

Dear Mayors and members of Council of all 162 municipalities in BC.

I am writing to ask you to consider supporting a petition that calls on the federal government to take legislative action on consumer fireworks.

Each year on holidays such as Halloween and New Year's, many municipalities are stretched thin responding to calls about fireworks, even with local restrictions or bans in place. This diverts important resources away from other public safety concerns. In some cases, fireworks have been mistaken for gunfire, and I understand that there are police departments looking for ways to reduce these calls for service so that their officers can focus on the most serious public safety priorities.

Asking the federal government to take greater responsibility for consumer fireworks would help to alleviate this burden for you, as well as significantly improve the well-being of your communities.

As you may know, fireworks put the health of animals, people, and the environment at risk. They can frighten and injure pets, farm animals, and wildlife, maim and even kill people, pollute the soil and water, and cause wildfires. Restricting their use by the general public would go a long way to protecting all members of your communities.

The federal petition, available at <https://petitions.ourcommons.ca/en/Petition/Details?Petition=e-3591>, already has significant support from British Columbians. Please consider adding your voice to this important issue.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Lavinia Rojas

Victoria, BC

V8V 1S9