



Ref: 201760

His Worship Mayor Wayne Stetski  
City of Cranbrook  
40 – 10<sup>th</sup> Avenue South  
Cranbrook, British Columbia  
V1C 2M8

Dear Mayor Stetski:

Thank you for meeting with me on Thursday, September 19 at the 2013 UBCM Convention to discuss management of urban deer.

Several communities came forward at this year's convention to express concerns with respect to wildlife conflicts in urban interface areas, deer in particular, and seek provincial leadership in addressing the issue. While recognizing that no single solution will resolve the underlying problems for all communities, we remain committed to working closely with local governments to resolve challenges particular to their regions.

Moreover, the provincial government has committed to partnering with UBCM through the formation of a task force aimed at building a long-term solution through the development of a comprehensive set of wildlife management tools. In addition, the ministry's Fish, Wildlife and Habitat Management Branch is in the process of creating and circulating material through UBCM that will better educate municipalities on currently available resources.

Again, thank you for attending the meeting. I appreciated the opportunity to discuss this important issue.

Sincerely,

Steve Thomson  
Minister

pc: Tom Ethier, Assistant Deputy Minister, Resource Stewardship Division  
Andrew Wilson, Director, Fish, Wildlife and Habitat Management Branch  
Penny Lloyd, Manager, Legislative and Regulatory Reform  
Jeff Morgan, Manager, Fish and Wildlife Policy



Ref: 201668

His Worship Mayor Brian Taylor  
City of Grand Forks  
PO Box 220  
Grand Forks, British Columbia  
V0H 1H0

Dear Mayor Taylor:

I was pleased to meet with Grand Forks officials on Thursday, September 19 at the 2013 UBCM Convention to discuss management of urban deer. I was very sorry to hear about the fire at your city hall and regret that you were unable to attend.

Several communities came forward at this year's convention to express concerns with respect to wildlife conflicts in urban interface areas, deer in particular, and seek provincial leadership in addressing the issue. While recognizing that no single solution will resolve the underlying problems for all communities, we remain committed to working closely with local governments to resolve challenges particular to their regions.

Moreover, the provincial government has committed to partnering with UBCM through the formation of a task force aimed at building a long-term solution through the development of a comprehensive set of wildlife management tools. In addition, the ministry's Fish, Wildlife and Habitat Management Branch is in the process of creating and circulating material through UBCM that will better educate municipalities on currently available resources.

I appreciated the opportunity to discuss this important issue and hope that repairs to your city hall are proceeding well.

Sincerely,

Steve Thomson  
Minister

pc: Linda Larson, MLA, Boundary-Similkameen  
Tom Ethier, Assistant Deputy Minister, Resource Stewardship Division  
Andrew Wilson, Director, Fish, Wildlife and Habitat Management Branch  
Penny Lloyd, Manager, Legislative and Regulatory Reform  
Jeff Morgan, Manager, Fish and Wildlife Policy



Ref: 201565

His Worship Mayor Frank Armitage  
Town of Princeton  
PO Box 670  
Princeton, British Columbia  
V0X 1W0

Dear Mayor Armitage:

Thank you for meeting with me on Monday, September 16 at the 2013 UBCM Convention to discuss management of urban deer.

Several communities came forward at this year's convention to express concerns with respect to wildlife conflicts in urban interface areas, deer in particular, and seek provincial leadership in addressing the issue. While recognizing that no single solution will resolve the underlying problems for all communities, we remain committed to working closely with local governments to resolve challenges particular to their regions.

Moreover, the provincial government has committed to partnering with UBCM through the formation of a task force aimed at building a long-term solution through the development of a comprehensive set of wildlife management tools. In addition, the ministry's Fish, Wildlife and Habitat Management Branch is in the process of creating and circulating material through UBCM that will better educate municipalities on currently available resources.

Again, thank you for attending the meeting. I appreciated the opportunity to discuss this important issue.

