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Action must be taken on injured bear cub

Government should allow experts to assist Calgary-area cub

CALGARY – An injured bear cub is suffering needlessly because government policy won't allow for humane action, and that needs to change, a wildlife non-profit says.

The Fur-Bearers, a national non-profit based in Vancouver that advocates on behalf of animals in the wild and in confinement, is calling on Alberta's political leaders to recognize a failure in standing policy and allow for the examination and treatment of this cub.

"It is difficult to comprehend why the province has not allowed a veterinarian or qualified wildlife rehabilitator to examine, and as necessary, treat this clearly injured cub," says Michael Howie, a spokesperson for The Fur-Bearers. "We're hearing that people are trying to get close to photograph the cub, or feed him, which could create conflict and be an even larger problem. The policymakers can quite simply work with existing wildlife rehabilitators and their veterinarians to resolve this situation – and the question must be why aren't they?"

Since 2010 the province of Alberta has not allowed for the recovery or rehabilitation of orphaned black bear cubs, though facilities do exist within the province to professionally manage such scenarios.

"There are a lot of questions that need to be asked about the existing policies, but right now, there's an injured, apparently orphaned bear cub who needs assistance," Howie says. "We believe that a government elected on the basis of change would see this as an opportunity to improve wildlife policy, and help those who need it most."

The Fur-Bearers are asking those who want to support this cub to not feed or attempt to interact with him, but to contact their MLA as well as the Premier and ask for help for him.

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The Fur-Bearers is a national non-profit that formed in 1953. They advocate on behalf fur-bearing animals in the wild and in confinement, and promote co-existence with wildlife at the community level.

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