THE ASSOCIATION FOR THE
PROTECTION
of Fur-Bearing Animals

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Province in court to defend bear killing this week
Non-profit challenging lawfulness of the killing of a black bear cub in 2016

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VANCOUVER – Wildlife non-profit The Fur-Bearers will argue in court tomorrow that Conservation Officer Micah Kneller acted unlawfully when he killed a baby black bear near Dawson Creek in 2016.

Records show that on May 6, 2016, Officer Kneller informed by phone a concerned resident who had found an apparently orphaned bear cub that killing 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.

The Fur-Bearers will argue in court that Officer Kneller was not permitted to kill the bear cub, because the *Wildlife Act* only permits him to kill animals that are likely to harm persons, property, or wildlife. The Province takes the position that there are no legal limits on the ability of Conservation Officers to kill bear cubs.

"This is about the Conservation Officer Service obeying the law," says Lesley Fox, Executive Director of The Fur-Bearers. "The notion that Conservation Officers may kill any wild animal, with no legal limits on their ability to do so, is repugnant to most British Columbians. This bear cub deserved a second chance, but he was denied that chance by the Conservation Officer Service's callous and unlawful decision to kill him."

The two-day hearing will begin at 9:45 am on Wednesday, November 22, at the courthouse in downtown Vancouver at 800 Smithe Street. Media and the animal loving public are encouraged to attend.

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Ms. Fox will be available to answer questions in front of the courthouse at 9:30 am. Arden Beddoes, the lawyer representing The Fur-Bearers, will also be available.

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