



Commercial Bear Viewing Association
of British Columbia

Commercial Bear Viewing Association of BC 3121 Earl Grey St. Victoria BC, V9A 1X1 604-762-7751

MINISTER'S OFFICE - RECEIVED	
MINISTRY OF ABORIGINAL RELATIONS & RECONCILIATION	
JUL 25 2017	
<input type="checkbox"/> Min Reply	<input type="checkbox"/> Reply Direct
<input type="checkbox"/> DM Reply	<input type="checkbox"/> Info/File
info@bearviewing.ca	
cc: _____	
CLIFF # _____	

Dear Honourable Scott Fraser,

Welcome to your new role! We are excited to be working with you to implement the ending of the grizzly bear hunt in British Columbia.

As you will know, late last year Premier John Horgan - after visiting two bear-viewing operations in BC, Knight Inlet on the coast, and Grizzly Bear Ranch in the interior - and listening to the arguments against grizzly bear hunting, committed the NDP to ending all trophy hunting of grizzly bears in the province.

Chief among the arguments we made to Premier Horgan for ending the hunting of grizzly bears were the following:

1. Grizzly bear viewing is worth more than ten times what grizzly bear hunting is to BC. It is becoming a significant economic driver in parts of rural BC.
2. Grizzly-viewing operators in BC are at or close to capacity because of their inability to expand to view hunted grizzly bear populations.
3. More than 90 percent of BC residents want to see an end to the grizzly bear trophy hunt, and even in traditionally pro-hunting areas of the province polled, the number that supports a ban nowhere falls below 65 percent. (Insights West 2015 and 2017.)
4. Managing the grizzly bear hunt is enormously expensive for the BC government. One official suggested that the cost of management is more than the income brought in by the hunt. (Crest, 2014).
6. BC's branding as a wild and natural destination for tourists is tarnished by the grizzly bear hunt, hurting its entire eco-tourism sector.

For many years the BC Liberal government defended the hunting of grizzly bears. The BC Liberal Party also received significant donations from guide outfitters and other hunting organizations. Even as public opinion swung solidly against the hunt, the government quoted "best available science" to claim the hunt was "sustainable."

However, a new influential study by the Grizzly Bear Foundation concluded that, given the uncertainties around the future of grizzly bears and the vast economic benefits of promoting viewing over hunting, all grizzly hunting should be banned immediately.

The Commercial Bear Viewing Association of BC (CBVA) fully concurs. It is now keen to sit down with the new government as a matter of urgency to discuss how an end to grizzly bear hunting can best be implemented.

Our immediate recommendations include:

1. Declaring a moratorium on all grizzly bear hunting before the 2018 Spring Limited Entry Hunting (LEH) draw opens.

Our medium-term recommendations include:

1. Convening a meeting between government and the CBVA, the Grizzly Bear Foundation, ENGOS, and other interested parties, to discuss a future for grizzly bear management without hunting.

Subjects covered here may include:

- a. The funding of future grizzly bear conservation. (Commercial bear viewers have already begun collecting fees from guests that are dedicated to grizzly bear conservation. This year, as a pilot project, Knight Inlet Lodge, the largest bear-viewing operation in BC, is collecting \$25 from each guest to put towards bear conservation. As soon as the hunt is banned these funds will go to government-run grizzly bear conservation.)
- b. Negotiations with First Nations in the matter of grizzly bear hunting.
- c. Education to better prevent bear-human conflict and teach the new generation about the value of grizzly bears as well as bear behaviour, ecology, etc. (The Grizzly Bear Foundation is already working on detailed plans for this.)
- d. Possible compensation that may be due to Guide Outfitters for the loss of some hunting opportunity.
- d. Issues arising around the tenuring and permitting of new commercial bear-viewing operations as bear-viewing expands to areas of the province where grizzly bears are currently hunted.
- e. Opportunities for marketing BC's new image as a sanctuary for grizzly bears that welcomes viewers from around the world.

The CBVA

The Commercial Bear Viewing Association of BC (CBVA) was formed to promote sustainable bear viewing in BC and aid in the protection of wild bears and their ecosystems.

