

**From:** FLNR RSD ADM's Office FLNR:EX [<mailto:RSD.ADMs.Office@gov.bc.ca>]

**Sent:** Tuesday, October 29, 2019 1:43 PM

**To:** Kelly Myers <[kmyers@crd.bc.ca](mailto:kmyers@crd.bc.ca)>

**Cc:** CRDBoard <[crdboard@crd.bc.ca](mailto:crdboard@crd.bc.ca)>; Robert Lapham <[rlapham@crd.bc.ca](mailto:rlapham@crd.bc.ca)>; Larisa Hutcheson <[lhutcheson@crd.bc.ca](mailto:lhutcheson@crd.bc.ca)>; CRD Chair <[crdchair@crd.bc.ca](mailto:crdchair@crd.bc.ca)>; Minister, AGRI AGRI:EX <[AGR.Minister@gov.bc.ca](mailto:AGR.Minister@gov.bc.ca)>; Minister, FLNR FLNR:EX <[FLNR.Minister@gov.bc.ca](mailto:FLNR.Minister@gov.bc.ca)>; Minister, ENV ENV:EX <[ENV.Minister@gov.bc.ca](mailto:ENV.Minister@gov.bc.ca)>

**Subject:** Reference: 251305: Letter from CRD Board Chair Colin Plant Re: Deer Management

Reference: 251305

October 29, 2019

Colin Plant, Chair  
Capital Regional District Board  
625 Fisgard Street  
Victoria BC V8W 2S6

Via email to: [kmyers@crd.bc.ca](mailto:kmyers@crd.bc.ca)

Dear Mr. Plant:

Thank you for your letter of September 25 2019 expressing the Capital Regional District's (CRD) position with respect to urban deer management. Ministers Popham, Heyman and Donaldson have collectively asked that I reply on their behalf.

The Province supports a collaborative approach to urban deer management. We will continue to work with local governments in their management of conflicts with deer in urban areas through the Provincial Urban Deer Operational Cost-Share (PUDOCS) Program. On September 30 the B.C. Government renewed this program for 2019/20, confirming \$100,000 to help fund urban deer management projects across the province. For information on the PUDOCS Program visit: <https://news.gov.bc.ca/releases/2019FLNR0232-001796>.

While the Province can and does adjust hunting regulations to lower deer populations in areas near communities, you are correct that within city limits hunting is not a practical alternative. The Province is providing funding for operational alternatives to directly manage or deter deer populations which are known to be effective while managing all associated risks; specifically, fencing or cattle guards that block access to, or from, attractants or green belt corridors and targeted, humane culling (capture and bolt gun). Local governments can apply under either category for funding through PUDOCS. I understand that the CRD received funding in 2018 to cull fallow deer on Mayne Island.

Research projects are another possibility. Research projects are categorized as trial-based applied projects intended to directly or indirectly deter deer populations in urban areas with methods that are not yet determined to be effective in achieving objectives or managing associated risks in BC.

A current research project, led by the Municipality of Oak Bay, is exploring the use of immuno-contraception. This research trial is still underway; therefore, the necessary data to determine if the program is successful and suitable for broader expansion is not yet available. The knowledge we gain from this research will help inform any future expansion as an operational project if appropriate.

With respect to individual concerns with wildlife conflict, deer are not considered dangerous wildlife overall, but can act aggressively to protect themselves or their fawns, or if they are injured. If residents wish to report a wildlife conflict that is causing public safety risks or an injured deer, they can call the Conservation Officer Service's RAPP (Report All Poachers and Polluters) line at 1-877-952-7277 (RAPP) (<http://www.env.gov.bc.ca/cos/rapp/rapp.html>). Operators are available to take public enquiries 24/7 and pass the information on to a Conservation Officer for response if required.

Looking forward, the Province is releasing a draft strategy to improve wildlife management and habitat conservation – Together for Wildlife. Common themes that we heard through previous engagement and have captured in the draft strategy include: ensuring mechanisms to identify shared priorities and working collaboratively, ensuring sufficient and dedicated funding, and implementing a performance management framework collectively intended to support improved outcomes for wildlife. We have engaged the Union of BC Municipalities (UBCM) and will continue to reach out to local governments through UBCM, regional meetings, and the EngageBC website <https://engage.gov.bc.ca/wildlifeandhabitat/> in a final engagement phase set to start in the coming days.

Thank you for taking the time to write. If you would like to meet with staff to discuss, please feel free to contact my Office Manager, Shannon Mlinar ([Shannon.mlinar@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Shannon.mlinar@gov.bc.ca)) to arrange a time that suits you.

Sincerely,

Nancy Liesch  
Executive Director, Natural Resources

Copy: Hon. Doug Donaldson  
Hon. George Heyman  
Hon. Lana Popham