

June 27, 2023

# BC's Deadliest Communities for Black Bears

## *2022 data reveals the areas where bears are most often killed by Conservation Officers*

**VICTORIA** – The deadliest communities for BC black bears in 2022 is now available, highlighting a need for stronger municipal coexistence policies that can prevent tragic outcomes for black bears.

Five hundred black bears were killed by the BC Conservation Officer Service in 2022, a drop of 81 (or 14 percent) from 2021. The data, obtained through a freedom of information request and compiled by wildlife protection charity The Fur-Bearers, includes information for nearly 400 communities across the province, ranked by the number of black bears killed.

“Black bears are often killed when they begin accessing garbage and spend time in human-dense areas seeking unnatural food sources from unsecured attractants,” says Aaron Hofman, Director of Advocacy and Policy at The Fur-Bearers. “By identifying communities where bears are killed with greater frequency, questions about systemic issues can be asked, and the killing can end.”

According to government statistics for 2022, the deadliest communities for black bears in British Columbia are:

1. Prince George: 32
2. Nelson: 21
3. Castlegar: 14
4. Okanagan Falls: 12
5. Revelstoke: 12
6. West Kelowna: 12
7. Nanaimo: 10
8. Port Alberni: 10

These eight areas account for 25% of all black bears killed by conservation officers in 2022; these communities are not specific to municipal boundaries because of how the BC COS records their incident reports. Between 2015-2022, BC COS officers have killed 4,279 black bears. The full dataset can be viewed at [TheFurBearers.com/bcblackbears](https://TheFurBearers.com/bcblackbears).

“Local governments, businesses, and residents in these communities need to address the significant number of black bears being killed,” says Hofman. “Wildlife is typically seen as a provincial responsibility, but provincial officers cannot respond to every potential attractant issue like unsecured garbage, or every incident of wildlife feeding. Municipalities need to take leadership and implement measures to manage attractants including garbage, bird feeders, fruit trees, and wildlife feeding. These efforts will help protect people and wildlife.”

Residents are encouraged to contact their local elected officials about the number of black bears killed in their communities, and to visit [TheFurBearers.com/bcblackbears](https://TheFurBearers.com/bcblackbears) to find out about solutions that can help reduce deaths.

The Fur-Bearers is a non-partisan, charitable organization founded in 1953 to protect fur-bearing animals through conservation, advocacy, research, and education.

**CONTACT:**

Aaron Hofman

Director of Advocacy and Policy, The Fur-Bearers

604-435-1850

Aaron@TheFurBearers.com