The CBVA is committed to continuing to evolve and develop our industry by updating our viewing techniques, and strategies as new research and our experience dictate, developing best practices and developing a guide certification program.

Our member companies offer trips throughout British Columbia to view grizzly, black and spirit bears in remote wilderness settings. With many years and thousands of hours of incident-free viewing in the company of wild bears, our members are the leaders in this important new industry.



2017 FACT SHEET ON BRITISH COLUMBIA'S BEAR-VIEWING INDUSTRY AND THE COMMERCIAL BEAR-VIEWING ASSOC.



Image credit: Kevin Smith, Great Bear Rainforest

1. There are now around 60 bear-viewing operations in BC. (Destination BC.)
2. The top eight grizzly bear-viewing operations brought 7,400 visitors to BC in 2016, up from 5,100 in 2010. Two thirds of these are foreign visitors. (CBVA audit.) Of these one third say they would not come to BC if they could not view bears. (Swain, 2006).
3. The leading 16 members of the Commercial Bear Viewing Assoc currently bring in more than \$13.1 million a year in direct revenue. (Audited by Chan Nowosad Boates in 2016.)
4. Grizzly-viewing operators in BC are at or close to capacity and demand is growing, but grizzly hunting means that the areas available for bear-viewing are extremely limited. Over 90 per cent of the province where there are viewable grizzly bears is set aside for hunting.
5. Bear-viewing and grizzly trophy hunting are incompatible because hunted bears can not be viewed with any predictability. Put simply, the bears run away when they see people.
6. Despite two years of discussions with the CBVA, The Ministry of Forests, Land and Natural Resource Operations continues to give trophy hunters veto rights over efforts by bear-viewing operations to

expand. Predictably, the trophy hunters block such initiatives. (Example of Grizzly Bear Ranch in the Kootenays, Feb 2017.)

7. Managing the grizzly bear hunt is expensive for the BC government and some sources have suggested that the management of the grizzly hunt costs more than revenues from the hunt, which are estimated to be about \$1.2-\$1.5 million per year.

8. Based on guest interviews, BC's brand as a wild and natural destination for tourists is being tarnished by the trophy hunt, hurting the entire eco-tourism sector.

9. Around 90 per cent of BC residents oppose grizzly trophy hunting (multiple polls), and even in deeply rural ridings, around two-thirds or more oppose grizzly hunting.

10. CBVA members have donated \$3.41 million to conservation over the two last two decades and members are ready to step up to the plate to fund grizzly bear conservation efforts if grizzly hunting is banned.

11. Bear-viewing operations offer considerable employment opportunities in remote economically-challenged areas.

From: Barb@BearsMatter <bearsmatter@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, August 6, 2017 11:12 AM
To: Minister, FLNR FLNR:EX
Cc: Donaldson.MLA, Doug LASS:EX; OfficeofthePremier, Office PREM:EX; Minister, ENV ENV:EX; Beare.MLA, Lisa LASS:EX; Minister, IRR IRR:EX; Weaver.MLA, Andrew LASS:EX; Olsen.MLA, Adam LASS:EX; Furstenau.MLA, Sonia LASS:EX; Gord.Johns@parl.gc.ca; Plecas.MLA, Darryl LASS:EX; Sultan.MLA, Ralph LASS:EX; Thornthwaite.MLA, Jane LASS:EX; Stilwell.MLA, Michelle LASS:EX
Subject: Cancellation of the 2017 Fall Grizzly Bear Trophy Hunt
Attachments: Bears Matter Letter to End Fall'17 Grizzly Bear Trophy Hunt.pdf
Importance: High
Categories: FYI/FILE, DEALT WITH BY MO



August 6, 2017

Honourable Doug Donaldson
Minister of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations
And Rural Development
Parliament Buildings Victoria, B.C. V8V 1X4

Dear Minister Donaldson,

re: Cancellation of the 2017 Fall Grizzly Bear Trophy Hunt

I am writing to you on behalf of thousands of concerned citizens of British Columbia, tourists and future tourists who sign our petitions, follow our Anti-Trophy Grizzly Hunt social media pages and write to us directly. I have owned and operated Bears Matter, a non-profit business, since 2006. As a bear advocate I have been concerned with the ethical issues surrounding the grizzly bear trophy hunt since your government's three-year moratorium was overturned in July 2001 by the incoming Liberal government.

