



Town of Fort Smith
PO Box 147
61 King Street
Fort Smith, NT X0E 0P0

Attention: Cassandra Gibbons, Acting SAO

April 24, 2026

Re: Water Licence MV2011L3-0001 – Fort Smith Landfill Wildlife Concerns

Dear Ms. Gibbons,

I am writing to you in follow-up to our meeting with yourself and Andrew Grenier, Director of Municipal Services on April 17, 2026 regarding the recent bear sightings at the Fort Smith Landfill. It has been well documented that wildlife access to the Town's landfill facility has become a reoccurring issue over the past number of years, and it is imperative that the Town of Fort Smith immediately take steps to address this concern.

As discussed during the meeting, the following commitments were made by the Town:

1. Activate the electric bear deterrent fence by May 1st. The fence must surround the entire perimeter of the active domestic waste disposal area of the landfill. This must include an electric gate system at the active domestic waste disposal area that must be closed when the facility is not in operation.
2. Create a routine maintenance logbook that that records the operation and maintenance of the electric fence. Information to be recorded includes voltage meter checks, confirmation the electric fence is in working condition, removing windblown debris and vegetation, repairs, etc.
3. Maintain a log of daily sightings, and any interactions with wildlife.



4. Submission of the Routine Maintenance Logbook and Wildlife Encounter Logbook to the Inspector on the 1st and 15th day of the month from May 1st to October 31st.

I cannot emphasize strongly enough the requirement for responsible waste management at the Town's landfill facility as habituated bears pose a significant safety risk to both the public and Town of Fort Smith staff. Please provide confirmation in writing to the ECC GNWT Inspector when the electric fence has been energized.

If you require further information, I can be reached by phone at (867) 872-0750 or email at Norman.McCowan@gov.nt.ca.

Sincerely,

Norman McCowan
Water Resource Officer
South Slave Region
Department of Environment and Climate Change

- cc. Katie White, Regional Superintendent, Land and Water, ECC
Wendy Bidwell, Senior Water Resource Officer, ECC
Leslie Wilzen, Regional Superintendent, Wildlife and Forest Management, ECC
Heather Beck, Manager, Wildlife and Environment, ECC
Andrew Grenier, Director of Municipal Services, Town of Fort Smith
Erica Janes, Regulatory Specialist, Mackenzie Valley Land and Water Board