

July 16, 2024

Dear Mayor and Council,

Established in 1953, The Fur-Bearers is a registered charity working to protect fur-bearing animals through conservation, advocacy, research, and education.

We are writing regarding the high number of black bears that were killed by conservation officers in the Prince George area in 2023. We publish the deadliest communities for black bears in British Columbia list on an annual basis. Prince George saw the highest number of black bears killed by conservation officers in the province in 2023, with 76 black bears killed by the agency. This is up from 32 black bears killed in 2022.

This record high number indicates that more must be done to protect black bears in Prince George. To that end, we commend the city for taking recent steps to improve outcomes for both residents and black bears, including the creation of an Advisory Committee on Bear Awareness. As outlined in the Terms of Reference for the committee, one of the considerations for this committee is for, “education opportunities to residents regarding bear proofing their properties.” Our organization can help support the city’s educational efforts by providing free educational resources for black bear coexistence.

The Fur-Bearers runs a [door hanger program](#), where volunteers distribute educational door hangers to high-incidence communities and neighbourhoods. These door hangers provide information about how to coexist with wildlife, including the importance of managing attractants and picking fruit frees. Last year, we sent 200 educational door hangers to volunteers in Prince George to distribute to residents.

With greater reach, this program could help support the city’s goals in providing education to residents about bear proofing their properties. Please reach out if the city is interested in opportunities to partner, including co-branding the door hangers or assisting with distribution to residents in Prince George.

Our organization also supports other key measures to reduce black bear deaths, including the calls from residents and local groups for the city to provide bear-resident garbage bins to households. We believe that bear-resident bins are a necessary measure to reduce and prevent black bear deaths in Prince George.

We look forward to hearing from you, and hope for an opportunity to work together to improve outcomes for residents, businesses, and wildlife.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Aaron Hofman
Director of Advocacy and Policy
The Fur-Bearers