



British Columbia

August 31, 2021

To whom this may concern.

I am the Sergeant of the Fraser North Zone of the Conservation Officer Service (COS). Port Moody is part of the Fraser North Zone. We understand that there are current plans for allowing urban chickens and within the City of Port Moody. With consultation with zone officers, our Provincial Wildlife Conflict Coordinator and Regional Biologist, we oppose this plan and feel it would contradict what we are trying to achieve in preventing Human Wildlife Conflicts and further strain resources for the COS to respond effectively to already high call volumes across the zone to prevent and respond to Human Wildlife conflicts.

Public Safety is the primary concern of the COS. Bringing additional attractants into the city will result in further conflicts. The Fraser North Zone receives the highest reports of Human Wildlife Conflicts in the Province. On average Port Moody receives 400 Human Wildlife Conflict calls per year, and most of those calls involve Black Bears. The main attractants are unsecured food waste, poor husbandry practices with livestock (chickens) and fruit. I have seen a steady increase to conflicts arising with conflicts involving black bears preying on chickens across the zone. We would be happy to provide current stats to reference. Additionally, you can view further information about conflicts on the Wildsafe, BC WARP map here: <https://warp.wildsafebc.com/warp/>.

Port Moody already has a significant number of wildlife conflicts, adding more attractants would be counterintuitive to the work that's been done. We have worked extensively with the representatives to reduce conflicts through consultation of issues, suggesting changes to bylaws, and the promotion of becoming a Bear Smart Community. We are grateful for the work that has been done so far and would like to see this status achieved.

Representatives of the Port Moody are also participants of the North East Sector Black Bear Working Group. The group of is comprised of municipalities, Non-Government organizations, and local government agencies. The group's goal is to reduce the number of conflicts that are occurring, which results in less Black Bears having to be destroyed because of human caused conflicts.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'TH', is located below the 'Yours truly,' text.

Todd Hunter
Sergeant Conservation Officer
Fraser North Zone