Bears Matter followers and myself are filled with hope and anticipation now that your party has returned to govern B.C. and believe that it is in no small part due to your promise to 'Stop the Grizzly Killing' (note: [facebook page](#) with 45K+ followers).

We anxiously await your announcement that the Fall Trophy Grizzly Hunt will be cancelled, especially given the ongoing and devastating wildfire situation in this province. As you are well aware, the wildfires are compounding the stressors and habitat issues of all wildlife.

It has recently been reported in the media that your Ministry plans to consult with stakeholder groups before deciding on ending the hunt. We are wondering why such consultation is suggested when your government, and the Green

Party, have already publicly declared to end the hunt? Please can you clarify this inference in the media and advise us of the status of this file if it is other than what your party promised during the May election campaign.

If any stakeholder consultations are to take place we, respectfully, request that it happen after the closure of the imminent 2017 Fall Grizzly Bear Hunt and the process would include non-consumptive and consumptive interest groups, including First Peoples.

Please do the right and only thing as soon as possible for our iconic, beloved Grizzlies and be confident that an overwhelming majority of British Columbians, individuals and jurisdictions around the world will herald your decision as a testament to your government's mandate to uphold B.C.'s enlightened and progressive social justice values in this twenty-first century!

Respectfully,

Barbara Murray

On behalf of Bears Matter
(formerly of North Vancouver)
3362 Rockhampton Road
Nanoose Bay, B.C. V9P 9H5

cc Premier Horgan; Minister Heyman (Environment); Minister Beare (Tourism); Minister Fraser (Indigenous Relations); Dr. Weaver, MLA; Adam Olsen, MLA; Sonia Furstenau, MLA; Michelle Stilwell, MLA; Gord Johns MP; Jane Thornthwaite, MLA; Ralph Sultan, MLA; Dr. Darryl Plecas, MLA

Barb Murray

Bears Matter

bearsmatter@gmail.com

ph: 250-468-7718/cell: 250-240-7748

Facebook: Bears Matter; Stop the Grizzly Killing

Twitter: @bearsmatter @stopgrizzlykill

Instagram: @bearsmatter

www.bearsmatter.com



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3362 Rockhampton Road
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cc Premier Horgan; Minister Heyman (Environment); Minister Beare (Tourism); Minister Fraser (Indigenous Relations); Dr. Weaver, MLA and Leader of the Green Party; Adam Olsen, MLA; Sonia Furstenau, MLA; Michelle Stilwell, MLA; Gord Johns MP; Jane Thornthwaite, MLA; Ralph Sultan, MLA; Darryl Plecas, MLA

Ponchet, Kim IRR:EX

From: Fraser.MLA, Scott <Scott.Fraser.MLA@leg.bc.ca>
Sent: Tuesday, October 31, 2017 4:24 PM
To: Minister, IRR IRR:EX
Subject: 43040 - FW: Letter to Grizzly Bear Review Panel re: Stopping all hunting of grizzly bears in the GBR dated Oct 25 17
Attachments: Letter to Grizzly Bear Review Panel re stopping all hunting of grizzly bears in the GBR dated october 25 2017.pdf
Categories: DEALT WITH BY MO

From: Crystal Dixon [<mailto:officeadmin@coastalfirstnations.ca>]
Sent: October 31, 2017 4:16 PM
To: Bear, Grizzly FLNR:EX
Cc: Donaldson.MLA, Doug ; Fraser.MLA, Scott ; Heyman.MLA, George ; Paul Kariya ; Johanna Helbig
Subject: Letter to Grizzly Bear Review Panel re: Stopping all hunting of grizzly bears in the GBR dated Oct 25 17

Hello,

Please accept this letter submitted by the Coastal First Nations on the Grizzly Bear Review Panel re: stopping all hunting of Grizzly Bears in the Great Bear Rainforest.

