

Pespesellkwe te Secwepemc & Neskonlith Band

Press Release (May 27, 2021)

100 Bear Paws found on Angle Mountain, North Shuswap



Pespesellkwe te Secwepemc

\$3,000 reward

For information resulting in a conviction

Weytk (Hello) - The Indigenous bands of the Pespesellkwe te Secwepemc (Adams Lake, Little Shuswap Lake and Splatshin) and Neskonlith Band, wish to make a joint statement on a recent discovery of great concern to all those living in the Shuswap Lakes area.

On Sunday May 23, 2021 a woman came across upwards of 100 skinned and clawless bear paws, including some from bear cubs, dumped in a ditch and further scattered by wildlife, next to a culvert on Angle Mountain (above the community of Anglemont, BC). These could represent the slaughter of over 25 individuals (likely black bear aka "skwleqs" in Secwepemctsin), which are considered sacred.

RCMP and local elected representatives were contacted and a Kamloops-based conservation officer has been at the scene. Jointly they are investigating this illegal action.

Black bear hunting (limit of 2 animals per adult hunter) requires a fish and wildlife ID (which requires proof of hunter safety training from the BC wildlife federation). Hunters also need a basic hunting license (\$32) and a bear license (\$20) and must be a resident of BC. Disposal of carcasses or wildlife parts falls under the BC Wildlife Act, which bans the dumping of animal parts and carcasses where there are "likely to be people, in a manner in which the attractant could attract dangerous wildlife, to the land or premises, and be accessible to dangerous wildlife".

Beyond the provincial legislation regarding the disposal of 'animal parts', Neskonlith Band and the Pespesellkwe te Secwepemc express their condemnation towards these disrespectful actions. They are offering a reward of \$3,000 for information that leads to the conviction of those responsible for this slaughter and associated disrespectful actions. Please direct any information you believe might be helpful to Dave Nordquist, Adams Lake Indian Band: dnordquist@alib.ca.

Indigenous Title & Rights are supported by Section 35 of the Canadian Constitution Act, 1982, and an integral aspect of the *UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples* (UNDRIP) legislated in British Columbia as the *Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act* or DRIPA. UNDRIP is in the process of being legislated by the government of Canada. Neskonlith and Pespesellkwe te Secwepemc share the desire to attain co-management over wildlife to ensure First Nations cultural values and respect are incorporated into wildlife and lands stewardship.

Kukstemc (Thank you)

Kukpi7 Cliff Arnouse (Adams Lake Indian Band), Kukpi7 Oliver Arnouse (Little Shuswap Lake Band),
Kukpi7 Judy Wilson (Neskonlith), Kukpi7 Wayne Christian (Splatshin)