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Reward in poaching case hits \$8,500 with donations

The Fur-Bearers original reward has been increased by four concerned residents

COWICHAN VALLEY – The reward for information surrounding the poaching of two cougar kittens has increased from \$1,000 to \$8,500 due to upset residents across British Columbia. Last Friday, The Fur-Bearers announced a reward of \$1,000 for information leading to the identification and conviction of the person(s) responsible for the recent illegal killing of two cougar kittens.

According to the BC Conservation Officer Service (BCCOS), the two kittens were killed sometime in the last week and found near Hill 60 Forest Service Road. The paws and heads of both cougars were removed.

Since the original news release was issued, four individuals contacted The Fur-Bearers with requests to donate to increase the reward amount. They include \$500 from E. Lefebvre, \$1,000 from Ian Voermann, \$5,000 from Kashtin Capozzi, and a \$1,000 anonymous donation.

“We are overwhelmed by the response of these individuals and the thousands of others who have shared our reward information and coverage of this poaching case,” says Aaron Hofman, Director of Advocacy and Policy for The Fur-Bearers. “It is a heartwarming reminder that the majority of British Columbians admire and respect our wildlife, and that we all agree there is no place for poaching in our communities.”

Donations received as part of a reward are held by The Fur-Bearers for two years, then rolled into our conservation, advocacy, research and education programs (including future rewards) if the reward is not paid out in that time. The current total of \$8,500 is the largest The Fur-Bearers have offered as a reward in our 70-year history.

Anyone with information related to this or other poaching cases are encouraged to contact the Report All Poachers and Polluters Line at 1-877-952-727 or by using the online form at <https://forms.gov.bc.ca/environment/rapp/>.

The Fur-Bearers was founded in 1953 to protect fur-bearing animals in the wild and confinement, and promote coexistence, through conservation, advocacy, research and education. More can be learned online at www.TheFurBearers.com. The original version of this news release can be found at <https://thefurbearers.com/wp-content/uploads/2022-05-06-Poaching-Reward.pdf>.

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