



THE ASSOCIATION FOR THE  
**PROTECTION**  
of Fur-Bearing Animals

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## Lawfulness of bear cub killing challenged

*Judicial review sought to determine if Conservation Officer Service responded within their authority*

**VANCOUVER** – The lawfulness of a Conservation Officer killing a bear cub is being challenged through a judicial review.

A petition seeking the review was today filed on behalf of wildlife non-profit The Fur-Bearers by the firm Farris, Vaughan, Wills & Murphy LLP. It relates to the May 6, 2016 incident in which Conservation Officer Micah Kneller chose to kill a black bear cub, a decision subsequently supported by his superiors within the Conservation Officer Service.

“We are seeking a legal review on the decision to kill a black bear cub and whether it was lawful,” says Lesley Fox, Executive Director of The Fur-Bearers. “While we recognize that the responsibilities of the Conservation Officer Service are difficult and full of difficult decisions, we believe that it is vital to the public interest that objective oversight and legal reviews of those - often lethal - decisions take place.”

Records show that on May 6, 2016, Officer Kneller informed by phone a concerned resident who had found an apparently orphaned bear cub that euthanasia would be required, a decision the Officer made prior to seeing or investigating the cub’s health. Despite a licensed rehabilitation centre indicating it could accept the cub, Officer Kneller killed the cub.

To date, all investigation of the original incident have been conducted internally, by the Conservation Officer Service.

“We believe this action was outside the scope of a Conservation Officer’s authority under the Wildlife Act, specifically Section 79, which sets out when an officer may kill an animal,” Fox continues. “It is paramount that the justice system hear this case to determine what this legislation allows, and what consequences that may have for the policies of the Conservation Officer Service moving forward.”

The Fur-Bearers believe that a well-funded, fully staffed, and publicly accountable Conservation Officer Service is an integral part of British Columbia.

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Founded in 1953, The Association for the Protection of Fur-Bearing Animals (The Fur-Bearers) advocate on behalf of fur-bearing animals in the wild and in confinement, and promote coexistence with wildlife.

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