Respectfully,

On behalf of the Coastal First Nations

Crystal Dixon
Administrative Assistant



www.coastalfirstnations.ca

**Coastal First Nations / Great
Bear Initiative**

#1660 - 409 Granville Street
Vancouver, BC, V6C 1T2
Tel: 604-696-9889





**COASTAL
FIRST NATIONS**
GREAT BEAR INITIATIVE

October 25, 2017

Provincial Government

Grizzly Bear Review Panel

Via Email: Grizzly.bear@gov.bc.ca

Jennifer Psyllakis

Director of Fish and Wildlife

Via Fax: 250 387-9568

Re: Stopping all hunting of grizzly bears in the Great Bear Rainforest

Coastal First Nations (CFN) applaud the BC NDP's latest announcement to close the grizzly bear hunt in the Great Bear Rainforest (GBR). Bears are an integral part of our culture and our economy, and play an important role as an indicator species for ecosystem health. We have invested millions of dollars over the last decade in our bear research looking at population abundance and distribution, habitat and security, and impacts such as hunting, to make sure that we can continue to have bears in the Great Bear Rainforest.

This progressive and bold approach by the NDP government to close the bear hunt in the GBR directly supports local communities and local businesses as we continue to develop long-term sustainable economic opportunities in eco-tourism. This ban also supports our indigenous laws where we are taught to respect all wildlife, and is a welcomed step toward reconciliation for Coastal First Nations. Thank you for the opportunity to give input into the recent Policy Discussion Intent Paper entitled Stopping All Hunting of Grizzly Bear in the Great Bear Rainforest. Our responses to the intent paper are included below.

1. Management system sustainability

We want to bring your attention to the first statement in the intent paper, which we disagree with. The statement claims that "[t]he current management system for grizzly bear hunting in the Great Bear Rainforest is considered sustainable and the proposed closure is not a response to a conservation concern." We do not in any way believe the current management system for grizzly bear hunting in the GBR, or any part of the province, to be sustainable. We have shed light on this issue through our grizzly bear work and campaign over the past many years.



As noted in the recent Auditor General's Report released in October 2017, there is currently no organized inventory and limited monitoring of grizzly bears populations in British Columbia. The province does not adequately account for uncertainty in populations and unreported mortalities, and is not transparent as to how it considers uncertainty when allocating hunting licences. In general the province does not use a precautionary approach in decision-making processes despite their data being limited.

2. Legislative Changes

We are concerned with the proposed legal changes to enact the closure of grizzly bear hunting in the GBR. It is suggested that the Limited Entry Hunt (LEH) seasons will be eliminated in the GBR (in particular wildlife management units). However, it is not clear the exact mechanism (e.g. section of the Wildlife Act or Regulation) that will be changed to eliminate the LEH seasons. Coastal First Nations is interested in developing the strongest legislation possible in order to close hunting of grizzly bears in the GBR permanently. We are also interested in including the commitment to close the hunt in the GBR in the Coastal First Nations and BC Reconciliation Protocol Agreement.

3. Including relevant GBPU's and MUs in Hunting closure

To truly protect grizzly bears in the GBR, they need to be protected at a population unit scale, with consideration given to connectivity, movement and habitat. As much as possible Management Units (MUs) should not be split up, but rather closed as a unit. Better yet, we recommend closing all Grizzly Bear Population Units (GBPU's) in the GBR (in whole or in part). By the Province's own account, grizzly bears in BC are comprised of discrete or nearly discrete GBPU's and they are managed as such to ensure local conservation and management objectives are being met and to reflect known and suspected fractures in grizzly bear distribution. GBPU's have been used for setting land use priorities for grizzly bear conservation during strategic land use planning and are currently being used to direct population recovery.

GBPU's that overlap the GBR area in whole or in part include: Stewart, Khutzymateen, North Coast, Bulkley-Lakes, Kitlope-Fiordland, Tweedsmuir, Kwatna-Owikenno, Klinaklini-Homathko, Kingcome-Wakeman, Knight-Bute.

We are concerned about the status of bears that move even slightly out of their designated areas. Grizzlies depend on the ability to move freely over vast landscapes. We know from many studies, including our own bear research, that coastal grizzly bears travel great distances up and down the coast and back and forth from the



interior to the coast. As proposed, the closure will protect some bear populations in only part of their population unit.

