

# **Creating Bear Smart Communities**

November 2–3, 2005  
Revelstoke, British Columbia  
Canada

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- North Shore Bear Network (Tony Webb)
- Parks Canada (John Woods)
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Our Master of Ceremonies for the workshop was Richard Daloise, and the Chair of the Workshop Organizing Committee was Loni Parker.

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- Marcia Woods, Revelstoke
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And, of course, we’d like to thank the workshop participants, who travelled from various towns in British Columbia and Alberta to attend.

<b>Table of Contents</b>
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<b>Acknowledgements</b>	<b>i</b>
<b>Table of Contents</b>	<b>iii</b>
<b>Workshop Description</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>List of Workshop Speakers</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Presentation Summaries</b>	<b>3</b>
1. Relocating “Problem” Bears: Does it Work?	3
2. The Bear Smart Community Program	4
3. Preparing Bear Hazard Assessments and Bear–Human Conflict Management Plans for Rossland and Castlegar	8
3. Preparing Bear Hazard Assessments and Bear–Human Conflict Management Plans for Rossland and Castlegar	9
4. Community Planning and Decision Documents	16
5. Developing a Bear-proof Community Waste Management System	17
6. A Continuing Bear Education Program	18
7. How to Develop and Implement Bear Smart Bylaws	21
8. North Vancouver—A Case Study	26
9. Revelstoke—A Case Study	28
<b>Appendices</b>	<b>31</b>
Appendix One: Resources for Bear Smart Groups	33
Appendix Two: Summary of Bear Smart Workshop Evaluations	36
Appendix Three: Summary of Evaluation Forms for Session on Sustainability Planning	41
Appendix Four: Sustainability Planning for Bear Smart Programs	44





## Workshop Description

Communities adopting Bear Smart programs reduce the number of bear–human conflicts, which makes their towns safer and reduces the number of black and grizzly bears that are destroyed. Yet many communities continue to allow practices that draw bears into their neighbourhoods, creating ongoing hazards for both people and bears. The Bear Smart Community Program, created by the B.C. Ministry of Environment, the Union of B.C. Municipalities, and the B.C. Conservation Foundation, provides direction so municipalities, regional districts, businesses, interest groups, and citizens can work together to eliminate the root causes of bear–human conflicts. Bear Smart accommodates the individual needs of each community.

On November 2, participants heard about the provincial Bear Smart Community Program. They heard how its principles are being put into action and were introduced to people and resources that can support them in making their communities Bear Aware and Bear Smart.

On November 3, participants from Bear Smart and other conservation-oriented community groups took part in an interactive workshop on the steps to achieving sustainability for Bear Smart groups. Kylie Hutchinson, of Community Solutions, led the group through exercises on planning, fundraising, collaboration, and the factors promoting sustainability.



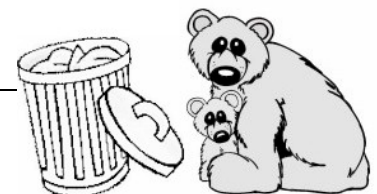
## List of Workshop Speakers

### *Wednesday, November 2, 2005*

1. **Welcome and Opening Remarks**  
Richard Daloise
2. **Relocating “Problem” Bears: Does it Work?**  
John Woods, Parks Canada
3. **The Bear Smart Community Program**  
Mike Badry, BC Conservation Officer Service, Ministry of Environment
4. **Preparing Bear Hazard Assessments and Bear–Human Conflict Management Plans**  
Joanne Siderius, Siderius Ecological Consulting
5. **Community Planning and Decision Documents**  
Richard Daloise, Big Red Consulting Services
6. **Developing a Bear-proof Community Waste Management System**  
Simon Robins, Canmore, Alberta
7. **A Continuing Bear Education Program**  
Jacques Drisdelle, B.C. Conservation Foundation
8. **How to Develop and Implement Bear Smart Bylaws**  
Mike Badry, BC Conservation Officer Service, B.C. Ministry of Environment
9. **North Vancouver—A Case Study**  
Tony Webb, North Shore Bear Network
10. **Revelstoke—A Case Study**  
Abby Pond, Loni Parker, Revelstoke Bear Aware Society
11. **Exhibit viewing and conversation** until 5:00 p.m.

### *Thursday, November 3, 2005*

The “Sustainability Planning for Bear Smart Programs” session began at 8:30 a.m. and finished in mid-afternoon. Lunch was included. An outline for the day and copies of the key handouts are included in Appendix Three.



## Presentation Summaries

### About the Presentation Summaries

After the conference, presenters provided the following summaries of their talks. Contact information is provided for all presenters, along with an invitation to contact them directly for more details about their work.

#### ***1. Relocating “Problem” Bears: Does it Work?***

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John G. Woods, Parks Canada

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and

Bruce L. McLellan, B.C. Ministry of Forests

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As part of the West Slopes Bear Research Project in southeastern British Columbia, nine female grizzly bears were followed after being relocated 43–200 km away from their points of origin. These bears were moved for management reasons (e.g., closure of a landfill, attraction to fruit trees or livestock). Using a combination of radio-tracking and DNA fingerprinting, their subsequent activities were compared to a larger sample of concurrently studied grizzly bears that have no history of interaction with humans.

Post-release, two of these management bears returned to their point of origin. Collectively, management bears moved over much larger areas than non-management bears and had erratic movement patterns. Four bears became management concerns for a second time and five bears were known to have died within the study period. Although one of the non-returning management bears reproduced, she once again became a management concern and was relocated, along with her cub, on a second occasion. These data support proactive activities such as Bear Smart communities (e.g., restricted access to human garbage) which are designed to reduce the likelihood of problem bears that might necessitate management action.



## ***2. The Bear Smart Community Program***

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### ***Introduction***

During bear season, the Conservation Officer Service in British Columbia receives approximately 10,000 calls and complaints about bears. Most of these problems begin when people allow bears to access non-natural food sources. Unfortunately, once bears have learned to access human food there are few alternative control methods, and conservation officers are often forced to destroy "problem" bears. On average, 1,000 bears are destroyed as a result of bear-human conflicts in the province each year.

### ***Sources of Bear Problems***

Both bears and humans like to settle in valley bottoms and along streams. Increasing numbers of people are living in these areas; therefore bears are living in closer proximity to people. If bears are allowed to access human food and garbage, they quickly learn to associate it with people and become food-conditioned. These bears also lose their fear of humans and become habituated to people.

Habituated and food-conditioned bears are more difficult to drive away than wild bears. If a bear develops a taste for human food, it *usually* keeps coming back for more. Bears can become food-conditioned after only one encounter with non-natural food. These bears can damage property and may threaten public safety. In most cases, however, it is the bear that loses when it comes into conflict with people.

### ***"Problem" Bears Cost Money***

Problem bears represent a threat to human safety and a substantial expense to British Columbia taxpayers. The Conservation Officer Service spends more than \$1 million every year responding to bear complaints and relocating or destroying bears. Property damage, which is not included in this figure, is estimated to be in the hundreds of thousands of dollars a year. Bears damage household items, fruit trees, apiaries, livestock, and vehicles.

### ***Management Options***

Managing problem bears is a tough job. Once bears learn how to access human food, they'll do almost anything to get it. Unfortunately, the management options available, besides destruction of the bear, are all short-term, band-aid solutions. The only long-term solution is to prevent problem bears from being created in the first place.



Translocation is one management option available; however, it is rarely successful as these bears often return to their original home territory or become problem bears in other communities. In addition, translocated bears often fail to adapt to their new habitat. They may starve to death or be killed by bears already occupying the area.

Aversive conditioning is another management option. This involves using deterrents to teach the bear to associate humans or human food with a scary or negative experience. Bear deterrents include: rubber bullets, plastic slugs, anti-riot batons, foul-tasting chemicals, electric shock, acoustic devices, and trained bear dogs. Aversive conditioning is most effective when it is used to prevent bears from becoming conditioned to human food. It is not considered effective if bears have easy access to non-natural foods—the root cause of most conflicts.

### ***Legislation***

There is now legislation in effect that can help prevent the creation of problem bears and increase public safety. An amendment to the Wildlife Act makes it an offence to feed dangerous wildlife (bears, cougars, coyotes, and wolves) or to disobey orders to remove and clean up food, food waste, or other substances that can attract dangerous wildlife.

### ***Bear Smart Communities***

The Bear Smart Community Program is a proactive conservation strategy that encourages efforts by communities, businesses, and individuals to reduce bear–human conflicts. The goal is to focus efforts on addressing the root causes of bear–human conflicts, reduce the number of conflicts, and, ultimately, reduce safety risks and the number of bears that have to be destroyed.

This approach is based on a series of criteria that communities must achieve to be recognized as Bear Smart. It is a co-operative venture and is entirely voluntary on the part of communities. The responsibility to manage bear–human conflicts rests with everyone and it will require participation from the provincial government, municipal governments, and local citizens.

Once a community is recognized as Bear Smart, it opens up more opportunities for managing bears. Fewer bears will come into conflict and those that do will not receive a readily accessible food reward. This will allow the ministry, with co-operation from local officials and stakeholders, the option of applying non-lethal reactive techniques such as aversive conditioning to any future bear–human conflicts. Aversive conditioning of bears will be considered only in communities that are recognized as Bear Smart.



Bear Smart communities will also be recognized by presenting them with a plaque (i.e., suitable for attaching to a sign welcoming people to a community) and by promoting the community through local tourist information centres and on the provincial web site (subject to agreements with Tourism BC).

The B.C. Ministry of Environment will provide technical advice to communities that are seeking to obtain Bear Smart status. Several communities have been proactive in reducing bear conflicts and have already met one or more of the Bear Smart criteria, as is shown in the following charts.

### ***Criteria for Bear Smart Communities***

1. Prepare a Bear Hazard Assessment of the community and surrounding area.
2. Prepare a Bear–Human Conflict Management Plan that is designed to address the bear hazards and land-use conflicts identified in the previous step.
3. Revise planning and decision-making documents to be consistent with the bear–human conflict management plan.
4. Implement a continuing education program, directed at all sectors of the community.
5. Develop and maintain a bear-proof municipal solid waste management system.
6. Implement Bear Smart bylaws prohibiting the provision of food to bears as a result of intent, neglect, or irresponsible management of attractants.



### *Progress by Communities Seeking Bear Smart Status*

The shaded areas indicate where the criteria have fully been met; the check marks indicate initiation; and the crosses indicate that no action has been taken. Dashes mean no information is available. This information has been updated since it was presented at the workshop.

