

BEAR INTERACTION RISK REDUCTION POLICY

BACKGROUND

- A. There are at least 12 known bears who are habituated to eating garbage and who hang around the Bailey Landfill near to Ch'iyáqtel Reserve No. 13.
- B. Ch'iyáqtel has contacted BC Wildlife Services Conservation Officers who are working with the City of Chilliwack, the operator of the Bailey Landfill, to remove or contain attractants and reduce the number of bears that come to the Landfill.
- C. The bears from the Landfill frequently stray onto Ch'iyáqtel Reserve No. 13.
- D. The actions of Ch'iyáqtel Members and residents can have an impact on whether bears are attracted to the Reserve.
- E. Ch'iyáqtel has taken numerous steps deter bears including increasing garbage pick-up frequency, circulating notices to residents to properly contain garbage and reduce attractants, coordinating with the city and with BC Wildlife Service.
- F. Several Ch'iyáqtel Members have expressed opposition to, or concerns about, destruction of bears by BC Wildlife Services as a solution to problem bears, partly because of cultural teachings about respecting all creatures.
- G. There remain significant risks of damage to individuals and property through bear interactions; and
- H. Ch'iyáqtel has limited resources to deal with bear issues and cannot take away funding and resources from other crucial areas such as education, housing, and social services.

POLICY

Therefore, Ch'iyáqtel sets out the following policies to reduce bear interaction risks.

1. Ch'iyáqtel will instruct the Housing and Infrastructure Department to continue with the increased frequency of garbage pick-ups to reduce the time that garbage bins are on the streets and waiting for collection.

2. Ch'iyáqtel will send notices to Members and residents in bear-prone areas from time to time, urging them to follow best practices including:
 - (a) Composting food waste separately from garbage.
 - (b) Placing garbage bins on the street at the last possible minute prior to collection and preferably in the morning on pick-up day rather than overnight.
3. Ch'iyáqtel will supply bear-bangers to Ch'iyáqtel Members or residents in bear-prone areas at the request of the individuals provided that the individuals sign a form agreeing to:
 - (a) read and comply with all safety instructions.
 - (b) safely store the bear-bangers in a locked closet, box, or cabinet, safe from access by children.
 - (c) only use the bear-bangers as necessary to deal with potential bear interaction situations; and
 - (d) release and indemnify Ch'iyáqtel against all claims relating to the storage, use or effectiveness of the bear-bangers.
4. Ch'iyáqtel will supply phone numbers to Members and residents in bear prone areas for BC Wildlife Services, the RCMP and other enforcement options.
5. In extreme circumstances, if there is a problem bear that has threatened or attacked an individual or pet, Ch'iyáqtel may call BC Wildlife Services to request an investigation and possible destruction of the bear.
6. Ch'iyáqtel will make best efforts to reduce bear interaction risks through education and through following this policy. If a member or resident repeatedly fails to follow the policy or creates repeated or unnecessary risks relating to bears, Ch'iyáqtel may take enforcement measures under Ch'iyáqtel laws and subject to available resources.