# Spongy Moths (formerly gypsy moth) are **invasive pests that have been found in your area.**

To protect British Columbia's forests, farms, parks and neighbourhood trees from this invasive pest, the Ministries of Forests and Agriculture and Food have developed a plan to safely treat residential and municipal areas. Please join us to learn more about British Columbia's treatment plan.

**HOW:** In person at Howe Sound Inn & Brewing Company (Garibaldi Meeting Room)
37801 Cleveland Ave, Squamish, BC, V8B 0A7

**WHEN:** Thursday, February 19, 2026, 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

**WHO:** The B.C. Spongy Moth Technical Advisory Committee (Ministry of Forests, Ministry of Water, Land and Resource Stewardship, Ministry of Agriculture and Food, Canadian Food Inspection Agency, Canadian Forest Service, Invasive Species Council of B.C.) and other experts.

*Photo Credits: brown male photo, ©entomart, (https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/ index php?curid=842905)*

## THE PROVINCE PLANS TO TREAT THE AREA WITH A BIOLOGICAL INSECTICIDE.

In 2025, spongy moths were detected in Squamish. Moth numbers have been increasing for more than two years. Without an eradication program, it is highly likely there will be a permanent establishment of spongy moths in the province.

Aircraft will be used to apply a biological insecticide, Foray 48B. The active ingredient is *Bacillus thuringiensis var kurstaki* (Btk), which occurs naturally in soil and is commonly used in organic agriculture. This treatment is effective at eradicating spongy moths. It impacts only moth and butterfly caterpillars that eat sprayed leaves. Repeat scientific study concludes the proposed treatment has no known toxic effects for people. Btk does not impact livestock, pets, birds, fish, spiders, bees, ladybugs, or amphibians.

Specialists will provide program information and answer questions about the 2025 trapping season and the 2026 treatment areas during the open house.

## LEARN MORE

Visit us online to learn more about the threat spongy moths pose to British Columbia's forests, farms, orchards and trees, and the government's treatment plan, including the treatment area map. You can subscribe to our website to receive regular updates.

www.gov.bc.ca/spongymoth