<b>Northern Region</b>	<b>Hazard Assessment</b>	<b>Conflict Management Plan</b>	<b>Planning Documents</b>	<b>Education Program</b>	<b>Solid Waste Management</b>	<b>Bylaws</b>
Fraser Lake	✓	✗	✗	✓	✓	✗
Fort St. James	✗	✗	✗	✓	✓	✗
Fort Nelson	✓	✓	✗	✓	✓	✓
Mackenzie	✓	✗	✗	✓	✓	✗
McBride	✓	✓	✗	✗	✓	✗
Quesnel	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓	✗
Prince George	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Vanderhoof	✓	✗	✗	✓	✓	✗
Wells/Barkerville	✓	✓	✗	✓	✓	✓

<b>Interior-Thompson</b>	<b>Hazard Assessment</b>	<b>Conflict Management Plan</b>	<b>Planning Documents</b>	<b>Education Program</b>	<b>Solid Waste Management</b>	<b>Bylaws</b>
Kamloops	✓	✓	✗	✓	✓	✓
Logan Lake	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗
Kelowna	✗	✗	✗	✓	✗	✗
Salmon Arm	-	-	-	-	-	-

<b>Interior-Kootenay</b>	<b>Hazard Assessment</b>	<b>Conflict Management Plan</b>	<b>Planning Documents</b>	<b>Education Program</b>	<b>Solid Waste Management</b>	<b>Bylaws</b>
Revelstoke	✓	✗	✓	✓	✓	✓
Castlegar	✓	✓	✗	✓	✓	✓
Rossland	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Fernie	✓	✓	✗	✓	✓	✗
Kimberley	✓	✗	✗	✓	✓	✓
Nelson	✗	✗	✗	✓	✓	✗
Kaslo	✓	-	-	✓	-	-

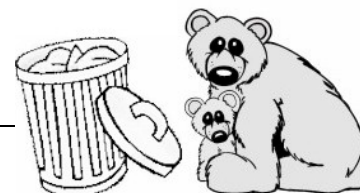


<b>Southern Coast</b>	<b>Hazard Assessment</b>	<b>Conflict Management Plan</b>	<b>Planning Documents</b>	<b>Education Program</b>	<b>Solid Waste Management</b>	<b>Bylaws</b>
Cumberland	✓	✗	✗			
Ucluelet	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Whistler	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Lions Bay	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Squamish	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Sunshine Coast	✓	-	-	-	-	-
Britannia Bay	✓	-	-	-	-	-
Pemberton	✓	-	-	-	-	-
North Van. City	✗	✗	✗	✓	✗	✓
North Van. District	✓	✗	✗	✓	✗	✗
West Van.	✓	✗	✗	✓	✗	✗
Coquitlam	✗	✗	✗	✓	✗	✗
Campbell River	✓	✗	✗	✓	✓	✗
Tahsis	✗	✗	✗	✓	✓	✓

### ***Background Report on Bear Smart Program***

A background report providing detailed information on each of the criteria and including examples of their successful application has been prepared and is available to communities that are interested in pursuing this initiative. A brochure outlining the “Bear Smart” Community approach has also been prepared for the general public. Both of these documents can be found on the B.C. Ministry of Environment web site at:

<http://wlapwww.gov.bc.ca/wld/bearsmart/bearsintro.html>.





### ***3. Preparing Bear Hazard Assessments and Bear–Human Conflict Management Plans for Rossland and Castlegar***

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#### ***Introduction***

This summary highlights the Bear Hazard Assessments and Bear–Human Conflict Management Plans that were completed in Rossland and Castlegar in 2004. I will be referring to black bears during this talk. Although grizzly bears live in the Kootenays, only black bears have been recorded in Rossland and Castlegar. This information is directed at people needing information on how to begin a bear hazard assessment and bear human conflict management plan for their community using their own expertise and knowledge, with the assistance of biologists, Conservation Officers, and other experts.

There were several people involved in funding and preparing these projects. I would like to thank the cities of Castlegar and Rossland for matching the funding that came from the provincial Bear Smart program in 2004 so that work on the assessments and the management plans could get started. Chief Conservation Officer Peter Stent and Conservation Officers Tobe Sprado and Ben Beetlestone were vital to the success of the projects. They provided access to important statistics and studied maps to help determine where we should plot wildlife trails, problem areas, and other information. The British Columbia Conservation Foundation, through Bear Aware, provided funding that allowed me to add to the knowledge and experience required to complete these projects. Ann Quartermann of Rossland Bear Aware provided valuable information and support, as did Colleen Hughes of Castlegar Bear Aware. Selkirk College allowed Ryan Seibel to develop the two GIS maps as part of his schooling. I also wish to thank the British Columbia Conservation Corps for employing me as the Castlegar Bear Aware program delivery specialist and Kootenay mentor, which allowed me the opportunity to update information for Castlegar and Rossland.

#### ***Background***

Castlegar and Rossland are located south of Revelstoke and north of the American border along Highway 3A. Unlike humans, who travel across the province on a highway at 100 km per hour, bears see the province more like a topographical map or a satellite photo.

While there is a vast amount of land in these areas, most human activities, such as highways, railways, settlements, and agriculture, occur along the bottomlands that skirt the rivers and lakes of the region. It seems that humans and many species of wildlife share the same habitat preferences. Bottomlands provide a milder climate than the mountains and riparian (along water) areas provide water, a variety of food and shelter plants, and easy travel routes. Bears



use mountain habitat for denning and for food at certain times of the year, but bears have always come to the rivers and lakes (especially late in the year) looking for fish, aquatic vegetation, and other foods. These days when bears come, they encounter settlements and landscapes that have been substantially modified by humans. They find garbage and fruit readily abundant—foods that bring them into contact with humans.

Rossland and Castlegar are two cities that have chosen develop Bear Hazard Assessments and Bear–Human Conflict Management Plans to assess the attractants that bring bears into the city and to plan how to alleviate these attractants.

Rossland is located on a saddle of land between five mountain peaks. Old forested mining trails within the boundaries of town are now used as hiking and biking trails. There are several forested potential wildlife trails through town where, for instance, a sow and cubs might find security cover while foraging for fruit or garbage. From a bear’s point of view, Rossland is an island of bear attractants surrounded by bear habitat.

Ann Quarterman started Rossland Bear Aware in 1998 and the Rossland City Council has supported the program consistently until 2005. Rossland has curbside collection, but several Rosslanders take garbage to a central collection point. There is an electric fence planned for the recycling depot and garbage depot.

Castlegar is a lower elevation city located at the confluence of the Kootenay and Columbia Rivers. First Nations, European, and Doukhabour settlers have all had an impact upon the habitat along these rivers. Roads and railways follow the original First Nations’ and wildlife trails in the area. The Doukhabours, in addition to a considerable cultural heritage, left a legacy of several fruit orchards in and around Castlegar that attract several bears yearly. Bears move along wildlife trails such as Millennium Parkway or Merry Creek, and swim the river to access the fruit in Ootischenia and at Selkirk College.

In town, the roads, railway, homes, fast food restaurants, and human trails are close to the river. Bears use the railway corridor and trails by the river as travelways that allow ready access to garbage put out at night, restaurant grease barrels, and fruit.

Is there a bear problem in Castlegar and Rossland (and in B.C.)? There is certainly a human problem. There are around 1,000 bears destroyed in B.C. every year. As this table shows, too many bears are baited into our cities—only to be shot as safety risks.

*Black Bears shot in major West Kootenay cities since 1998*

Year	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
Trail	9	3	5	5	8	12	4	0
Rossland	6	1	6	14	5	14	5	4
Castlegar	29	35	42	19	19	30+	2	1
Nelson	NA	NA	7	7	18	20+	-	4
Kaslo						5	1+	0



How can we prevent the destruction of bears? These cities have already implemented Bear Aware programs to educate the public. Now, they have undertaken a Bear Hazard Assessment to identify the bear attractants, bear occurrences, bear travel routes, and problem areas in the city and a Bear–Human Conflict Management Plan to make the urban bear habitat less attractive to bears.

### ***Creating a Bear Hazard Assessment***

A Bear Hazard Assessment is a community map that is meant to be changed yearly. Once created, this map is used to make the recommendations that make up the bulk of the Bear–Human Conflict Management Plan.

There are already people in your community who have much of the information you need: your local Bear Aware or Bear Smart groups can tell you where many of the attractants are and are a resource for gathering the information you lack. The important point is to get a map and get started!

Maps of your community or area can be obtained from the city or village, from the regional district, or the province. Use plastic overlays and pinpoint important information on the overlays such as the location of: open dumpsters, fruit trees, restaurant grease barrels, streets with garbage collection, known bear places, travel corridors, etc. You can also add data from the Dangerous Wildlife Complaint Line in Victoria. Ask conservation officers, biologists, bylaw officers, police officers, Bear Aware members, other members of the public, garbage collectors, and others to add information on your overlays. Collect missing information yourself.

Every community is different. You will have attractants and situations that make your Bear Hazard Assessment unique.

The following table shows the attractants that caused complaints for the past three years from some West Kootenay communities. This information is from the Dangerous Wildlife Complaint Line. Garbage and fruit are the major attractants every year. Garbage is a problem throughout year; and fruit is a major problem in the fall.



	City of Castlegar				City of Rossland				Nelson District <sup>1</sup>			Village of Kaslo <sup>2</sup>
				Total				Total			Total	
Year	2003	2004	2005		2003	2004	2005		2004	2005		2005
Attractant												
Garbage	50	31	24	105	39	7	2	48	39	28	67	3
Fruit	27	12	5	44	11	10	0	21	35	7	42	0
Compost	8	0	3	11	12	1	0	13	11	5	16	0
Livestock	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	9	5	14	0
Bird Feeders	8	0	0	8	8	2	1	11	0	10	10	0
Garden	2	3	1	6	3	0	0	3	1	1	2	0
BBQ	0	2	1	3	0	1	0	1	7	2	9	0
Freezer	1	2	2	5	7	2	1	10	5	1	6	0
Pond Fish	1	2	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Rabbits	1	0	1	2	1	2	0	3	0	0	0	0
Pet Food	1	0	0	1	1	0	0	1	1	0	0	0
Nut Trees	4	0	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Crops	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Cooking Grease	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Pets	2	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	2	0	2	0
Hand Feeding	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	0	0	0	0
Vineyards	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0
<b>Totals</b>	<b>107</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>196</b>	<b>92</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>112</b>	<b>111</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>183</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Total Calls<sup>3</sup></b>	<b>118</b>	<b>68</b>	<b>24</b>		<b>94</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>13</b>		<b>189</b>	<b>67</b>		

<sup>1</sup>Statistics for the whole Nelson District (includes Nelson, Salmo, Blewett, Taghum, Kaslo, Ymir, etc.)

<sup>2</sup>Kalso is part of the Nelson District

<sup>3</sup>These totals are the total number of calls and do not match the totals above because more than one (or no) attractants were given per call

The following are some things to locate on your Bear Hazard Assessment map:

a) *Potential Wildlife Trails*

Check with local wildlife biologists and conservation officers for the location of known wildlife trails in your community. Look at aerial photos and topographic maps for likely areas where bears can find shelter and travelways through your city. Most wildlife, including bears, travel along waterways, along railways that provide contiguous and



vegetated travelways, along pipelines and power lines, etc. People use trails through vacant lots that are often the same trails taken by wildlife. Old or untended fruit orchards will attract bears in fall. Look for signs of bear use: torn up garbage, prints, scat, etc.

*b) Location of Complaints*

Complaints and bear sightings can be obtained from the Dangerous Wildlife Complaint Line through the Conservation Officer Service. You may be asked to sign a confidentiality agreement. Your own volunteers and members of the community will also be able to provide sighting information. Have your map available for public input (use a layer of acetate and edit information later) at public displays, open houses, presentations, etc.

*c) Fruit Trees*

Map fruit trees by driving around and locating trees, soliciting public information, asking the city for a map of trees on city land, etc. You can use different symbols for different species, for unpicked fruit, etc.

*d) Garbage*

If feasible, map all dumpsters and use a special symbol for those that are habitually unlocked. You can map each street according to the night of garbage collection to emphasize just how much food is available to bears on garbage collection night. Map open barrels in park areas, especially those near areas that bears are known to frequent.

*e) Restaurant Grease Barrels*

Map restaurant grease barrels, especially those that need to be brought up to standard or are regular targets for bears. You can use a separate symbol for barrels that are not secured behind a fence.

*f) Others*

Your community is unique. You will know best what is needed on your map. Things to consider: beehives, livestock, construction site dumpsters, bird feeders, etc.

Once your map is complete, you can summarize your findings in a report that accompanies the map and sets out the information needed for your Bear–Human Conflict Management Plan.