Of particular concern are the grizzly bears in areas 5-6 and 5-5 (located in the Klinakliini-Homathco GBPU), which are a unique population of bears in the GBR. From our bear research projects throughout the GBR, we have not detected grizzly bears from the Bella Coola River Valley (e.g. upriver of the estuary or the tributaries such as Atnarko) elsewhere in the GBR, suggesting that the bears in this area are moving down from the Chilcotin Plateau or area 5-6, 5-5. Put another way, these areas contain key rearing/habitat for grizzly bears on the coast and should be protected from hunting under this proposed closure. The Bella Coola Valley is currently one of the most hunted areas in the Great Bear Rainforest due in large part to easy road access.

The Policy Discussion Intent Paper identifies 13 MUs that have current Limited Entry Hunting (LEH) designation and that overlap the GBR area. 5 of these MUs are identified as lying partially within the GBR. The grizzly bear populations in these 5 LEH areas would be arbitrarily divided based the percentage of land within and outside the GBR. For instance, there are 104 grizzlies in MU/Zone 5-06, which is 40% within the GBR. Of those grizzlies, it is estimated that 40% (42 grizzlies) are within the GBR. However, the actual distribution of grizzlies in 5-06 at any given time may be quite different than the arbitrary percentages indicated due to geographical realities of the entire zone, and how grizzly bears move around.

We recommend that 100% percent of the MUs captured by the GBR boundary be closed to hunting and the MUs that have been arbitrarily split by the GBR boundary be included in the hunting closure in their entirety. As noted the GBPUs should also not be split up by the GBR boundary as much as possible. This approach would create a management buffer and further protect several hundred previously unprotected grizzlies and the GBR bear populations as a whole. The table in Appendix 1 indicates the GBPUs and MUs in the GBR, and the recommended hunting closures.

Some GBPUs and/or MUs within the GBR are also currently closed to hunting due to their designation as a Grizzly Bear Management Area (GBMA). These GBMAs are not identified in the intent paper maps but we are interested in confirming that the hunting closure will continue in these areas and MUs as well.



4. Packing out of grizzly bear meat and confiscating trophy parts



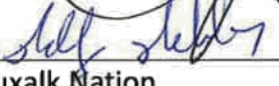




We want to confirm that CFN do not support a “pack it out policy” and support a complete closure of grizzly bear hunting in the GBR.

5. Black Bears

We want to confirm that the hunting of black bears should also be closed in the GBR. Many black bears in GBR carry the recessive gene that produces the white phase of the black bear known as Spirit bears.

Thank you for the opportunity to participate in this discussion.

Respectfully,

 _____ Kitasoo/Xais'Xais First Nation	 _____ Heiltsuk First Nation
 _____ Nuxalk Nation	 _____ Giga'at First Nation
 _____ Wuikinuxv Nation	 _____ Metlakatla First Nation
 _____ Council of the Haida Nation	

CC: Honourable Doug Donaldson, Minister of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development
Honourable Scott Fraser, Minister of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation
Honourable George Heyman, Minister of Environment and Climate Change Strategy



COASTAL FIRST NATIONS GREAT BEAR INITIATIVE

4. Packing out of grizzly bear meat and confiscating trophy parts

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Nuxalk Nation

Heiltsuk First Nation



Giga'at First Nation

Wulkinuxw Nation



Metlakatla First Nation



Council of the Haida Nation

CC: Honourable Doug Donaldson, Minister of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource
Operations and Rural Development
Honourable Scott Fraser, Minister of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation
Honourable George Heyman, Minister of Environment and Climate Change
Strategy



**COASTAL
FIRST NATIONS**
GREAT BEAR INITIATIVE

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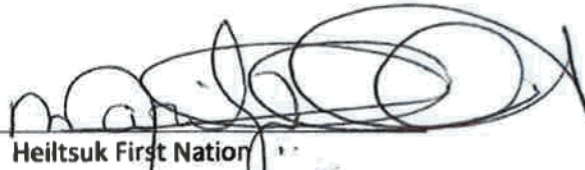
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Operations and Rural Development
Honourable Scott Fraser, Minister of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation
Honourable George Heyman, Minister of Environment and Climate Change
Strategy

