

Department: Office of the CEO

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Subject: Bear Deterrent Community Notice

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COMMUNITY NOTICE

Good Day Fort William First Nation Community Members,

It was recently brought to our attention that members of our community may be attempting to develop their own methods of Bear Deterrents, in particular with the use of balloons filled with bleach or electrifying garbage bins.

We are strongly discouraging community members against the use of any of these practices as they are not only ineffective, they are dangerous to our community members, domestic pets, and Public Works Staff.

If we become aware of any community members utilizing these or any other unsafe methods of deterring wildlife, we will immediately stop all garbage collection at any identified addresses.

Our Economic Development Department will be reaching out to the Ministry of Natural Resources to notify them of nuisance bears in the community and seek out alternative intervention methods.

In the meantime, there are simple precautions Fort William Community Members can take to avoid problems with bears and other unwanted wildlife.

- store garbage in a bear-resistant container with a tight-fitting lid, secure shed or garage
- do not stockpile garbage — take it to an approved waste disposal site regularly
- put meat scraps in the freezer until garbage day
- remove grease and food residue from barbecue grills
- do not put meat, fish or sweet food (including fruit) in your outdoor composter
- pick all ripe fruit off trees, and remove vegetables and fallen fruit from the ground
- never purposely feed bears (or other wildlife) or try to approach them
- frequently wash garbage cans and recycle containers and lids with a strong-smelling disinfectant
- **put garbage out only on the morning of your collection day**

In the event a bear does get into your garbage, it is the responsibility of the community member to clean up the loose or scattered garbage. Fort William First Nation staff will not be responsible for that clean-up due to Health & Safety Concerns.

It takes community members working together to eliminate these attractants and stop bear problems.

Chi-Miigwetch!

Ian Bannon