## ***The Bear – Human Conflict Management Plan***

The Bear–Human Conflict Management Plan will use the information you gathered in your Bear Hazard Assessment to make recommendations to the city, regional district, and other officials. Some examples of recommendations are:

### *a) Manage Fruit Trees*

- Encourage the city (or village) to remove or manage untended or wild fruit trees from their property.
- Encourage the city to provide information on how to prune and manage fruit trees and to enact programs that encourage residents to replace fruit trees with other trees.
- Set up a fruit-picking project run by those wanting fruit.
- Educate the public about how fruit brings bears close to residences.

### *b) Manage Garbage*

- Educate people to keep garbage indoors until the morning of collection.
- Help the city to develop and enact a bear attractant bylaw.
- Encourage the city to move from curbside collection to a community dumpster program such as those in Canmore, Alberta, or Whistler, British Columbia.

### *c) Manage Restaurant Grease Barrels*

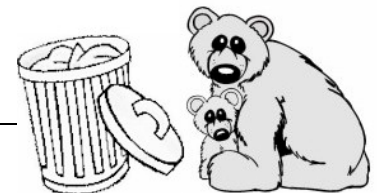
- Educate businesses about how to maintain proper grease barrels.
- Include improper disposal of restaurant grease in a bear attractant bylaw.

### *d) Manage Green Space*

- Encourage removal of all garbage containers that are not bear-proof from public green space.
- Until garbage cans can be replaced with bear-proof containers, encourage removal of all garbage before dusk.
- Cut forest and brush back from school fencing and public parks to remove bear security cover and allow people to see any bears close to the green space.
- Use lighting in appropriate areas to help people see bears that might be in the area.
- Put up signs to notify tourists and newcomers that bears frequent the area.

### *e) Jurisdictional Co-operation*

- Encourage cities, villages, regional districts, and the province to work together to reduce bear–human conflict. The bears do not recognize political boundaries. It is everyone’s responsibility to reduce bear attractants and to make communities safer.



*f) Become a Bear Smart Community*

- Recommend that your community undertake the steps to become a Bear Smart Community. Be prepared to give the appropriate information to politicians and the public.
- Include a proposed schedule of when the recommendations from the Bear–Human Conflict Management Plan should be implemented.

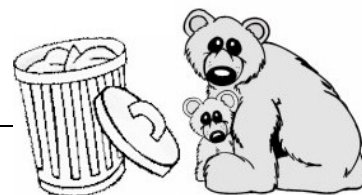
There are numerous other recommendations that will come from the Bear Hazard Assessment.

Including a plan and a schedule of how to implement recommendations may not be possible, depending upon your community, but is an important step. Make sure that you give copies of your map and management plan to your funders and the city, regional district, and provincial officials. Give copies to the local libraries, community colleges, and universities. Post it on the appropriate web site.

Keep the map and the recommendations up-to-date every year and follow up your recommendations with the appropriate council or officials. Your work should not sit unused on the shelf. Make sure the public takes ownership of the issue and that the volunteers in your Bear Smart committee (or equivalent group) feel qualified to add information and to approach the appropriate professionals (i.e., conservation officers, biologists, bylaw officers, etc.) for advice and information.

There are several examples of communities that have undertaken Bear Hazard Assessments and Bear–Human Conflict Management Plans. Review them, talk to the people involved with those projects, and then decide how to undertake your own project.

Above all, use the information as you collect it. Take action as you go along, and don't wait for the final product. You can reduce the potential for bear–human conflicts in your community even before a Bear Hazard Community Management Plan is completed.





#### ***4. Community Planning and Decision Documents***

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Richard Daloise, Big Red Consulting Services, Nelson  
[bigredconsulting@shaw.ca](mailto:bigredconsulting@shaw.ca) [www.bigredconsulting.ca](http://www.bigredconsulting.ca)  
 Phone: 250-352-3880

Once a Bear Hazard Assessment has been done and a Bear–Human Conflict Management Plan completed, it is essential to amend community planning documents and decision processes to ensure the recommendations of the bear management plan are carried out. It is these actions that will move a community to Bear Smart status.

In areas of prime bear habitat or high bear use, it will be necessary to amend the Official Community Plan (OCP) and the zoning bylaws that implement that planning document. It will also be necessary to amend building and subdivision guidelines and the solid waste management plan, particularly in those high-use areas that were identified in the hazard assessment. Changes must occur wherever prime bear habitat or use areas are identified, and where community development adjoins or is close to natural forest cover.

Fruit trees, berries (both natural and cultivated), garbage, bird feeders, and compost must be addressed through the OCP and subdivision guidelines. Restrictive covenants on individual properties or on whole areas of the community may be required to limit or prevent attractants now and in the future.

Special requirements to manage or eliminate attractants should be put in place for parks, golf courses and other green spaces in the community.

Partnership with adjacent communities should be considered where there are common community borders and attractant issues. This may include portions of regional districts immediately adjacent to town, or immediately adjacent communities as is often found in the Lower Mainland.

#### ***References***

Province of British Columbia's Bear Smart Communities Program, at:  
<http://wlapwww.gov.bc.ca/wld/bearsmart/bearsmintro.html>

Province of British Columbia's Wildlife-Human Conflict Prevention Strategy, at:  
[www.env.gov.bc.ca/cos/info/wildlife\\_human\\_interaction/hwconflicts\\_files/strategy.pdf](http://www.env.gov.bc.ca/cos/info/wildlife_human_interaction/hwconflicts_files/strategy.pdf)  
 336 kb PDF document.





## ***5. Developing a Bear-proof Community Waste Management System***

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Simon Robins, Town of Canmore, Alberta

[srobins@canmore.ca](mailto:srobins@canmore.ca)

Phone: 403-678-1580

This talk detailed the events, challenges, and successes that led to the elimination of curbside waste collection and the implementation of a complete animal proof waste handling system in Canmore. The talk addressed the following topics:

- The atmosphere leading to the decision to eliminate curbside waste collection
- The importance of public involvement (Waste Management Committee)
- The requirements for expert input
- The steps taken to site the containers
- The public education process
- How the town took over operations from a contractor
- Ongoing challenges

In the summer of 1998, due in part to a poor berry crop, the number of bear sightings grew in town as did the number of bear/waste-related incidents. Local Fish and Wildlife officers pleaded with the Town via the local newspaper to remove curbside collection and provide a complete animal-proof waste handling system. In addition, members of the public were sending letters to the paper editor requesting the Town eliminate curbside collection. The summer season continued and the number of bear/waste-related problems increased to such a level that the Mayor sent a letter to all residents urging them to use animal-proof waste containers until the bears went into hibernation. The Town of Canmore is now very proud of its waste handling system and how the community has embraced the change. We have completed a long successful process, with extensive public consultation, that has enabled us to co-exist with wildlife in terms of waste generation and disposal.

### ***Town of Canmore Bylaws***

The City of Canmore has its bylaws posted on their web site at [www.canmore.ca](http://www.canmore.ca) , in the “Town Council/Admin” section of the web site. Bylaws pertinent to bears and waste control are:

Bylaw 09-2001 (Waste Control Bylaw)

Bylaw 26-2003 (amendment to Waste Control Bylaw).



## ***6. A Continuing Bear Education Program***

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Jacques Drisdelle, British Columbia Conservation Foundation, Williams Lake  
[Jacques@bccf.com](mailto:Jacques@bccf.com) [www.bearaware.bc.ca/](http://www.bearaware.bc.ca/)  
 Phone: 250-398-8609

### ***Mission of the Bear Aware Program***

To reduce bear–human conflict in residential neighbourhoods through education, innovation, and co-operation.

### ***Objectives of the Bear Aware Program***

1. Secure, or make unavailable, attractants such as garbage that bears can currently access.
2. Foster informed understanding, appreciation, and tolerance of bears.
3. Work with local governments, communities, and regional districts to integrate bear policies into their planning and bylaws.
4. Foster the development of a wildlife stewardship ethic.
5. Secure core funding commitments from local, regional, and federal governments.
6. Establish a revenue-generating program to provide long-term support for the program.
7. Develop and produce materials to help local Program Delivery Specialists deliver the Bear Aware Program.

### ***Why Have a Bear Aware Program?***

#### **Moral reasons:**

- Bears are just doing what is natural to them. Our garbage and wastes, if not properly dealt with, can lure bears to their death. In many cases, this is just human carelessness, but it is this carelessness that can result in the conditioning or habituation of bears—and their eventual destruction.

#### **Economic reasons:**

- Bears are used as icons of Beautiful British Columbia. Tourists travel from around the globe to visit our wilderness. In some surveys, tourists say that the number one reason for visiting British Columbia is their desire to see a bear in the wild.
- The high cost of conservation officers having to respond to bear complaints, kill dangerous bears, or relocate them.
- The high cost for repairing property damage as a result of bears foraging near humans for food.



**Public safety reasons:**

- It is not safe to share neighbourhoods with food-conditioned or human-habituated bears. These bears lose their fear of people and no longer react naturally.

**Ecological reasons:**

- Bears are important components of healthy, natural ecosystems. They are omnivores and scavengers, so they clean up dead animals in the wild. On the coast, salmon-eating bears have been linked to nutrient cycling and forest productivity.

**Cultural reasons:**

- Bears are part of our myths and our natural heritage. They are prominent in the stories, ceremonies, songs, and dances of many cultures, including those of B.C.'s First Nations.

***Program Scope***

Bear Aware is a program of the British Columbia Conservation Foundation.

Mike Badry explained the criteria for a Bear Smart Community . The Bear Aware Program addresses the fourth criteria:

“Implement a continuing education program directed at all sectors of the community”

The Bear Aware program educates the public about the following:

- Bears and their behaviour, biology, feeding habits
- Sources of food
- Sources of attractants around the home
- Ways of managing attractants
- The importance of not allowing bears to become habituated
- More importantly, the dangers both to humans and bears of allowing them to become conditioned
- Hiring and training one or more Program Delivery Specialists for any community with a program
- Recruiting and orienting community volunteers

***Bear Aware Strategies***

- Develop close working relationship with Conservation Officer Service.
- Conduct door-to-door visits in trouble neighbourhoods.
- Carry out late-evening garbage raids.
- Make public presentations.
- Attend public functions with displays and information.
- Implement media campaigns.



- Pick fruit.
- Start a fruit tree exchange program
- Put up signs to let people know when a bear is active in the area.

New strategies have included:

- Adopt-a-Can
- Movie Night
- Silent Auction and Slideshow

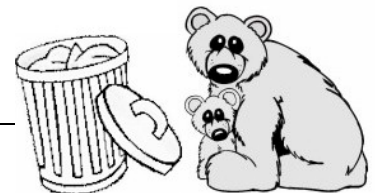
### ***Considerations When Starting a Bear Aware Program***

- Who will spearhead the movement?
- Bring interested people together.
- Identify the issues.
- Identify the needs.
- Decide on your priorities.
- Does the community want to act alone or seek assistance of British Columbia Conservation Foundation (BCCF)?
- What is the community willing to contribute?
- Community ownership is critical.
- Contact BCCF's provincial Bear Aware Coordinator.

<b><u>Role of BCCF Bear Aware</u></b>	<b><u>Role of Community</u></b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hiring, training, and supporting staff.</li> <li>• Providing tool kit</li> <li>• Providing ongoing support</li> <li>• Developing new materials to meet new demands</li> <li>• Covering salary: six-month period, 35 hours per week</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Covering cost of housing, computer, internet, telephone, office supplies, travel expenses</li> <li>• Encouraging in-kind contributions, such as telephone, computer, office</li> <li>• Setting own budget for expenses.</li> </ul>

### ***End Results***

- With time, the community must look at becoming more independent of BCCF.
- The community takes ownership of the education program.
- BCCF Bear Aware will continue offering support and development of universal education materials.



