementation of these revised measures.

Thank you for your attention.

Sincerely,  
Herb Langin  
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Prince George, BC  
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