Sincerely,

Steve Thomson  
Minister

pc: Jackie Tegart, MLA, Fraser-Nicola  
Tom Ethier, Assistant Deputy Minister, Resource Stewardship Division  
Andrew Wilson, Director, Fish, Wildlife and Habitat Management Branch  
Penny Lloyd, Manager, Legislative and Regulatory Reform  
Jeff Morgan, Manager, Fish and Wildlife Policy



Ref: 202295

December 10, 2013

Gary MacIsaac, Executive Director  
Union of British Columbia Municipalities  
60-10551 Shellbridge Way  
Richmond, British Columbia  
V6X 2W9

Dear Mr. MacIsaac:

I am writing to follow up on commitments made by Honourable Christy Clark, Premier of British Columbia, and Honourable Steve Thomson, Minister of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations, at the 2013 UBCM Convention regarding deer management in urban interface areas.

I can assure you that the provincial government takes communities' concerns seriously. Several years ago, an internal Urban Deer Committee was formed to evaluate, develop and communicate methods to address urban deer issues. This committee ensures that regional biologists have the most current information on community-based planning and permitting processes and methodologies to manage urban deer. Biologists participate on local urban deer planning committees to transfer knowledge, solve problems and evaluate options. They also facilitate the development of permit applications and the issuance of permits.

Currently the Urban Deer Committee is pursuing a regulatory option that would enable the use of trained dogs, under the control of a handler, to haze deer away from urban areas where conflicts are occurring or have the potential to occur. While the effectiveness of this technique has not yet been confirmed, we believe that this tool should be available to communities, and the necessary regulatory change has been identified as a priority for our ministry.

The Urban Deer Committee has produced several fact sheets on urban deer population management techniques that are made available to community planning groups. In addition, the Ministry of Environment commissioned a report entitled *BC Urban Ungulates Conflict Analysis*. This report and the finalized fact sheets can be found on the Conservation Officer Service website:

[www.env.gov.bc.ca/cos/info/wildlife\\_human\\_interaction/UrbanUngulates.html](http://www.env.gov.bc.ca/cos/info/wildlife_human_interaction/UrbanUngulates.html).

Page 1 of 2

For a detailed summary of the roles and responsibilities of provincial and local governments regarding urban deer management, please refer to the enclosed document entitled *Roles of Provincial and Local Governments in the Management of Urban Ungulates*.

In meetings during this year's UBCM convention, Premier Clark committed to provincial engagement with the UBCM in the creation of an Urban Deer Management Task Force. Direct provincial involvement with a UBCM Task Force could enhance information flow and allow communities to more readily learn from one another. If the UBCM considers this to be a worthwhile initiative, ministry staff would be pleased to engage. You may contact Andrew Wilson, Director of Fish, Wildlife and Habitat Management Branch, by email at [andrew.wilson@gov.bc.ca](mailto:andrew.wilson@gov.bc.ca) or by phone at 250 387-5657 at your earliest convenience to begin discussions on task force planning.

Thank you for your continued interest in resolving the challenges associated with the management of urban deer. Please feel free to share this letter and enclosed information with interested communities.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tom Ethier', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Tom Ethier  
Assistant Deputy Minister

Enclosure

pc: Honourable Christy Clark, Premier of British Columbia  
Honourable Steve Thomson, Minister of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations





Union of BC Municipalities  
Suite 60 10551 Shellbridge Way  
Richmond, BC, Canada V6X 2W9

Phone: 604.270.8226  
Email: ubcm@ubcm.ca

February 13, 2014

Honourable Steve Thomson  
Minister Forest, Lands and Natural Resource Operations  
PO Box 9049, Stn Prov Govt  
Victoria, BC V8W 9E2

Dear Minister Thomson,

I am writing on behalf of the UBCM Executive regarding an Urban Deer Management Task Force. In December, UBCM Executive Director Gary MacIsaac received a letter from Tom Ethier, Assistant Deputy Minister (FLNRO) advising that in meetings during this year's UBCM convention, Premier Clark committed to provincial engagement with the UBCM in the creation of an Urban Deer Management Task Force. We understand Premier Clark met with a number of local government representatives including Mayor Stetski of Cranbrook.

