



British Columbia Conservation Foundation
Wildlife Collision Prevention Program
Suite 200 1383 McGill Road
Kamloops BC V2C 6K7
Phone: 250.828.2551 Fax: 250.828.2597
Web: www.wildlifecollisions.ca



NEWS RELEASE

FUNDING FROM TD FRIENDS OF THE ENVIRONMENT FOUNDATION SUPPORTS WILDLIFE COLLISION PREVENTION PROJECTS

PRINCE GEORGE, B.C. (July 12, 2006) – The Wildlife Collision Prevention Program is pleased to acknowledge a contribution of \$1,500 from the TD Friends of the Environment Foundation. The funds will support on-going awareness projects about wildlife vehicle collisions and how they can be anticipated and avoided.

“We are pleased that the TD Friends of the Environment Foundation supports our efforts to make the highways safer for both people and wildlife,” said Gayle Hesse, Coordinator, Wildlife Collision Prevention Program. “With this funding, we look forward to expanding our public awareness projects along Highway 97 from Prince George to Williams Lake.”

On the highways around Prince George, there are about 300 wildlife collision incidents reported to ICBC every year. Approximately 36% of collisions involve deer, 50% involve moose, and 8% involve bear. Moose vehicle collisions increase in July, and motorists need to drive with caution.

Collisions with moose are extremely dangerous, as there is a significant risk of injury or death to motorists and passengers. Moose are tall animals and their body is at the height of most car windshields. When a car collides with a moose, the legs are knocked out from under the moose, and its large and heavy body comes crashing down onto the roof and windshield of the vehicle. This greatly increases the risk of a human fatality.

The Wildlife Collision Prevention Program reminds drivers that summer is a high risk time for wildlife vehicle collisions. Food and water are more accessible in the valley bottoms, and wildlife move toward these areas when forage higher up in the mountains is depleted. Many road corridors are also built in valley bottoms, and when motorists and wildlife use the same travel corridors, it leads to increased collisions. Summer drought and forest fire activity reduce food and habitat availability.

Wildlife Collision Prevention Program “Hints for the Highway” while driving this summer are:

- **Watch for Wildlife Signs** – Don’t disregard signs even if you have seen them before. They are located in areas of high wildlife usage.
- **Obey all Posted Speed Signs** – Collision avoidance is improved at lower speeds.
- **Drive Defensively** – Actively watch for wildlife, particularly between dusk and dawn.
- **Be Alert** – Animals are unpredictable, often travel in groups, and may bolt unexpectedly.
- **Use Your Vehicle** – Clean your headlights, use your high beams when safe to do so, and always wear your seatbelt.

-30-

For more information, please contact:

Gayle Hesse
Coordinator, Wildlife Collision Prevention Program
Ph: 250.962.1001 Email: wcpp@bccf.com