Ponchet, Kim IRR:EX

From: Barb Murray <bearsmatter@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, September 29, 2017 1:43 PM
To: Minister, ENV ENV:EX; Minister, IRR IRR:EX; Minister, FLNR FLNR:EX
Cc: gord.johns@ndp.ca; nathan.cullen@parl.gc.ca; OfficeofthePremier, Office PREM:EX; Jones, Tristan FLNR:EX
Subject: 42646 - Immediate Review of Conflicts with Wildlife Branch & suspend Spring Grizzly Killing season

Categories: DEALT WITH BY MO

Hello Ministers,

I have attached a submitted letter by Dr. Moola in response to a research collared female grizzly being shot in BC.

I appeal to you to help your government do the right thing and re-think this unworkable 'meat' hunt policy! Also the process of bringing stakeholders together on this issue is fatally flawed. Many of us understand staff has already written the policy options after consulting with the consumptive users.

There is no proportional representation of the 91% of British Columbians at the table. This is of great concern to the conservation groups and concerned citizens that have been working for 20years to stop the killing of Grizzlies.

Please ask the Ministry staff to suspend the stakeholders' meeting and put a hold on the Spring Hunt of Grizzlies now. Then do a review of the conflicts of interest in the Ministry before going ahead with a stakeholders meeting to decide policy.

This meat hunt could become entrenched in the system and there will be more, not less Grizzlies killed and the population brought to it's knees in BC like it was in Alberta in early 2000's.

Please do the right thing and conduct a review before changing laws! Err on the side of caution in this case!
Please!

Sincerely
Barb Murray
Bears Matter

Earlier this week, a trophy hunter shot and killed a female grizzly bear after she wandered from Alberta to B.C., where grizzly trophy hunting is still legal. ["Sadness, frustration as well-known bear 148 shot by hunter in BC", Calgary Herald, September 27th]. Bear 148 was moved in July from its range near Banff to Kakwa Wildland Park closer to the B.C.-Alberta border. Sadly, the proposals by the B.C. NDP and Greens to end grizzly trophy hunting would not prevent such a tragic situation. Both parties support a loophole that would allow hunting grizzly bears, like #Bear148, to continue as long as the animal's head, pelt, claws, teeth and other "trophy" items are surrendered to a government official (NDP) and/or the meat is removed from the carcass and packed-out (Greens). Public polls show that over 90 per cent of B.C. residents want an end to grizzly bear hunting. Only a full and complete ban on grizzly hunting, as Alberta has done, will ensure that the senseless slaughter of British Columbia's majestic grizzly bears ends once and for all.

Dr. Faisal Moola, PhD
Director General, Ontario and Northern Canada
David Suzuki Foundation

Barb Murray,
Bears Matter
3362 Rockhampton Road
NanOOSE Bay, BC V9P9H5
[*BearsMatter@gmail.com/shaw.ca*](mailto:BearsMatter@gmail.com/shaw.ca)
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250-240-7748cell/text
[*www.bearsmatter.com*](http://www.bearsmatter.com)
Facebook/twitter/Instagram @bearsmatter
"Bears matter because bears are sentient beings too"

Ponchet, Kim IRR:EX

From: Barb Murray <bearsmatter@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, October 7, 2017 2:31 PM
To: OfficeofthePremier, Office PREM:EX
Cc: Minister, FLNR FLNR:EX; Minister, ENV ENV:EX; Minister, IRR IRR:EX; Jones, Tristan FLNR:EX; Ethier, Tom FLNR:EX; Hamilton, Tony ENV:EX; gord.johns@ndp.ca; McLellan, Bruce N FLNR:EX; Weaver.MLA, Andrew LASS:EX; Olsen.MLA, Adam LASS:EX; Furstenau.MLA, Sonia LASS:EX
Subject: 42724 - Thanksgiving Message from a Supporter! 🐻❤️🙏

Dear Honourable Premier John Horgan

I want to sincerely wish you and yours a very Happy Thanksgiving celebration especially as our new Premier.