## ***7. How to Develop and Implement Bear Smart Bylaws***

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Mike Badry, Conservation Officer Service, B.C. Ministry of Environment  
 Mike.badry@gov.bc.ca  
 Phone: 250-387-9793

### *Create a Bear Smart Bylaw Committee*

One person is not going to get a bylaw passed, but a community can! Creating a committee involving city councillors, regional district representatives, interested members of the community, your local bear awareness groups, conservation officers, RCMP, and bylaw enforcement officers is the best way to begin the process. The different community dynamics represented within your committee can combine knowledge and ideas to construct a draft bylaw that is best suited for your community and its bear situation.

### *Review Existing Bylaws*

Review various Bear Smart bylaws that other communities have implemented and research what is effective and what is not. Get in contact with other committees and bear awareness groups that have been successful and work with them.

### *Be Proactive*

Bylaws are not passed overnight. Your committee will need to be diligent in maintaining contact with your municipal council. Hold regular meetings with your committee and send reports to the council. Adapt and revise your draft bylaws as necessary. Develop information sessions and packages for the community to increase awareness and support. Most importantly, don't give up!

### *Alert the Media*

Involving the local media is an excellent method to increase public awareness. Newspapers and television programs can follow the progress of your committee's attempts to implement Bear Smart bylaws. Using the media is a great way to demonstrate your committee's dedication to the community's safety and bear situation. Once the public interest is heightened, it can be surprising at how quickly a bylaw can be implemented!

### *Addressing City Council*

Write letters that outline the problem of bears in your community. Give statistics on the number of bears that are destroyed, the number of residences that put out garbage the night before collection, and the number of bear sightings. Include information from other communities that have already implemented bylaws and their successes. Set up a meeting with the council to further discuss your ideas. Be prepared to answer a range of questions! Present the council with your draft bylaw. Make changes to the draft and re-present it as necessary.



### **Common Objections to Bear Smart Bylaws**

- The community is already over-governed.
- There is not enough staff to enforce more bylaws.
- There are just too many bears to make a difference.
- It's only garbage, why should we bother?
- The cost for bear-proof containers is too high.
- Penalties for offences are considered either too harsh or too lenient.

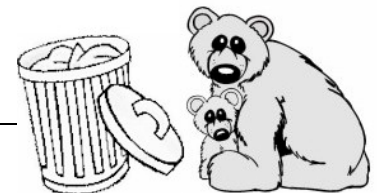
### **Common Problems with Enforcing Bear Smart Bylaws**

- Non-compliance—the community does not adhere to the new legislation.
- Apprehension over having to conform to new regulations.
- Residences miss garbage pickup as they cannot put it out the night before.
- A lack of resources to promote compliance.
- A lack of public education regarding the new regulations.
- People enjoy seeing bears in their backyards and fruit trees.

### **BC Communities with Pending Bear Smart Bylaws**

Both the Cities of Castlegar and Rossland are currently attempting to implement "Bear Smart" bylaws. Bylaw drafts have been developed and submitted to municipal council for review. This is a great opportunity for other municipalities to follow the bylaw process to learn what works and what does not. Stay tuned!

- City of Castlegar Bylaw No. 973: A Bylaw to Regulate Disposal of Waste Deemed to Attract Wildlife
- City of Rossland Bylaw No. 2230: A Bylaw to Establish Bear Attractant Control Practices
- City of Rossland Bylaw No. 2222: A Bylaw to Establish Solid Waste Removal Rates (curbside restrictions)



## BC Communities with Bear Smart Bylaws

Community	Animal Attractants	Wildlife/Bear Attractants	Wildlife-proof Containers	Curbside Restrictions	Wildlife Feeding Restrictions	Special Event Restrictions	Birdfeeder Restrictions	Fruit Tree Restrictions	Other Restrictions
Canmore	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	
Chilliwack	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	
City of North Van.	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	
Fruitvale	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	
Kamloops	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No	No	No	Yes	
Kimberley	No	No	No	Yes	No	No	No	No	
Lion's Bay	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	No	No	No	
Maple Ridge	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	
New Denver	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Beehives, outdoor fridges and freezers, compost, meat by-products
Oliver	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	
Prince George	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	No	No	No	
Revelstoke	No	No	No	Yes	No	No	No	No	
Smithers	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	
Squamish	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Antifreeze, paint, compost, outdoor fridges and freezers
Ucluelet	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No	
Vernon	Yes	No	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	
Wells-Barkerville	No	No	No	Yes	No	No	No	No	
West Vancouver	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	
Whistler	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes	No	



## Bear Smart Bylaws: Some Examples

### *Whistler Garbage Disposal Bylaw No. 1445*

Contact to view complete bylaw:

Sandra Smith

Phone: 604-935-8280

Email: [bylaw@whistler.ca](mailto:bylaw@whistler.ca)

- No domestic garbage and no food waste or other edible waste that could attract dangerous wildlife (bears, cougars, coyotes, and wolves) shall be stored outdoors, including patios, balconies, and decks.
- Every outdoor container or receptacle used for depositing or storing food waste or other edible waste that could attract dangerous wildlife must be a wildlife-resistant container.
- Every commercial, industrial, institutional, and tourist-accommodation building, and every multiple family residential development having three or more dwelling units, must be provided with a garbage storage site located inside a building or within a wildlife-resistant enclosure.
- Garbage containers for special events are exempt from requirements as long as they are emptied by 10:00 p.m. each day.
- Wildlife-resistant containers and wildlife-resistant enclosures must be kept closed and secure when waste is not being deposited and, if damaged, must be repaired in a timely fashion.
- Feeding dangerous wildlife and depositing or storing domestic garbage, food waste, or other edible waste that could attract dangerous wildlife is prohibited.
- Bird feeders are required to be inaccessible by dangerous wildlife.

### *Squamish Wildlife Attractants Bylaw No. 1876*

[www.district.squamish.bc.ca/cityhall/bylaws\\_policies/](http://www.district.squamish.bc.ca/cityhall/bylaws_policies/)

- No person shall store any refuse that is a wildlife attractant in such a manner that it is accessible to wildlife.
- Any person storing refuse in a container that is a wildlife attractant shall use a wildlife-resistant container or store such container in a wildlife resistant enclosure.
- Curbside restrictions are in place from 5:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. on the day of garbage collection.
- A person is exempt from restrictions for weddings, sports tournaments, outdoor conventions, Canada Day, and other temporary special events if refuse containers required for the special event are emptied into an appropriate container by midnight each day.
- Fruit fallen from a tree or bush is to be removed at least every three days when fruit is on the ground.
- Bird feeders containing bird feed must be suspended on a cable or other device in such a manner that makes them inaccessible to wildlife.





- Outdoor fridges or freezers containing food products must be stored in such a manner that makes them inaccessible to wildlife.
- Antifreeze and paint must be stored in such a manner that makes them inaccessible to wildlife.

*New Denver Waste Collection Bylaw No. 341*

Contact the Village of New Denver at: [office@newdenver.ca](mailto:office@newdenver.ca) or phone: 250-358-2316.

- Every outdoor garbage receptacle containing waste that could attract wildlife must be in a wildlife-resistant container or stored in a place inaccessible to wildlife.
- Every commercial, tourist, and multiple family residential development is provided with a garbage storage site in a building or within a wildlife-resistant enclosure.
- If emptied before 10:00 p.m., containers used for temporary social events are exempt.
- Wildlife-resistant containers and wildlife-resistant enclosures must be closed, secured, and kept in repair.
- If dangerous wildlife is attracted then "Smart Practices" are observed. These include the following:
  - Feeding dangerous wildlife is prohibited.
  - Birdfeeders must be inaccessible to dangerous wildlife.
  - Beehives must be protected by an electric fence.
  - Outdoor fridges and freezers must be inaccessible to dangerous wildlife.
  - No meat by-products or waste can be put into compost piles.

These bylaws have been condensed. For official copies, please contact the municipality.



## ***8. North Vancouver—A Case Study***

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Tony Webb, North Shore Bear Network

yoskyl\_webb@telus.net

Phone: 604-980-4061

[www.northshorebears.ca](http://www.northshorebears.ca)

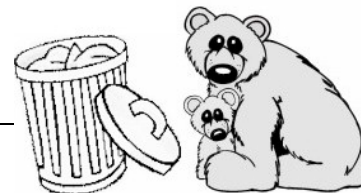
Over the last six years, municipal governments, the Conservation Officer Service, the RCMP, and the general public have dramatically changed their attitude towards black bear management on the North Shore of Vancouver. Tony Webb's presentation outlined not only the role of the North Shore Black Bear Network as a model in developing that attitudinal change, but also outlined proposals for the future of a good relationship between encroaching residential development and the usurped black bears of the North Shore.

The North Shore includes three municipalities: North Vancouver City, North Vancouver District, and West Vancouver District. The municipalities have a population of 44,000, 82,000, and 41,000 respectively, giving a total of 167,000 residents—almost twice the size of the City of Kamloops.

The Network is a coalition of volunteers, RCMP, Conservation Officers, and municipal employees. After 39 bears were shot and killed in 1999, the North Shore Black Bear Network developed and established a policy to reduce the number of bear-human conflicts using educational and non-lethal approaches to black bears.

The methods used to achieve this aim include the following:

1. Introducing a dedicated telephone line to manage bear activity, 604-990-BEAR (2327). The line was mainly financed by the District of North Vancouver and callers were given four options. During the year of 2004, nearly 6000 calls were made.
2. Displaying the poor garbage management in parks on CTV television. The District of North Vancouver then started a program to use bear-proof containers in their parks.
3. Including bear information on the District of North Vancouver's garbage day pick-up calendars. This was achieved by presenting the idea at a Council meeting and then following up with the appropriate staff in the Operations Department. About 30,000 garbage calendars are distributed every year, at no cost to the North Shore Bear Network.
4. Using the media of television, radio, newspapers, and the Internet ([www.NorthShoreBears.ca](http://www.NorthShoreBears.ca)) to help create bear awareness and better garbage management.
5. Initiating the inclusion of bear information in the yearly property tax mail-out within the District of North Vancouver, again at not cost to the Network. This saved about \$15,000 per year in postal costs.
6. Composing and printing illustrated brochures and bookmarks for volunteers to hand out at school presentations, public libraries, public displays, and door-to-door. Printing costs were covered by soliciting various sources.



After two attempts at trying to have municipal garbage by-laws changed to prevent the overnight placement of garbage containers curbside prior to day of pick-up, liaison was made with the Conservation Officer Service for the wording and use of a sticker, which quoted Section 88.1 of the Wildlife Act, stating the possibility of a \$575 fine. Volunteers attached these stickers to garbage containers placed curbside over night .

Council of the District of North Vancouver has now adopted several actions to mitigate bear-human conflicts. These may be viewed on-line at [www.dnv.org](http://www.dnv.org), see Council Agenda, May 30, 2005, Item 4. The progress that has been made to date could not have been achieved without the dedication of many volunteers from the residents of the municipalities.



## 9. Revelstoke—A Case Study

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Abby Pond, Revelstoke Bear Aware Coordinator  
 Loni Parker, Revelstoke Bear Aware Society  
[beaware@telus.net](mailto:beaware@telus.net)  
 Phone 250-837-5507  
[www.revelstokebearaware.org](http://www.revelstokebearaware.org)

What must be in place for a Bear Aware community to thrive? It must be willing to change and supported by residents and the municipality. Then the community becomes a safer place for humans and bears alike.

