



THE ASSOCIATION FOR THE
PROTECTION
of Fur-Bearing Animals

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Beaver ‘derby’ slammed by national group

Killing contest is ecologically harmful, say wildlife protection advocates

SASKATCHEWAN – A contest promoting largest catch by volume and weight of beavers in Saskatchewan is being condemned by a national wildlife protection group who say it is ecologically harmful and ethically devoid.

Promoted by local media and Facebook, the Beaver Derby 2016 is encouraging hunters and trappers to get the most, heaviest beavers possible from April 1 through May 10, with cash prizes being offered for largest beaver, and most beavers by total weight.

“As regions around the world are desperately trying to reintroduce beavers to help combat droughts, and more evidence is piling up showing the pollution-removing power of beavers, this contest baffles the mind,” says Adrian Nelson, Director of Communications for The Association for the Protection of Fur-Bearing Animals (The Fur-Bearers). Even without considering the inherently inhumane methodology of beaver trapping, or the harm and suffering it causes beaver family units, this contest is ecological genocide and should be halted immediately.”

Beavers are well-known to be a keystone species – their presence greatly impacts complex food webs and habitats. Research is showing that beaver dams clean runoff from agricultural lands, provide increased habitat for at-risk or endangered species of birds and amphibians, and assist landscape managers in times of drought by increasing available surface water.

“Encouraging the killing of a keystone species – one that provides such valuable ecological services to people as well as the environment – flies in the face of any reasonable wildlife management policy, particularly when so many non-lethal mitigation strategies exist for conflict situations,” Nelson adds. “It is disturbing to know that the Ministry of Environment will allow such barbaric contests to continue, despite the evidence of their potential harm – especially with Earth Day right around the corner.”

The Fur-Bearers are calling on the government of Saskatchewan to end killing contests and rely on current science for their wildlife management policies. Residents of Saskatchewan and the rest of Canada are being encouraged to contact Minister of Environment Herb Cox.

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The Fur-Bearers are a national non-profit that have advocated for fur-bearing animals in the wild and confinement, and provide non-lethal co-existence strategies. They were formed in 1953 in Vancouver and receive no government funding.

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