



Program Update for 2009

Each year Bear Aware solicits interest from communities with bear-human conflict, who can make application for program in their community. There is a subsidized program that has been offered during times of substantial funding and Bear Aware has worked closely with numerous communities in achieving the mutual goal of reducing bear-human conflict through the proper management of human food sources, which eventually leads to fewer bears becoming habituated to people and eventually becoming human food conditioned. Habituated and food conditioned bears pose a threat to human safety. This has the additional benefit of relieving Conservation Officers to pursue enforcement work and less time responding to problem bear calls.

The Bear Aware Program raises money on a yearly basis. Applications for funding are submitted to both government and private and corporate sponsors. Our ability to deliver community programs depends on the amount of money we can successfully raise on a yearly basis. We have no funding sources that have made any commitment from year to year; therefore we are completely dependent on that funding we receive each year. Our capacity is often not realized until the month of March. Therefore we are unable to make any financial commitment to any community for a subsidized program.

The amount of yearly funding we receive determines how many programs we will be able to sponsor.

For 2009 we have received 24 community applications for a subsidized Bear Aware Program. This year we received less funding support than in previous years but are grateful that in these difficult economical times for the funding that we have received. The monies received will permit us to subsidize 7 programs for 16 weeks instead of the 24 weeks of past years. We simply work with the monies that we are successful in accessing on a yearly basis.

The following communities have been awarded a subsidized Bear Aware program with funds received from the BC Conservation Corps. Coquitlam; Elk Valley; Fernie; Golden; Kamloops; Revelstoke; Squamish

There are other communities that continue to provide the delivery of a Bear Aware education program. Trans-Border Grizzly project out of Nelson and the City of Port Coquitlam are being self-fund for this year with BCCF administering the funds and program. Through this arrangement they will receive the Bear Aware education tool kit and ongoing support as well as the use of the Bear Aware name and logo. Other communities are keeping the money they committed towards local support and looking at raising more money in order to provide some component of the program. In one particular community the possibility of corporate sponsorship is being explored to fund the entire program.

Applicants should not be discouraged by the lack of adequate funding. Bear Aware is not dead nor is it folding up and leaving. We are committed to develop the best resources available and assist as many communities as we possibly can. In these tough economic times we have been very fortunate to receive some funding and we must use those funds wisely to achieve their maximum potential.

The annual training which was scheduled for May 12 – 23 has been cancelled. We have experienced and trained Program Delivery Specialists returning to those seven communities listed above. This has allowed us to funnel the training monies to support each returning program.

1. Bear Aware is an education program that BCCF owns the rights to.
2. Communities and groups can buy the BA education program. It is a shelf ready program that can be purchased from BCCF. The tool kit is \$1,500.00 and includes: posters, brochures, manuals for implementing a education program, stickers. Once you have purchased the tool kit you can order additional supplies.
3. For communities that received a subsidized program, BCCF hires the staff and the staff are referred to as *BA Program Delivery Specialist*. (PDS). You are not a PDS unless you are currently employed by BCCF. If you are not an employee of BCCF, you can continue to deliver the BA education program as an individual or as part of a committee or community group.
4. If a community purchases the program and chooses to deliver it one their own, BCCF does not provide direct supervision although the BA website and BCCF Provincial BA Coordinator is available to offer advise and support.
5. If the community delivers a complete program including wages etc utilizing BCCF (basically gives BCCF a contact to deliver a full program) then BCCF will provided training and supervision to that PDS
6. Like purchasing any resource material the Bear Aware Program is a tool that is valuable in providing education about reducing Bear Human Conflicts. It can be used in conjunction with other sources of information.
7. BCCF can assist you in managing any funds that you receive either by donation or proposals. We charge a fee of 10% to do this. With these funds we can use them to pay a wage, purchase supplies and materials or any other services as dictated by the terms of the funding agreement.