

Help Keep Wildlife Wild and Your Community Safe

Every year in BC, thousands of animals come into conflict with people as they seek out food, water or shelter in our communities.

WildSafeBC provides information on how we can **LIVE, WORK, PLAY** and **GROW** in wildlife country. Visit us at wildsafebc.com.



British Columbia Conservation Foundation



TOP 10 WAYS TO HELP WILDLIFE

1. Keep your garbage secure – store it in a secure location indoors or a bear-resistant enclosure.
2. Only put your garbage/compost/recyclables out on collection day - never the night before.
3. Manage your fruit trees so that fruit is picked as it ripens and no windfall accumulates.
4. Bring bird feeders in from April through November – and when they are out, ensure that the ground underneath is kept free of seeds.
5. Feed pets indoors.
6. Maintain your compost so that it doesn't smell. Add fruit slowly. Never add meat or other animal products.
7. Protect orchards, beehives and small livestock with a properly installed and maintained electric fence.
8. Respect wild animals by not feeding them. Food-conditioned wildlife are more likely to come into conflict.
9. Keep barbecues clean and odour free.
10. Report any wildlife in conflict immediately to the Conservation Officer Service 24/7 at 1.877.952.7277.



From the Bear Pit

Regional Council Newsletter

April 26, 2021

2021 Graduation Banners

The 2021 Fort Nelson Senior Secondary (FNSS) Graduating Class submitted a [letter](#) to Council requesting help by sponsoring Banners on the street poles to help celebrate and make their graduating year more memorable. Due to restrictions imposed because of COVID-19 the 2021 Graduating Class is facing the same challenges as last year's class. Regional Council has asked Staff to obtain quotes for this year with provision for an upgrade in installation to ensure wear and tear on banners withstands the elements. Also, in an effort to expedite the process it was agreed an email poll could determine the lowest bidder. [Administration Report No. 20/21](#)

Strategic Planning for 2021 Tourism

In keeping with the NRRM Strategic Priorities to strengthen and diversify the economy a Tourism Strategic Plan has begun in partnership with [Bannikin Travel & Tourism](#) and BC-based [EM Adventure Marketing](#). The new Tourism Strategy will incorporate COVID-19 recovery measures to determine next-steps for the regions short and long-term tourism development. The Strategy will take into account the [Northeastern B.C. Destination Development Strategy](#) as well as existing regional and provincial tourism strategies. The project is broken into three main phases:

Phase 1: Research, Consultation & Engagement, Phase 2: Analysis, and Phase 3: Development of Tourism Strategy.

We are in the final stages of Phase 1 and the project has included:

- 3 virtual workshops targeting various stakeholders including but not limited to those with experience in trails, experiences, remote lodges, outfitters, hospitality and the Northern Rockies Tourism Advisory Committee
- a public information session
- an online survey
- additional information for the public is being maintained on the Projects & Initiatives page on the Municipal Website as the project progresses as well as on the NRRM's Facebook page

Bannikin Travel and Tourism provided Regional Council a synopsis of what they have heard thus far through Phase 1 and facilitate further discussion. [Administration Report No. 19/21](#)

Amendment to Garbage Disposal and Wildlife Attractants Bylaw

Challenges with the [Garbage Disposal and Wildlife Attractants Bylaw No. 05.2009](#) have been identified. The Attractants Bylaw was adopted in 2009, the [Curbside Collection Bylaw](#) was established in 2014 to work in coordination with the Attractants Bylaw to ensure bins were stored and managed in accordance with best practices to mitigate attracting wildlife.

An ongoing partnership with WildSafe BC and the Conservation Officer Service (COS), noted that several areas of the Attractants Bylaw have been identified as being vague. To better meet the goal of minimizing attractants and potential human-wildlife conflict and provide residents with clear direction NRRM staff provided recommendations such as:

- Improved and more detailed definitions including:
 1. Additional terms to the definition of "Wildlife Attractant" such as Livestock feed, pet food, game meat, packaging having contained food, etc.
 2. A revised definition for "Wildlife Resistant Container" to take in to account modifications to curbside bins that would render them wildlife-resistant and further require that non-residential solid waste be stored in a metal self-closing and latching container.
- Within the Storage of Garbage section, to require that garbage be stored in a wildlife resistant container, or securely within the principal or accessory building or structure on a property.
- Within the section referring to Garbage Collection Day, it has been suggested that the timeframe for removing empty curbside bins be extended to provide residents more time (beyond the current 7:00 p.m.) to bring in their bin once emptied. It is important to note that WildSafeBC has acknowledged that emptied curbside bins is less so a wildlife attractant than a full bin, which would offer wildlife the reward of a non-natural food source.
- Under Other Wildlife Attractants, the bylaw could address free-range and/or caged animals (e.g. backyard chickens) as potential attractants for dangerous wildlife.

Regional Council has approved to amend the Garbage and Wildlife Attractants Bylaw.



Also of note...

- Bylaw No. 190, 2021 (Bylaw Notice Enforcement Amendment) was given first, second and third readings. [Bylaw Report #190/21](#) • [Bylaw Notice Enforcement Amendment Bylaw No. 190, 2021](#)
- Mayors Discretionary Charges for [First Quarter](#) were received for information, and noted that the amount listed was actually a credit to the Municipality
- Regional Council approved a [letter](#) of support to the Fort Nelson Friendship Society for a Harm Reduction Van.
- A [Letter](#) for a Facility Expansion Request from the Phoenix Theatre Management Society was received by Council with a request for more detailed information.

- A [letter](#) of support was sent by Council to Minister Rob Fleming for improvements to the schedule of BC Bus North.
- Council resolved to have NRRM staff bring back information to be reviewed for a Parks and Public Facilities Bylaw, as well as information on the associated rates and fees. [Administration Report No 21/21](#)
- Council sent a letter of support to MP Zimmer regarding a [National Suicide Prevention Hotline](#).
- Bylaw No.189,2021 Street Name and Civic Address Bylaw was given first, second, and third readings as amended. [Bylaw Report #189/21](#) • [Attachment](#)