Revelstoke Bear Aware is a non-profit society with charitable status. The purpose of the society is to reduce bear–human conflict in and around the city of Revelstoke by the following:

- (a) Identifying and eliminating or reducing human caused bear attractants.
- (b) Educating Revelstoke citizens about:
  - the importance of reducing bear attractants on their properties and within the community;
  - how to recognize bear attractants on their properties and within the community; and
  - how to eliminate or reduce bear attractants for which they are responsible.
- (c) Accepting donations, grants, and goods in kind contributions to achieve the purpose of the Society.

Is the Bear Aware program successful in Revelstoke? The numbers tell the story.

### *Bear Mortality in Revelstoke, 1994-2004*

	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
<b>Destroyed</b>	33	23	11	1	4	12	0	2	8	18	3
<b>Relocated</b>	29	25	29	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0

The number of bears being destroyed in Revelstoke due to bear–human conflicts has significantly decreased since the program began in 1996. The value of the program cannot be disputed.

Some of the successes of the program include:

- The average number of bears destroyed has dropped from 27 per year to less than seven.
- Our community education program, which includes a display, school visits, fruit picking by volunteers, and door to door visits, is well received.



- We have created community awareness and responsibility. The majority of people in town are familiar with, and supportive of, the Revelstoke Bear Aware program.
- Bear-proof containers have been installed in four parks and several locations downtown.
- A bylaw for curbside garbage collection has been passed.
- Revelstoke Bear Aware is now a non-profit organization with continuity of people and the ability to administer its own affairs.
- Revelstoke Bear Aware is part of the city's planning and consultation processes on relevant issues.
- Fruit trees on city property have been removed (partial success in 1999).
- Signs have been installed at Bridge Creek spawning channel—a popular community viewing site used very frequently by bears.

Some of the obstacles that Revelstoke Bear Aware still faces include the following:

- No major changes to the city's waste collection services have been made to this point.
- Bylaw enforcement is very lax and garbage storage on private property is an issue
- Bear-proof containers are lacking at some schools and major city parks, including the downtown core
- Local commercial operations do not always comply with regulations.
- Mandatory locking of dumpsters at night (requested each year since 1998) does not always happen.
- Households improperly store garbage.
- Some fruit trees on abandoned property, or where they are not tended, still need to be removed.
- Campgrounds need to install bear-proof garbage management
- Fundraising continues to be a challenge.

Revelstoke has begun working toward Bear Smart status. To date, our progress has included the following:

- Bear hazard/historical problem areas mapping complete (2004)
- Bylaws (ongoing)
- Education program (10 years)
- Waste management (ongoing)
- Bear-human conflict plan (not initiated)
- Revision of planning documents (ongoing)

In the future, Revelstoke Bear Aware needs to do the following:

- Increase municipal support for the program and bylaw enforcement.
- Continue working toward Bear Smart status.
- Improve park and playground safety.
- Update the unsightly premises bylaw.
- Improve waste management.



- Work toward a solution for dealing with fruit trees.
- Ensure ongoing city development meets Bear Smart criteria.

***Revelstoke Bear Aware Society is proud to be supported by:***

BC Hydro  
British Columbia Conservation Foundation  
Canadian Mountain Holidays  
City of Revelstoke  
Columbia Basin Trust  
Columbia Shuswap Regional District  
Downie Street Sawmill  
Friends of Mt. Revelstoke and Glacier

Habitat Conservation Trust Fund  
Parks Canada  
Revelstoke Bear Aware Society members  
and volunteers  
Revelstoke Community Forest Corporation  
Revelstoke Credit Union  
Selkirk Tangiers Helicopter Skiing



## Appendices

### **Appendix One: Resources for Bear Smart Groups**

During presentations and casual conversations, participants identified many resources that could support the work of Bear Smart groups. Appendix One is a summary of this information.

### **Appendix Two: Summary of Bear Smart Workshop Evaluations**

Participants were asked to provide feedback on the Bear Smart session (day one) A summary of the responses is included as Appendix Two.

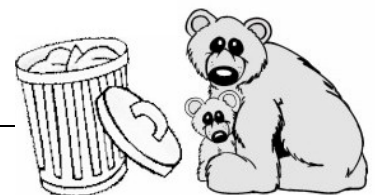
### **Appendix Three: Summary of Evaluation Forms for Session on Sustainability Planning for Bear Smart Programs**

This appendix provides a summary of the evaluation forms for the second day of the event.

### **Appendix Four: Sustainability Planning for Bear Smart Programs**

Kylie Hutchinson of Community Solutions Planning and Evaluations led the group in a one-day session about how Bear Smart groups could operate in a sustainable manner. She provided a booklet for use during the session. Key pages from the booklet are part of Appendix Three.







## ***Appendix One: Resources for Bear Smart Groups***

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### ***People***

1. All of the speakers from this workshop have agreed to accept your calls to discuss their presentations. Contact information is at the start of each presentation summary.
2. Contact information for your local conservation officers is available at:  
[www.env.gov.bc.ca/cos/contacts.html](http://www.env.gov.bc.ca/cos/contacts.html)  
 You can find the names of all the conservation officers and their locations at:  
[www.dir.gov.bc.ca](http://www.dir.gov.bc.ca) In the “Advanced Search” form, search for People, where the Title Begins with and then type Conservation Officer in the box.
3. National and provincial park staff are also a source of information..  
 For national park contact information. Visit [www.pc.gc.ca](http://www.pc.gc.ca).  
 For provincial park contact information, visit: [www.env.gov.bc.ca/bcparks](http://www.env.gov.bc.ca/bcparks)

### ***Web Sites***

1. Bear Smart Program – B.C. Ministry of Environment  
[www.env.gov.bc.ca/wld/bearsmart/bearsmintro.html](http://www.env.gov.bc.ca/wld/bearsmart/bearsmintro.html)
2. British Columbia Conservation Foundation  
[www.bearaware.bc.ca/](http://www.bearaware.bc.ca/) and  
[www.bearaware.bc.ca/bears](http://www.bearaware.bc.ca/bears) for activities, photos, and more
3. British Columbia’s Wildlife–Human Conflict Prevention Strategy, at:  
[www.env.gov.bc.ca/cos/info/wildlife\\_human\\_interaction/hwconflicts\\_files/strategy.pdf](http://www.env.gov.bc.ca/cos/info/wildlife_human_interaction/hwconflicts_files/strategy.pdf)
4. Columbia Basin Environmental Education Network  
[www.cbeen.org](http://www.cbeen.org)  
 Look in the “Resource Database” and use the keyword *bear*.
5. Columbia Mountains Institute of Applied Ecology  
[www.cmiae.org](http://www.cmiae.org)  
 Use the “search” function for the word *bear*. There are newspaper articles provided by Parks Canada, summaries of previous Bear Aware workshops, and more. Also look in the Links section.
6. Get Bear Smart Society – Kootenay Chapter  
[www.bearsmart.com/Kootenay/index.html](http://www.bearsmart.com/Kootenay/index.html)
7. Get Bear Smart Society (Whistler)  
[www.bearsmart.com](http://www.bearsmart.com)



8. Kimberley Bear Smart  
[www.wildsight.ca/article.php?id=10](http://www.wildsight.ca/article.php?id=10)  
Operates as part of the Wildsight group
9. Northern Bear Awareness (Prince George)  
[www.scwa.bc.ca/Bearaware/](http://www.scwa.bc.ca/Bearaware/)
10. North Shore Bear Network (North and West Vancouver)  
[www.northshorebears.ca](http://www.northshorebears.ca)
11. Rossland Bear Aware  
[www.rosslandbearaware.org](http://www.rosslandbearaware.org)
12. Revelstoke Bear Aware Society  
[www.revelstokebearaware.org](http://www.revelstokebearaware.org)

### ***Educational materials***

1. Habitat Conservation Trust Fund—Wild BC  
[www.hctf.ca/wild/resources/index.html](http://www.hctf.ca/wild/resources/index.html)  
Wild BC is in the process of creating an educational unit on bears. Contact them for more information.
2. British Columbia Conservation Foundation (BCCF)  
BCCF has developed educational materials. Call Jacques Drisdelle at: [jacques@bccf.com](mailto:jacques@bccf.com)  
Phone: 250-398-8609

### ***Funding Sources***

1. Look at other organizations in your community and see where they are getting their money from.
2. Approach businesses. Have a strategy before you knock on their doors—how much do you need, what is it for, how will their contribution be recognized?
3. Does your community have a Community Foundation?
4. Look at page 10 of the Sustainability Planning for Bear Smart Programs handouts (Appendix Three) for a list of funding sources developed at the workshop.
5. These web sites provide lists of funders. Some key words to search for are: bears, safety, animal welfare, animal, wildlife.

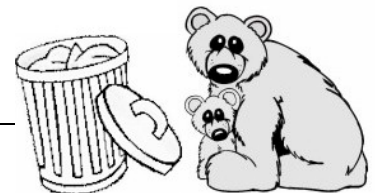
Environment Canada's EcoAction site provides a searchable list of funders at this site:  
[www.ec.gc.ca/ecoaction/grnsr/index\\_e.cfm](http://www.ec.gc.ca/ecoaction/grnsr/index_e.cfm)



Stewardship Canada has a searchable database of funders:

[www.stewardshipcanada.ca](http://www.stewardshipcanada.ca)

From the drop-down menus across the top of the page, choose *Stewardship Directories*, then *Funders*.



## ***Appendix Two: Summary of Bear Smart Workshop Evaluations***

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Participants were asked to evaluate both the Bear Smart session on November 2 and the Sustainability Planning for Bear Smart Programs session on November 3. (Appendices Two and Three, respectively).

- Thirty evaluation forms were returned.
- At the time the forms were completed, we had had to cancel the presentations on Canmore's waste management system. The Canmore talk was held after all, on the second day of the workshop. Comments expressing disappointment at the cancellation of this topic have been removed from this summary.
- Where comments were repetitive, the number of times that comment appeared is noted.

### **1. How well did day one of the workshop meet your expectations?**

Very well – 12 people

Generally positive comments – 18 people

Session was informative – 3 people

Good mix of speakers – 2 people

Already knew some of the material – 2 people

Other comments included the following:

- Presentations interesting
- Was not aware of some of the problems
- Got more details on the Bear Smart criteria
- Discussion on fruit trees not relevant to all places
- Nice to have time for networking with others throughout the day.
- Would have been nice if municipal people had attended
- Some duplication of material
- Good to hear other challenges of other municipalities and cities
- Well organized, catering well done, on time, etc.
- Good if it was your first Bear Aware conference, repeats if not your first

### **3. As a result of this workshop, has your understanding of the Ministry of Environment's Bear Smart Program improved?**

Much improved – 11 people

Somewhat better – 14 people

Not much – 4 people

Not at all – 0 people

Other comments included the following;

- Interesting to hear of close connection between conservation officers and Bear Smart (from an Alberta Conservation officer)
- Very logical sequence of presentations



- Understands general idea of the Bear Smart program but does not understand how to get help in setting up their own program, how much assistance is provided?
- There is a grey area between Bear Smart, Bear Aware, and other organizations
- Bear Smart should be working as an extension of Bear Aware, not the other way around
- Information was too general for a community that already has a Bear Aware program
- As part of my job I am already very familiar with the program (from a municipal employee)
- I was already pretty informed.

