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Port Moody beaver plan leaves baby beaver dead

City dismissed non-profit whose advice could have saved entire family of beavers

PORT MOODY – A wildlife non-profit is calling on the City of Port Moody to investigate its beaver management plan and decision-making processes following the preventable death of a beaver kit last week.

The Fur-Bearers is a wildlife protection group that has extensive experience and success working with municipalities to mitigate and prevent infrastructure concerns stemming from beaver activity. Through 2017, residents of Port Moody requested The Fur-Bearers work with the city as officials planned how to address a family of beavers in Pigeon Creek. The city did consult with The Fur-Bearers regarding tree protection in February 2017, but claimed their “experts” could manage the beavers when the family dened in culvert at the creek.

“There is absolutely no reason that any of these beavers had to die what I can only imagine was a terrifying death to protect this culvert,” says Adrian Nelson, Wildlife Conflict Manager for The Fur-Bearers. “We have worked with communities all over British Columbia, Alberta, and Ontario, and trained with North America’s leaders and innovators in non-lethal beaver management. It is appalling to me that the City of Port Moody allowed for this to happen.”

The beloved beaver family has brought the community together, with residents lining up to watch them work on their dens and kits learn to swim.

The Fur-Bearers are calling for the City of Port Moody to initiate a public investigation into their management plan and the decision-making processes that led to the death of a beaver kit, and make recommendations to Council on how to prevent such tragedies in the future.

“The compassionate people of Port Moody want to be enjoying the holiday season with their families, not worrying that preventable deaths are occurring in their neighbourhoods,” Nelson says. “Sadly, the beaver family won’t have that option this year.”

-30-

The Fur-Bearers is a Vancouver-based non-profit founded in 1953 that promotes co-existence with wildlife in communities through science-based, non-lethal solutions. These services are offered at no charge to municipalities, and were offered to Port Moody through residents as well as emails from The Fur-Bearers.

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