

January 16, 2024

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Lake Cowichan Bear Aware Association
Lake Cowichan
LCBAA.123@gmail.com

To: The Town of Lake Cowichan and Municipal Council,

Hello, my name is Jaana Boren. I am the Chair of the Lake Cowichan Bear Aware Association (LCBAA). Thank you for this opportunity to introduce ourselves. We are a group of concerned citizens that joined together in October of 2023 with a common goal to stop the trapping and killing of black bears in the Lake Cowichan area. We believe that through the pursuit of awareness, education, advocacy, safety measures and collaborative efforts that foster human and bear co-existence, we can prevent the continued practice of the killing of our bears due to human/bear conflict. Our guiding principles are:

- a) *Bears deserve to live a safe and peaceful existence.*
- b) *To focus on stopping the killing.*
- c) *To work towards Bear Smart status.*
- d) *Community education is critical to achieve our goal.*
- e) *To collaborate and build strong connections with the community.*

Our group is actively developing strategies, campaigns, and partnerships with a variety of local and province-wide groups who are all eager in helping us to achieve our goal. We believe that the current Mayor and Councillors of Lake Cowichan have also shown interest in supporting better bear aware practices in our increasingly tourism-oriented township, and we wish to invite the Town to work with us in bringing Bear Smart initiatives to our community. We will be coming forward to Council over the coming months and look forward to a positive and collaborative relationship.

Please direct any communications to our email LCBAA.123@gmail.com, c/o Secretary.

Sincerely,

Members of the Lake Cowichan Bear Aware Association