### 3. Which aspects of the Bear Smart Program would you like more information on?

Bylaw regulations and wording from other communities – 3 people

Further details on bear hazard assessment report and bear–human conflict report – 6 people

Other comments included the following:

- How do we actually apply for Bear Smart status?
- How do we know when we have met the criteria, does someone review them?
- Wants guidelines that let us know we have achieved status
- How can large communities implement the requirements for Bear Smart?
- More detail on what works well and what doesn't and why
- Specs on wildlife and bear proof structures, maybe set forth by Ministry.
- Information on history and origins of program (person from outside BC)
- Aversive conditioning
- Bear response personnel
- Research on ways to successfully implement behavioural changes in people
- Once a community is interested, what are the steps 1,2,3,4 etc to follow—wants flow chart
- What real incentives are available to local and regional governments to adapt Bear Smart principles?
- How to assemble the bear–human conflict management committee.
- Innovative methods of reducing fruit tree problems e.g., spray to stop fruit setting, without resorting to felling the tree
- Would like to hear from someone in a Bear Smart community—were the influencing factors that brought the community into acceptance.
- Some communities were misrepresented in terms of how far along they were for Bear Smart status
- How to win the support of long-time residents who enjoy having bears in their yard
- How do we get all aspects of the community involved?
- Legal liability—issues for program leaders and also what if there is an incident in a city and no due diligence when there is a known bear problem
- What is available funding for making changes, and how to calculate approximate costs for community of Logan Lake?



#### 4. Which of the presentations on Bear Smart were most useful to you, and why?

Bear hazard report and bear–human conflict report – 12 people

Translocation and bear biology talk – 7 people

Revising official community plans – 5 people

Bylaw presentation – 4 people

Case studies – 4 people

British Columbia Conservation Foundation’s Bear Aware goals and objectives – 2 people

General talk on the Bear Smart program and criteria – 2 people

Other comments included the following:

- All useful, will help us Albertans not have to re-invent the wheel
- Badry’s two presentations gave me ideas what we can do
- Daloise’s thoughts on implementing Bear Smart in new subdivisions were useful
- Wanted talk from Conservation Officer perspective
- Wants to hear opinions of municipal staff in Whistler, North Van, Rossland, and other communities
- All were useful, good to hear of various opinions and challenges
- Good to hear what worked well for other groups, and to hear how other groups are progressing
- Interested in education and promotional materials, and new ways of promoting the program

#### 5. Do you feel you have been introduced to people and resources that can support you as your community works toward Bear Smart?

Yes – 23 people

Somewhat – 2 people

Other comments included the following:

- Extremely important to liaise informally with other people and agencies
- Not sure yet
- This was the best part of the workshop
- I am from outside of BC—is there support for people working outside of BC?
- Wonderful networking opportunity
- Already knew lots of these people

#### 6. Please complete this sentence: As a result of this workshop, I plan to.....

- partner with and support my local Bear Aware educators (from Alberta conservation officer).
- work on replacing fruit trees with non-fruit bearing trees.
- work with town council to adjust garbage pickup.



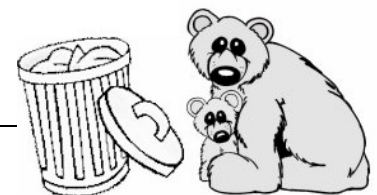
- use the information I learned today to strengthen our existing program.
- approach realtors in our area regarding our part-time and new residents.
- put together a standard PowerPoint presentation.
- complete our display.
- have our program work with council to develop more bylaws.
- initiate a bear hazard assessment in my community.
- address council regularly.
- complete our bear hazard assessment.
- put more pressure on my city to modify garbage pickup.
- look at making revisions to our current curbside bylaw.
- get city on board for communal bins in new developments and in ski hill/vacation areas, and trailer park where there is no place to store garbage.
- take back this information and see if it helps our initiative in Canmore.
- keep in contact with people I met; collaborate.
- prepare bear–human conflict plan, alter bylaws.
- continue funding the Bear Aware program in my community.
- continue to develop educational and outreach materials.
- continue to apply for funds.
- implement the new ideas I heard.
- get more resources from the contacts I made.
- recommend to council that we become a Bear Smart community (Logan Lake).
- convince my town council to implement Bear Smart bylaws.

## **7. Do you have any other comments on day one of this workshop?**

- Very precise, effective use of one day, to come up to speed on Bear Smart (from Alberta conservation officer)
- Great information, should be an annual event
- Case studies were great
- Very good workshop—a variety of speakers with different approaches made for interesting presentations
- Wants more advanced information, was already familiar with most of what was presented, e.g., wants provincial wildlife management and issues—population numbers, data on conflict calls, kill permits, hunting regulations and allocations
- Need to acknowledge that education and awareness may still not be enough to change people's behaviours
- Well organized workshop, thanks!
- Informative and valuable day
- Wanted more interaction during presentations
- Would have liked a presentation from a group in its first year—what were the challenges they faced and what were their accomplishments
- Informative and useful
- Good assortment of talks



- Feels like you were preaching to the converted
- Have new ideas to improve our program
- Great job





### ***Appendix Three: Summary of Evaluation Forms for Session on Sustainability Planning***

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- 25 forms were returned.
- Where comments were repetitive, the number of times that comment appeared is noted.

#### **1. Please rate the quality of the instruction.**

*(Numbers indicate the number of people that ticked this choice on the evaluation form)*

	<b>Excellent</b>	<b>Good</b>	<b>Adequate</b>	<b>Poor</b>	<b>Unacceptable</b>
Knowledgeable about the subject matter	17	3		1*	
Covered all of the stated objectives	15	5	1		
Used examples to explain concepts effectively	13	6	2		
Answered questions clearly and completely	13	8			
Provided clear and constructive feedback	13	7	1		
Created a comfortable learning environment	16	4			

\*Instructor was not knowledgeable about the specifics of Bear Aware programs

#### **2. What were the strengths of the instructor?**

Knowledge – 6 people

Good presentation skills – 7 people

Information presented clearly – 4 people

Other comments were:

- Funny, friendly, well organized
- Positive attitude
- I usually hate these workshops but the instructor was informative and kept my attention
- Related all the course material to Bear Smart
- Credibility, approachable, professional expertise, innovative teaching methods
- Comfortable
- Confident, experienced, organized
- Engaged audience
- Good use of props
- Experienced, articulate, interesting to listen to



- Controlled her audience
- Kept audience focused
- Experience in working with non-government organizations (NGOs)
- Concise, fun, and on time
- Had thought through best way to present information
- Enthusiastic and motivating
- Very approachable.

**3. What are your recommendations for the instructor that will improve her effectiveness in delivering this workshop?**

- Would like a few specific examples of funding strategies groups have used
- Wanted handout to be bound for ease of use
- Possibly she needed a bit more background on what Bear Smart groups are about
- More PowerPoint instead of overheads

**4. Additional comments for the instructor:**

- Wonderful
- Play Doh was a good idea
- Excellent session
- Good luck with the baby!
- Good mix of activities and lecture
- Very good presentation in a short period of time

**5. What sections of this workshop were of most value to you?**

Fundraising section – 7 people

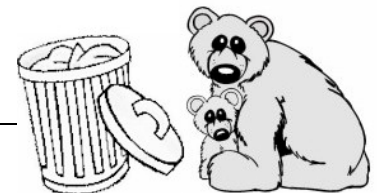
All of it – 5 people

Strategic planning – 3 people

Sustainability planning – 4 people

Other comments were:

- Champions
- Sustainability factors list
- Committee forming tips and resources to bring back to our communities
- Speaker panel had Bear Aware background
- General concepts about sustainability, exercises
- Factors promoting sustainability, characteristics of sustainability, program champions
- Now I want another whole workshop on each section we covered today
- Sustainable funding
- Networking



**6. What are your recommendations for making the workshop content and materials more valuable to yourself and others?**

- Have the workshop in the spring before the start of the programs
- Provide real-life example of bear program sustainability
- How to step back and look at your program
- There are a number of government reps here—we need information on how a government employee can find engage a group in Bear Smart programs
- More time to get into more detail
- More time, to allow us to apply and do actual parts for our organization
- Take-home materials were valuable

**7. How would you rate:**

*(Numbers indicate the number of people that ticked this choice on the evaluation form)*

	<b>Excellent</b>	<b>Good</b>	<b>Adequate</b>	<b>Poor</b>	<b>Unacceptable</b>
The relevance and importance for the material for your job	9	9	3		
Your confidence in applying the workshop material within the context of your job	5	15	2		
The design, layout, and sequencing of material	7	9			
The degree to which the exercises and questions contributed to your learning	7	13	1		
The value gained for your time spent in the workshop	9	10	1		

**8. Additional comments:**

- One of the most on-target workshops I have ever attended.
- Would love to hear more sources of funding
- Excellent all around
- Great job
- Very good



## ***Appendix Four: Sustainability Planning for Bear Smart Programs***

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Kylie Hutchinson, of Community Solutions Planning and Evaluations, led the group in a one-day session about how Bear Smart groups could operate in a sustainable manner. She provided a booklet for use during the session. Key pages from the booklet are included on the following pages. Web sites recommended in these pages are excellent sources of more information.

### *Agenda for Session:*

1. Introductions
2. Workshop Objectives
3. Review Agenda
4. Definition of Sustainability
5. Why is Sustainability Important?
6. Characteristics of Sustained Programs
7. Factors Promoting Sustainability

#### *Break*

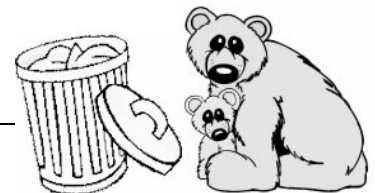
8. Planning Basics
9. Sources of Funding
10. Sustainability Planning

#### *Lunch*

11. Program Champions
12. Organizational Structure

#### *Break*

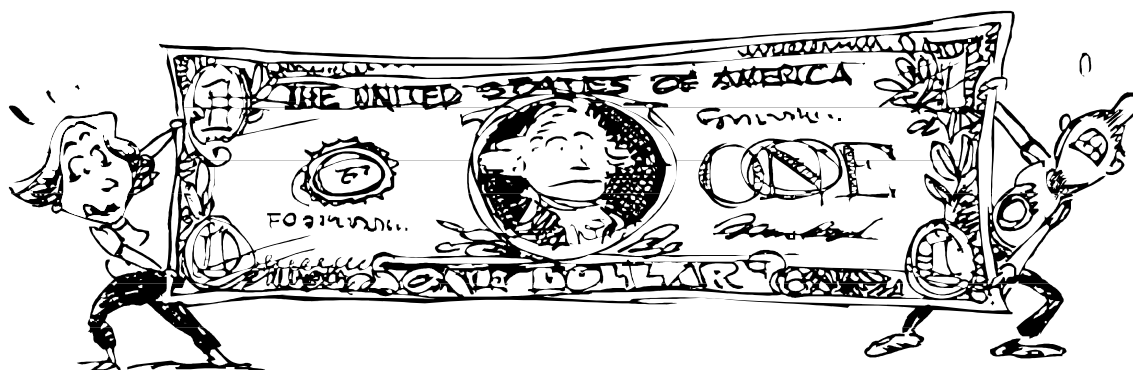
13. Speakers' Panel
14. Wrap-up





Community Solutions  
Planning & Evaluation

# Sustainability Planning for Bear Smart Programs



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Sustainability Planning for Bear Smart Programs  
November 3, 2005  
9 am to 3 pm

**Workshop Outline:**

1. Definitions of Sustainability
2. Importance of Sustainability
3. Factors Promoting Sustainability
4. Planning Basics for Bear Smart Groups
5. Fundraising Sources for Bear Smart Groups
6. Sustainability Planning
7. Collaboration and Champions
8. Speakers Panel
  - a. Richard Daloise, Big Red Consulting Services & Chair of Provincial Bear Aware Advisory Committee
  - b. Loni Parker, President Revelstoke Bear Aware Society & Area B Columbia Shuswap Regional District Representative

**Learning Outcomes:**

At the end of the workshop, participants will be able to:

- a) explain the concept of program sustainability and why it's important
- b) state the factors that promote sustainability of a program, group, or organization
- c) employ sustainability planning tools
- d) identify additional sources of funding for Bear Smart groups
- e) state the basics of a strategic plan
- f) describe the role of program champions in sustainability



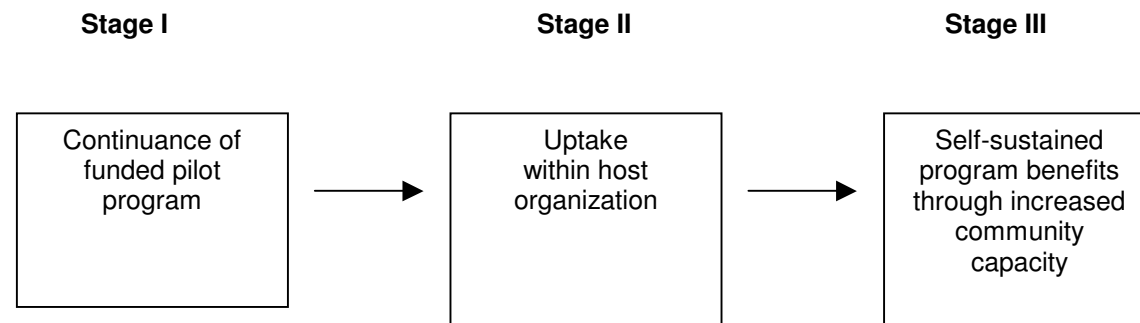
# Four Definitions of Sustainability

- the continuation of successful pilot programs after major or seed funding is terminated
- the capacity to continue to deliver a particular program through a network of agencies, in addition to or instead of, the agency which initiated the program (“spinning off”)
- the extent to which pilot programs or new practices become embedded within a host agency (also called “uptake” or “institutionalization”)
- the maintenance of program benefits in a community over the long-term through the development of increased community capacity

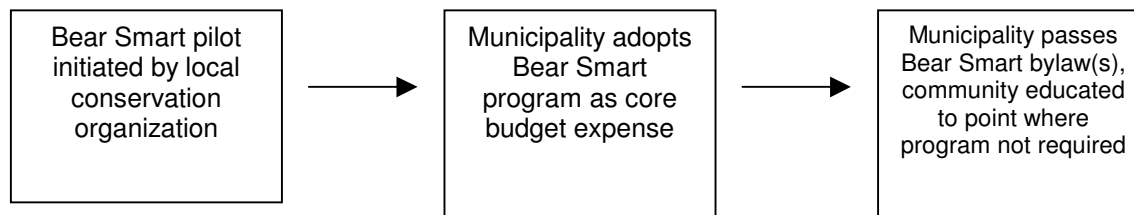
*Centre for Civic Partnerships, 2001; Goodman et al., 1993; Hawe, et al., 2000; Shediak-Rizhallah, 1998*



**Figure 1: The Sustainability Continuum**



***Example using Bear Smart:***





# 34 Factors Promoting the Sustainability of Programs

## FUNDING

- Adequate Funding
- Sufficient Early Resources to Generate Initial Successes
- Diverse Sources of Funding
- Multi-year Funding
- Realistic Program Budget
- High Levels of In-Kind Resources and Services

## PLANNING & EVALUATION

- Sustainability Plan
- Multiple Sustainability Strategies
- Demonstrated Effectiveness
- Clear Vision and Program Goals
- Continuity in Vision and Program Goals

## PROGRAM DESIGN & IMPLEMENTATION

- Responds to a Clear Need
- Program Idea Originates from Community
- Program Reflects Community Values and Culture
- Train the Trainer Component
- Number of Years in Operation
- Flexibility and Adaptability
- Careful Selection of Dissemination Sites

## PARTNERS

- Collaborative Partners
- Internal/External Champions
- Support From a Credible Institution

## PERSONNEL

- Strong Leadership
- Continuity in Leadership, Staff, and Advisory Board
- Program Uses Local Program Staff
- Funder Involvement on Advisory Boards etc.
- Strong Base of Committed Volunteers

## HOST ORGANIZATIONAL FACTORS

- Receptive Host Organization
- Program Mission Aligns with Host Organization's
- Stable Host Organization
- Program Becomes "Institutionalized" Within Host Organization
- Program Activities Become Policy

## BROADER COMMUNITY FACTORS

- Strong and Diverse Forms of Community Participation and Support
- Support From Local Government, Policy Makers And Businesses

## COMMUNICATIONS

- High Visibility in Community

*Adapted from: Bracht et al., (1994); Centre for Civic Partnerships, (2001); Centre for Community Leadership & Grantham, (2000); Coalition for Community Schools, (2003); Duplechain, (2001); Evashwick & Ory, (2003); Foreman et al., (2001); Goodman & Steckler, (1989); Goodman et al., (1993); Hailman, (2001); Holder & Moore, (2000); Jackson et al. (1994); Marek, et al., (1999, 2003); Paine-Andrews, (2000); Rosenheck, (2001); Shediak-Rizhallah, (1998); Smith et al., (1993); The Finance Project, (2002); Victorian Government Department of Human Services (2001).*



Community Solutions  
Planning & Evaluation

## Basic Planning Components for Bear Smart Groups

### **Vision Statement**

- guiding image of success
- what the mission looks like if it is accomplished
- what overall success looks like

### **Mission Statement**

- blueprint for an organization's work
- what, why, how, where
- why the organization exists
- what business is it in
- what values guide it

### **Goals**

- broad general statements of what you are trying to achieve

### **Objectives**

- more specific and measurable statements of the activities you will conduct to realize your goal
- SMART (specific, measurable, action-oriented, realistic, timeframe)
- a goal may have several objectives

### **Activities**

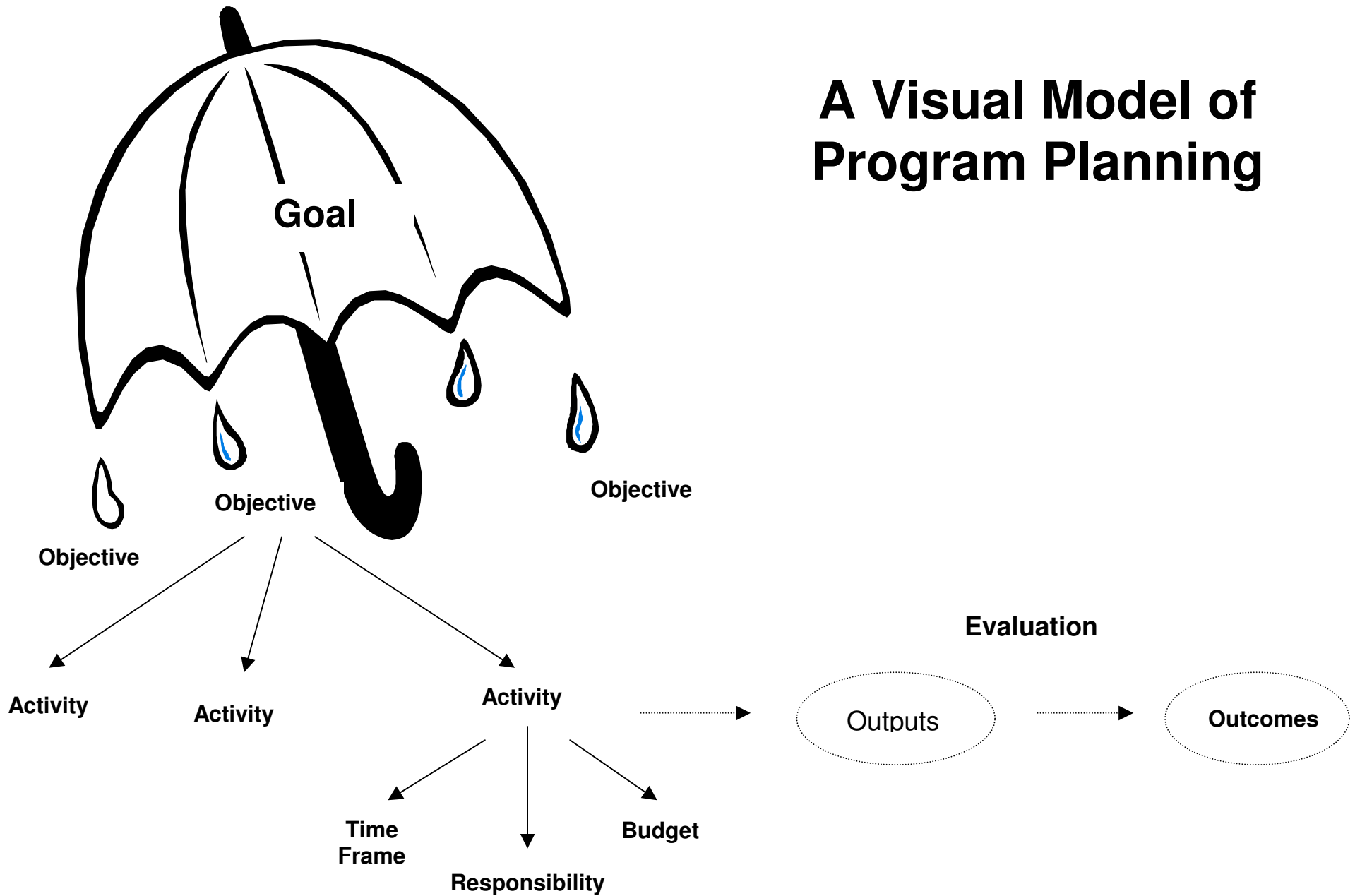
- specific tasks you will do to accomplish your objectives