We, British Columbians, are so fortunate and have so much to be thankful for. We can never take for granted the natural treasures and abundance that makes our province so special.

Premier Horgan, many of us voted for you to ensure that our beautiful natural lands are properly protected for future generations. On that note there is one area of contention that brings your government's commitment to responsible stewardship into question; your mis-guided, pre-election promise that calls for an old law to be brought back that would force the packing out of meat of a hunted grizzly.

Unfortunately just because you make a law doesn't mean that it will end the non-meat hunting of Grizzlies. If this were the case we would all be behind you!

Please rescind this promise immediately and enact a moratorium on all hunting of grizzly bears across BC. This one simple, logical step would send a powerful message to the world that BC is taking back control from those that wish to exploit it's treasures.

Please read our Letter attached Mr. Premier and understand we mostly support your leadership except on this issue we need you to see it in the light of day for what it is. There is no real 'grizzly meat' hunt by ethical hunters and never will be even if you make it a law. If your government continues to buy into the political maneuvering by the prohunter groups then your leadership will be tainted throughout your rein. Please pause, rethink and show the courage and leadership that will make us proud! Our Grizzlies' future are depending on you and so are we!

Most sincerely,
Barb Murray
Bears Matter
Nanoose Bay via
North Van via Whistler via
Prince George

Done Open Letter Grizzly Hunt Ir.pdf

OPEN LETTER TO THE BC GOVERNMENT OPPOSING THE GRIZZLY BEAR "MEAT HUNT"

Animal Advocates of BC
judy@animaladvocates.com

Animal Alliance of Canada
Liz White

Animal Justice
Camille Labchuck

Animal Protection Party of
Canada, Liz White

Applied Conservation GIS
Baden Cross

BC Nature
Dr. Alan Burger

BC SPCA
Dr. Sara Dubois

Bears Matter
Barb Murray

Canadians for Bears
Ainslie Willock

Clayoquot Action
Bonny Glambeck

Craighead Institute
Dr. Lance Craighead

David Suzuki Foundation
Faisal Moola

DeerSafe
Kelly Carson

First Nations Environmental
Network
Suzanne Lawson

Friends of the Lardeau
Rhonda Batchelor

Friends of Nemaiah
Dave Williams

George Rammell
Grizzly bear activist

Great Bear Chalet
Jefferson Bray

Humane Society Interna-
tional/Canada
Julie MacInnes

October 6, 2017

We, the undersigned environmental and animal welfare organizations, and wildlife-based businesses, are pleased that the current BC government is committed to end the trophy hunt of grizzly bears. However we strongly oppose the government's plans to allow continued grizzly bear hunting, under the pretext of hunting for meat, except for a jointly-regulated First Nations ceremonial/sustenance hunt. Part of the Great Bear Rainforest would have a total ban on hunting, but that's only a very small part of grizzly bear habitat in BC. We oppose the meat hunt for the following reasons:

1. Grizzly bears are a species at risk. They are blue-listed in BC, and threatened by poaching, human conflicts, habitat destruction and hunting. They have disappeared from 18% of their range in BC. (1) Out of 56 grizzly bear subpopulations in BC, 9 are classified as "threatened" by British Columbia.
2. We expect to see much trophy hunting continued under the guise of "meat" hunting. In the past, almost all grizzly bear hunting has been trophy hunting. Many hunters find the meat unpalatable. Grizzly bears were included by BC Fish & Wildlife with non-game animals such as wolverines, wolves and cougars. Previously, BC hunting regulations have had a provision allowing hunters to leave the meat on the ground and take only the trophy parts. People do not travel hundreds or thousands of kilometres, pay tens of thousands of dollars, and risk their lives shooting at grizzly bears to put meat on the table. The proposed new regulations for meat hunting will simply disguise trophy hunting as meat hunting. Even if the head, hide and claws are left on the ground, or given to a conservation officer, the hunter will take away trophy videos, photographs and bragging rights. The bears will still be killed for sport.

