

Public Service Announcement

Keeping communities safe from polar bears

Start Date: December 12, 2016 End Date: January 12, 2017 Nunavut-wide

45 sec

To avoid polar bears coming into communities, harvesters are asked not to leave any carcasses or hunting remains anywhere near communities.

Polar bears can smell carcasses from many kilometres away. If they find food somewhere, polar bears will continue to come back to that spot, even if they are deterred. Help prevent avoidable defensive kills by butchering carcasses away from your community, storing your meat safely and disposing of any remains responsibly.

The Government of Nunavut may be able to help with the cost of bear-safe meat storage containers through its <u>Wildlife Damage Prevention Program</u>.

Please remember to stay away from polar bears; they are dangerous and unpredictable, and should be avoided at all times. Also, your presence may get in the way of efforts to deter the bear, and put the conservation officer or other officials at risk.

For more information about polar bear safety, please contact your local wildlife office. Contact details can be found on the <u>Department of Environment website</u>.

###

Media contact: Tana Silverland Manager of Communications, Education and Outreach Department of Environment 867-975-7761 tsilverland@gov.nu.ca