### **Timeframe, Responsibility, Budget**

- essential components to ensure achievement of activities and accountability

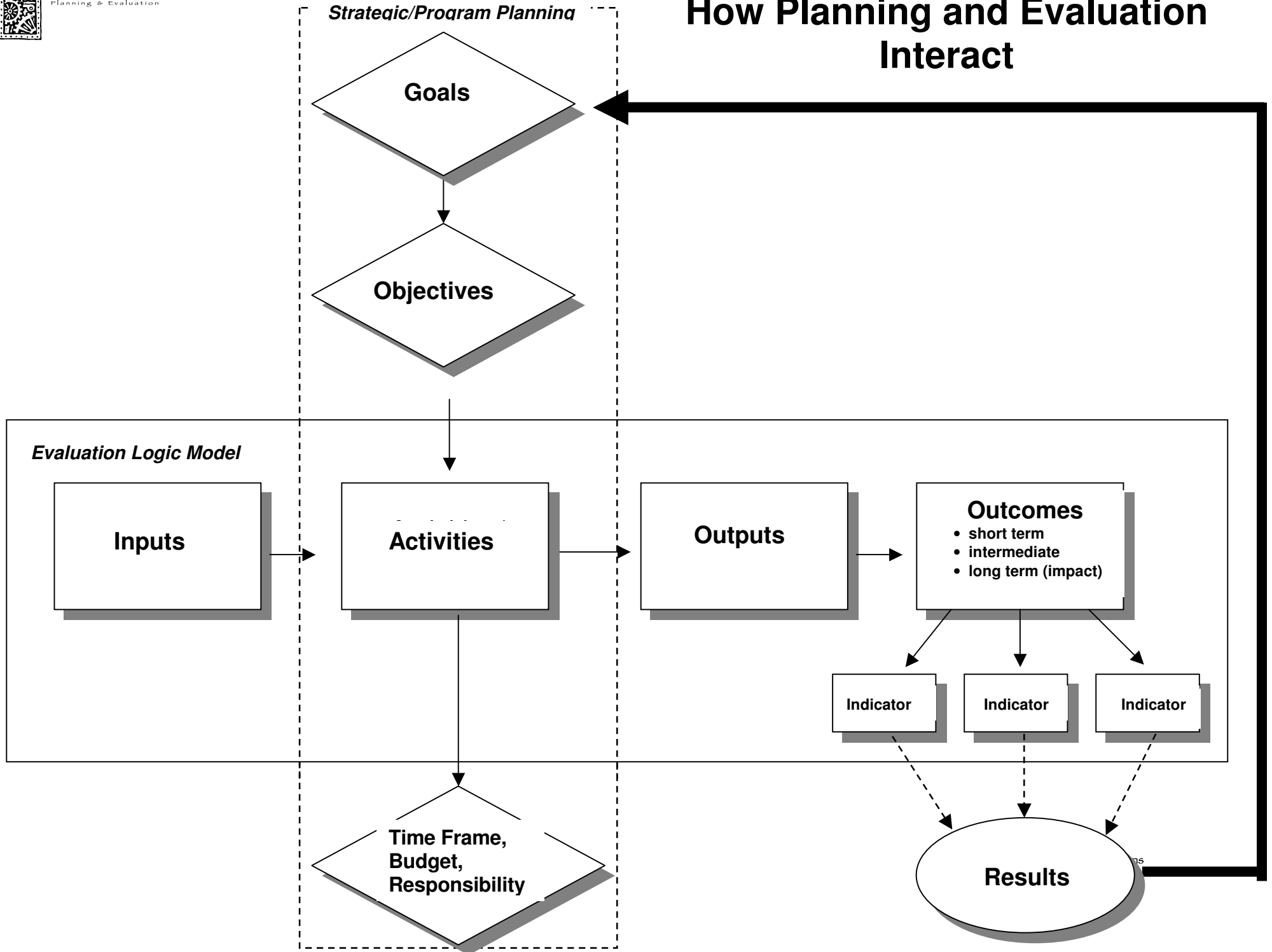


# A Visual Model of Program Planning

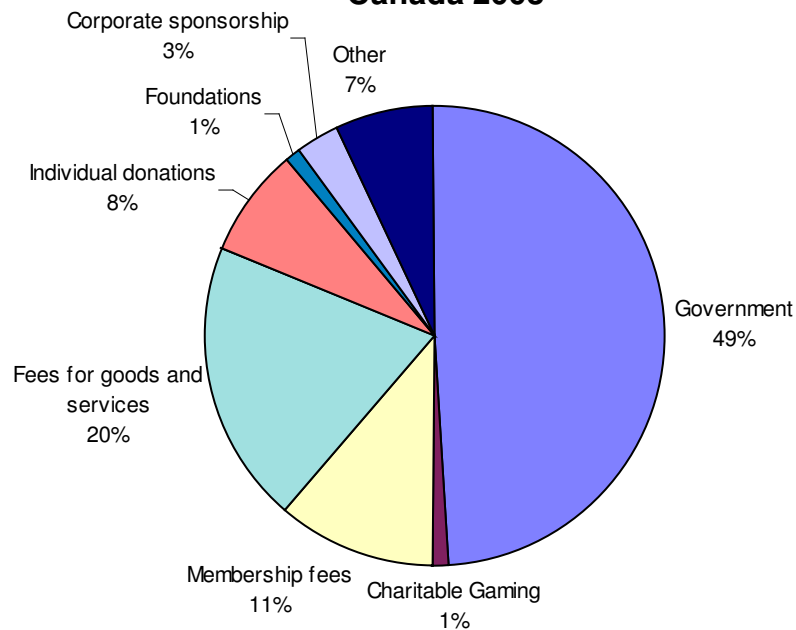




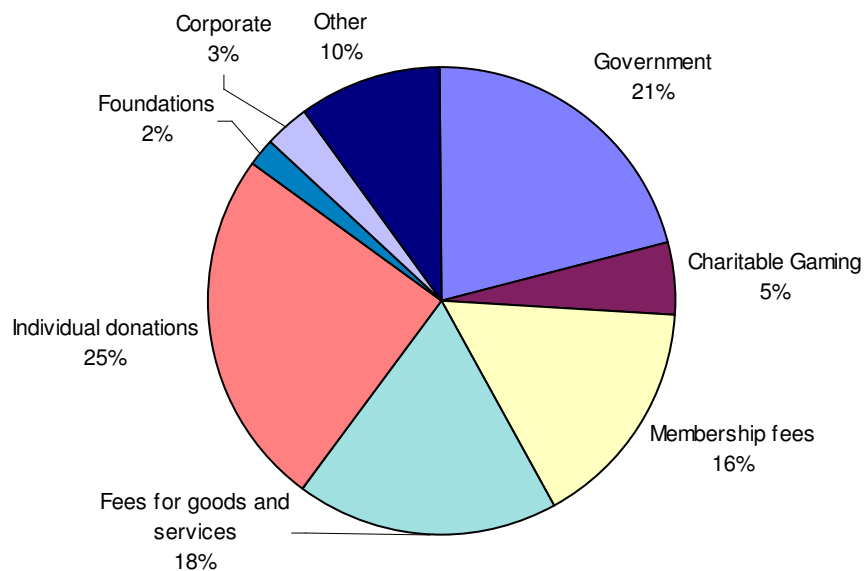
# How Planning and Evaluation Interact

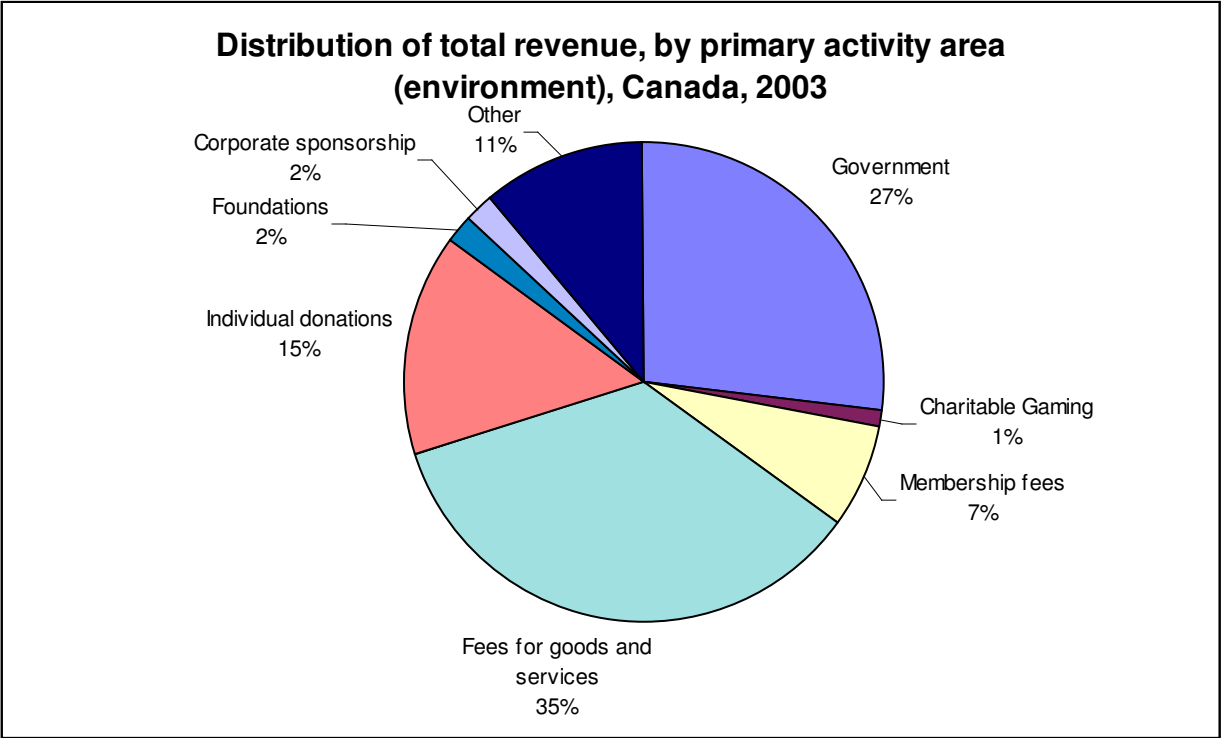


### Distribution of total revenue, by source (all organizations), Canada 2003



### Distribution of total revenue, by annual revenue (\$100,000 to \$249,999), Canada 2003





Source: *Cornerstones of Community: Highlights of the National Survey of Nonprofit and Voluntary Organizations, 2003.* ([www.nonprofitscan.ca](http://www.nonprofitscan.ca))

# Sources of Funding for Bear Smart Groups

## Workshop Brainstorming Activity

- government
- Columbia Basin Trust
- foundations
- corporate sponsors
- membership fees
- social enterprises (but be realistic)
- private donations
- planned giving – wills (stable organizations only)
- public awareness – film nights, raffles, silent auction
- donations
- special events – one purpose, raise awareness, return is low
- 'in-kind' donations – computers, fax, consultation, make donors name visible
- resale of products – videos, DVDs, cards
- charitable gaming (nonprofit societies only)
- regulatory fees? – bylaw fees?
- service to community organizations – Legion, Rotary Club



# Sustainability Resources:

The Health Communications Unit. (2001). Overview of Sustainability. Toronto, ON: University of Toronto. <http://www.thcu.ca>

Centre for Civic Partnerships. (2001). *Sustainability toolkit: 10 steps to maintaining your community improvements*. Sacramento, CA: Public Health Institute.

The Finance Project. (2002). *Sustaining comprehensive community initiatives: Key elements for success*. Washington, DC: The Finance Project. <http://www.financeprojectinfo.org/Publications/Sustaining.pdf>





## Sustainability for Bear Smart Programs

### Should We Incorporate as a Nonprofit Society?

Advantages	Disadvantages
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• permanence/unlimited life expectancy that outlives founding members</li><li>• facilitates longer-term contracts/grants etc.</li><li>• tax exempt status</li><li>• can directly issue charitable tax receipts</li><li>• possibly higher profile</li><li>• image of increased stability and responsibility</li><li>• increased accountability</li><li>• enter into contracts</li><li>• own property</li><li>• borrow money</li><li>• places purposes and structure of society above personal interests of members</li><li>• increased accountability/external scrutiny</li><li>• limited liability for directors and members</li><li>• solicit funds directly</li><li>• can own assets</li><li>• unique name</li><li>• clear framework for decision-making (the board)</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• time consuming process to incorporate</li><li>• more time and energy to maintain</li><li>• substantial paperwork &amp; record-keeping</li><li>• AGMs</li><li>• need to constantly recruit board members (can be challenging in a small community)</li><li>• greater administration and paperwork. filing reports</li><li>• D&amp;O liability insurance (\$1,000 additional expense)</li><li>• loss of some organizational flexibility (government regulations/oversight)</li><li>• additional expenses (incorporation \$130, annual filing \$25)</li></ul>



## Sustainability for Bear Smart Programs

### Should We Become a Program Under Another Nonprofit? (Fiscal Sponsor)

Advantages	Disadvantages
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• increased access to grant funds</li><li>• enhanced credibility and prestige through association</li><li>• access to better facilities, equipment, admin support</li><li>• access to professional in financial management and marketing</li><li>• increased efficiency, less time spent on program administration</li><li>• leverage resources better</li><li>• more time to focus on program activities versus nonprofit start-up and admin</li><li>• host organization can provide financial buffer while searching for additional funding</li><li>• host organization may attract new funders for their other programs</li><li>• program's funds may defray some of host organization's own admin costs</li><li>• host organization shares honor if program successful</li><li>• enables host organization to expand their own mandate/reach with minimal financial outlay</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• decreased autonomy</li><li>• reputation linked with host organization</li></ul>

