



SUNSHINE COAST
BEAR ALLIANCE
REPLACING FEAR *with* KNOWLEDGE

Town of Gibsons Council
474 South Fletcher Road,
Gibsons, B.C., V0N 1V0

Re: Short Term Rental Accommodation Bylaw No. 1065-47

July 9, 2020

On behalf of the Sunshine Coast Bear Alliance I would like to submit a request for consideration by Mayor Beamish and council concerning short term rentals in relation to visitors and wildlife interactions.

The Sunshine Coast Bear Alliance greatly appreciates the efforts taken by the Town of Gibsons in developing garbage management bylaws that address the issue of human-bear conflict that can easily arise due to improper garbage disposal and attractants at residences and vacation establishments.

Given the challenge in reaching the many visitors to our coast with regard to enjoying their stay while remaining safe in our community – home to many bears and other wildlife - we respectfully suggest the following.

That all short term rental accommodations be required to display permanent signage informing visitors that it is an offense under the Wildlife Act to feed bears, or any other wildlife, and/or to make available any form of attractants.

The Wildlife Act of British Columbia states:

33.1 (1)A person must not

(a)intentionally feed or attempt to feed dangerous wildlife, or

(b)provide, leave or place an attractant in, on or about any land or premises with the intent of attracting dangerous wildlife.

(2)A person must not leave or place an attractant in, on or about any land or premises where there are or where there are likely to be people, in a manner in which the attractant could

(a)attract dangerous wildlife to the land or premises, and

(b)be accessible to dangerous wildlife.

Our request evolved after a report of visitors last year that were observed feeding marshmallows to a bear from the deck of their Bed & Breakfast.

There are many visitors to the coast that are not familiar with bears and their behaviours and are unaware of the consequences of their actions. Bears become food conditioned very quickly and are then at a high risk of termination – it is for the safety of both the visitors and our bears that we respectfully make this request.

We would welcome the opportunity to speak with you about this suggestion and what it may entail at your convenience.

I can be easily reached at Email: scbearalliance@gmail.com or [REDACTED] or [REDACTED]

Most appreciatively,

Diane Henley

Diane Henley
Sunshine Coast Bear Alliance
Founding Member