



THE CORPORATION OF THE CITY OF VERNON

MEMORANDUM

TO: Will Pearce, Chief Administrative Officer **FILE:** 4000-02-2022
PC: Kevin Poole, Director, Community Safety, Lands and Administration **DATE:** July 27, 2022
FROM: Darren Lees, Manager Protective Services
SUBJECT: REGULATIONS PROHIBITING THE FEEDING OF WILDLIFE

As the City of Vernon is surrounded by wildlife habitat and intersected by wildlife corridors connecting parks and natural areas throughout many neighbourhoods, the City is home to a variety of urban wildlife such as deer, cougar, bear, coyote, raccoon and other animals. As per Section 2(1) of the Provincial Wildlife Act, "Ownership" of all wildlife in British Columbia is vested with the Province. As per provincial legislation, a person may feed or attract wildlife, but a person may not feed "dangerous wildlife." The Wildlife Act defines "dangerous wildlife" as bear, cougar, coyote or wolf.

Several area residents choose to feed wildlife throughout the year leaving out food and attractants. Although it is not a contravention of the Provincial Wildlife Act, intentionally feeding wildlife can have many unintended negative consequences including habituation of wildlife, behavioural changes, attracting large numbers of animals, presenting an increased risk and spread of disease among animals, disrupting animal movement patterns, creating a dependency on the artificial food source and attracting other wildlife such as rodents or larger predators. The practice may also cause damage to private property by wildlife and increase the potential for human-wildlife conflict.

In order to address the issue of residents feeding wildlife within City limits, and having unintended negative consequences, many communities have enacted bylaws that prohibit the feeding of wildlife.

RECOMMENDATION

1. THAT Council direct Administration to develop bylaw regulations for Council's consideration that prohibit the feeding of wildlife within the City of Vernon as outlined in the memorandum titled "Regulations Prohibiting the Feeding of Wildlife", dated July 27, 2022 and respectfully submitted by Manager – Protective Services.

Respectfully submitted:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Darren Lees', written in a cursive style.

Darren Lees, Manager, Protective Services