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## Alberta Urged to Prioritize Non-Lethal Wildlife Management Over Reopening Grizzly Bear Hunt

Conservation Groups Call for Conflict Prevention and Community Safety

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**Amiskwaciwâskahikan/Edmonton, Alberta** – Exposed Wildlife Conservancy, in collaboration with Alberta Wilderness Association and the Grizzly Bear Foundation, has officially launched the second phase of its province-wide campaign calling on the Government of Alberta to prioritize evidence-based, non-lethal grizzly bear management and maintain the current closure of the provincial grizzly bear hunt.

The campaign follows ongoing public discussions surrounding the potential reinstatement of a grizzly bear hunt under the rationale of reducing human-bear conflict, a position conservation organizations say is not supported by current grizzly bear science.

In a newly released official statement, the organizations emphasize that there is no established scientific consensus demonstrating that recreational hunting reduces the frequency or severity of conflict involving large carnivores such as grizzly bears.

"The key to addressing conflicts with bears is to prevent those incidents from happening in the first place," said John E. Marriott, Co-founder and Chair of Exposed Wildlife Conservancy. "We know that the primary drivers of negative bear encounters are unsecured attractants and human behaviour, not simply the presence of grizzly bears on the landscape."

The organizations point to a growing body of research indicating that coexistence measures such as attractant management, electric fencing, bear-resistant waste systems, public education, and livestock husbandry improvements are among the most effective tools for reducing unnecessary interactions between people and wildlife.

"There is no credible evidence that recreational hunting functions as an effective way to reduce conflicts with grizzly bears," said Ruiping Luo, Conservation Specialist at Alberta Wilderness Association. "If the Province really wants to reduce conflict, the focus should be on prevention-based strategies that are already proven to work."

The organizations note that many of these approaches are already prioritized within Alberta's own 2020 Grizzly Bear Recovery Plan, though several recommendations surrounding coexistence infrastructure, monitoring, and conflict prevention remain underfunded or incomplete six years after the framework's release.

"At moments like this, wildlife policy must remain grounded in evidence, not fear," said Nicholas Scapillati, Executive Director of the Grizzly Bear Foundation. "Communities across North America have shown that long-term reductions in conflict are achieved through proactive coexistence strategies, not reactive lethal measures."

Public opinion research commissioned by Exposed Wildlife Conservancy further indicates strong support among Albertans for science-based, non-lethal wildlife management and maintaining protections for grizzly bears.

The organizations also emphasize that grizzly bears remain designated as Threatened under Alberta's Wildlife Act and have already been extirpated (made locally extinct) from the prairie regions of the province.

As part of the second phase of the campaign, members of the public are being encouraged to participate in a coordinated letter-writing initiative urging Alberta's government to:

- Maintain the current closure of the provincial grizzly bear hunt
- Prioritize evidence-based coexistence and conflict prevention programs
- Strengthen attractant management standards and enforcement
- Fully implement Alberta's Grizzly Bear Recovery Plan
- Invest in non-lethal wildlife management infrastructure and education

The initiative is part of a broader effort to strengthen public awareness around coexistence strategies, improve accountability in wildlife governance, and encourage long-term solutions that support both community safety and grizzly bear recovery.

"Protecting communities and protecting wildlife are not opposing goals," said Maggie Spizzirri, Executive Director of Exposed Wildlife Conservancy. "The challenge is not whether effective coexistence measures exist, but whether we are willing to prioritize and implement the solutions already proven to reduce preventable conflict while supporting the recovery of a species that remains threatened in Alberta."

## **Learn More**

[Send a Letter: Part 2](#)

[Read the Official Statement Part 2](#)

[Read more about the campaign](#)

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