



Key Request:

The City of Delta requests the BC Minister of Public Safety and Solicitor General to consider the development of comprehensive, consistent fireworks regulations that apply uniformly across all municipalities. This would ensure that the entire province benefits from the same level of protection, reducing the likelihood of injuries, property damage, and harm to animals. By taking a leadership role in this issue, the Province can help safeguard communities like Delta from the preventable tragedies that occur each year due to the misuse of fireworks.

Background:

The regulation of fireworks in British Columbia is currently a patchwork of bylaws, with each municipality setting its own rules. While local governments have the authority to regulate the use of fireworks, the lack of a standardized approach across the province creates significant challenges. This inconsistency, coupled with the ease of purchasing fireworks online—including from international vendors—has made it increasingly difficult for municipalities like Delta to effectively manage and enforce fireworks regulations.

Every year, the City of Delta faces the serious repercussions of unregulated fireworks use. These consequences are not limited to personal injuries, which, tragically, could often have been prevented. The misuse of fireworks also leads to substantial property damage, ranging from minor fires to the destruction of

homes and other structures. Beyond the immediate physical dangers, the noise and chaos caused by fireworks have a profound impact on the community's wildlife, livestock, and pets, causing distress, harm, and sometimes even fatalities.

The current situation is unsustainable and poses a growing risk to public safety, property, and the well-being of animals. The inconsistent regulatory framework across the province makes enforcement difficult, as individuals can easily circumvent local restrictions by purchasing fireworks online or simply crossing municipal boundaries to areas with more permissive regulations. The ability to buy fireworks with minimal oversight undermines the efforts of municipalities that have implemented stricter controls in response to the documented dangers.

There is a pressing need for a unified approach to fireworks regulation across British Columbia. By establishing consistent, province-wide standards for the sale, possession, and use of fireworks, the Province can significantly reduce the risks associated with their misuse. Such an approach would also alleviate the enforcement burden on local governments, allowing them to focus on other critical public safety concerns.