Urban wildlife conflict remains an issue within some of our member's communities. Since 2010, our membership has endorsed several resolutions related to urban wildlife conflict, calling for increased provincial funding and education to address the outstanding issues. However, to date, the membership has not endorsed a resolution calling for an Urban Deer Task Force.

We appreciate the Premier's willingness and commitment to working with local governments to find solutions for ongoing wildlife/human conflict. We recognize the potential value in working with the Province through a task force to identify tools that can meet the needs of our members. We have been in contact with staff in your ministry and are aware of the work the Urban Deer Committee has been doing, most recently in analyzing the effectiveness of hazing for deer management.

Given the Premier's commitment to this issue we would be happy to engage with your ministry and recommend local government representation on this task force. We would also support a task force with a focus on policy development, which will improve the deer management tools for local governments. However, given our limited resources we would be following the Province's lead on this endeavour.

Thank you for your ongoing commitment to working with local governments, and I look forward to your comments on how to move this initiative forward.

Kind regards,

Rhona Martin  
President, UBCM Executive







**Province of  
British Columbia**  
Legislative Assembly

**Constituency Office:**  
104 - 806 - 9th Street North  
Box 2052  
Golden, BC V0A 1H0

**Norm Macdonald, MLA**  
Columbia River - Revelstoke

Telephone: 250 344-4816  
Facsimile: 250 344-4815  
Toll-Free: 1 866 870-4188

June 18, 2014

Hon. Steve Thomson  
Minister of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations  
PO Box 9049 STN PROV GOVT  
Victoria BC V8W 9E2

By email: [FLNR.minister@gov.bc.ca](mailto:FLNR.minister@gov.bc.ca)

**RE: Urban Deer Task Force**

Dear Minister Thomson:

On behalf of Mayor Ron McRae and Council of the City of Kimberley, am asking for the official status of the Provincial Government Urban Deer Task Force.

I have attached a letter from Mayor McRae which articulates their request.

I look forward to your response.

Yours sincerely,

Norm Macdonald MLA  
Columbia River - Revelstoke

Distribution List:

Mayor Ron McRae, City of Kimberley  
[mayor@kimberley.ca](mailto:mayor@kimberley.ca)



June 16, 2014  
FILE: 0400-20

Norm Macdonald, MLA  
#104, 806 9th St N  
Box 2052  
Golden BC V0A 1H0  
Via email: [norm.macdonald@leg.bc.ca](mailto:norm.macdonald@leg.bc.ca)

Dear Norm:

**RE: URBAN DEER TASK FORCE**

It is our understanding that you met with Councillor Oakley, whom is our liaison to the Urban Deer Advisory Committee, earlier this month regarding the above subject matter. At the City's Regular Meeting of Council held on June 9, 2014, Council has asked that this letter be sent to your office requesting an official response on the status of the Provincial Government Urban Deer Task Force.

We would appreciate your response at your earliest convenience and look forward to working with you regarding this task force. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact myself or Scott Sommerville, CAO.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R. McRae'.

Mayor Ron McRae

cc: UDAC, CAO, CO

/pr



Ref: 207261

July 16, 2014

Norm Macdonald, MLA  
Columbia River – Revelstoke  
P.O. Box 2052  
Golden British Columbia  
V0A 1H0

Dear Mr. Macdonald:

Thank you for your letter of June 18, 2014, regarding the status of the Urban Deer Task Force.

As you may know, I have committed the Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations' participation in this initiative. Currently, Fish and Wildlife Branch staff is engaged in conversations with the Union of British Columbia Municipalities in order to determine the mandate, roles and commitments that would be associated with such an endeavour.

Once this is more clearly understood, I will be in a much better position to communicate outcomes and I will do so at that time.

Thank you again for your interest in this pressing matter, and I look forward to communicating with you in the future.

Sincerely,

Steve Thomson  
Minister

pc: Mayor Ron McRae, City of Kimberley