



THE ASSOCIATION FOR THE
PROTECTION
of Fur-Bearing Animals

179 W. Broadway
Vancouver, BC, Canada V5Y 1P4

Telephone: 604-435-1850
Fax: 604-435-1840

fd@furbearerdefenders.com
furbearerdefenders.com

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Trend continues: juvenile skunk left in trap

Minister of Forests, Lands and Natural Resources still refusing meeting with advocates

VANCOUVER – A young female skunk was left to suffer in an inherently inhumane trap in the area of Delta, B.C., the latest in an alarming trend of such incidents in recent months. But despite pleas from the public following these events, Minister of Forests, Lands and Natural Resources Steve Thomson continues to refuse a meeting with a Vancouver-based wildlife advocacy group.

The Association for the Protection of Fur-Bearing Animals (The Fur-Bearers) was contacted after the juvenile skunk was found and rescued by wildlife rehabilitators.

“Too often we are hearing of incidents where animals, both wild and domestic, are being caught, terrified and injured in these inherently inhumane traps,” says Adrian Nelson, manager of wildlife conflict for The Fur-Bearers. “There is never a legitimate reason for this kind of cruel behaviour – particularly when non-lethal, truly humane solutions to end conflict or nuisance-type behaviour exist.”

The Fur-Bearers have worked with numerous municipalities in British Columbia and across the country to provide hands-on education and solutions to bring an end to conflict between people and wildlife. And despite petitions, letters and e-mails, Minister Thomson has refused to discuss these solutions and the requests of municipalities.

“We are aware of multiple municipalities who have said they want to prohibit the use of these dangerous traps because the province has been unable to properly protect their citizens, pets and wild neighbours,” Nelson said. “But the Minister has ignored the requests from BC communities for more than two years – and has refused meetings with our national organization, which since 1953 has worked to find non-lethal solutions to trapping.”

The young skunk from Delta is now recovering with the Wildlife Rehabilitators Association of BC. But it is merely a matter of time before another young wild animal, beloved family pet, or potentially a child, is injured by one of these inherently inhumane traps.

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Images and videos of the skunk in the trap, a Conibear “quick-kill” trap that can be legally used in BC, are available upon request with credit given to the Wildlife Rescue Association of BC.

CONTACT:

Adrian Nelson

Manager of Wildlife Conflict, The Association for the Protection of Fur-Bearing Animals

adrian@furbearerdefenders.com

604-435-1850