

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **Investigation Underway on 256 Street Industrial Property**

**Maple Ridge, BC:** Over the August long weekend the RCMP and BC Conservation Service attended a gravel extraction site on a City-owned property on 256 Street to deal with a spill of asphalt cement from a storage tank. Tragically, three bears who had wandered on to the site were trapped in the material, two of which were deceased when RCMP attended the site and the third having to be euthanized.

City environmental staff attended the site when notified to determine the extent of the spill, ensure the material was removed and the area remediated. The Ministry of Environment was notified of the incident and the subsequent remedial actions taken.

The company that leased the site is in the process of decommissioning the asphalt facility and rehabilitating the site before turning it back over to the City.

The contractor undertakes regular inspections of the site, the most recent being July 26, 2022 and they did not find evidence of a leak or spillage on that day. There are incidents of illegal dumping on the site that may have contributed to the presence of bears.

The cause of the spill is still under investigation by the RCMP and BC Conservation Service. The City is working with the authorities and the contractor as the investigation continues in an effort to determine the cause and if there was malicious intent.