The BC government is considering various options to distinguish trophy hunting from meat hunting, but they only increase our conviction that this division is unenforceable. For many years BC has been unable to control substantial poaching of bears, how will it account for every trophy part of every bear shot by hunters?

3. The government has claimed the grizzly hunt is sustainable. However, independent biologists have been saying for years that this is not true. We do not even know with certainty how many grizzly bears there are in BC, or how many can be killed without reducing the population. Peer-reviewed studies by scientists have found numerous cases of too many bears being killed (by all causes), even according to the government's own population numbers. Studies have proven that hunters often kill too many female bears. The European Union investigated BC's grizzly bear hunt, ruled it environmentally unsustainable, and banned the import of trophies.
4. Closing the meat hunt in a limited area will concentrate hunting in other areas. While the government proposes to stop all grizzly bear hunting in part of the Great Bear Rainforest, this is only a small part of grizzly bear habitat across BC. Grizzly bear hunting in this area will simply move to

Done Open Letter Grizzly Hunt Ir.pdf

2

Kootenay Reflections Photography, Jim Lawrence

Kwiah First Nation
Frank Voelker

West Coast Wild Art
Leanne Hodges

Lifeforce Foundation
Peter Hamilton

Ocean Adventures Charter Co.
Ltd.
Eric Boyum

Ocean Light II Adventures
Jenn Broom

Pacific Rainforest Adventure
Tours Inc.
Ronda and Gary Murdock

Pacific Wild
Lindsay Marie Stewart

Purcell Alliance for Wilderness
Gary Diers

Save-the-Cedar League
Rick and Julie Zammuto

Steve Williamson Photography
Steve Williamson

Stop the Grizzly Killing Society
Trish Boyum

The Fur-Bearers
Lesley Fox

Tourists against Trophy Hunting
Judy Malone

Valhalla Wilderness Society
Wayne McCrory, R.P.Bio.

Wildlife Defence League
Tommy Knowles

Wolf Awareness Incorporated
Sadie Parr

Zoocheck Canada
Julie Woodyer

In addition, the undersigned object to the following aspects of the public consultation process for the new grizzly bear hunting regulations.

1. The process only considers how to manage the meat hunt, not whether there should even be a meat hunt. Participants are forced to accept the meat hunt as fait accompli.
2. Poor public access to information. Only those who sign confidentiality agreements can have access to some important information. Only those willing to sign the confidentiality agreements can be "stakeholders", which receive priority consultation. The government has not released a complete list of stakeholders. The process was not advertised until recently, when it had already been running about a month, unbeknownst to many undersigned organizations. The confidentiality agreements represent muzzling of public organizations and suppressing information.

In June of this year, 23 organizations concerned with the welfare of wildlife sent a letter to the BC government that stated: "The wildlife of the province belongs to all British Columbians, and has by law been held by the government in trust." The letter came about because the provincial government had been giving hunting organizations and related businesses priority access to consultation on matters related to wildlife, resulting in glaring policy bias.

Today the undersigned organizations and businesses are seeking increased recognition by the government that BC wildlife belongs to all Canadians, who have an equal stake in how it is managed, and an equal right to relevant information. We expect proportionate representation in all provincial wildlife matters. BC has over 1,500 species at risk. Recognizing the worldwide biodiversity crisis, the management of our wildlife must shift away from maximizing how many animals hunters can kill, to the practice of conservation biology to ensure the survival of species at risk.

We hold that the upcoming Auditor General's report on the grizzly bear hunt — which was due to be released in September — is critical information for all parties to have before making decisions on this issue. Rushing to change the hunting regulations before the report is released wastes the tax dollars that have been spent to better inform decision-making. We urge the BC government not to authorize any further grizzly bear hunting until it has done a full review of public input and the soon-to-be released Auditor General's report.

Sincerely,
38 Signators

References

1. COSEWIC assessment and update status report on the Grizzly Bear of Canada, <https://www.registrelep-sararegistry.gc.ca/default.asp?lang=En&n=A32186C4-1&offset=9>
2. Artelle, K. A., Anderson, S. C., Cooper, A. B., Paquet, P. C., Reynolds, J. D., Darimont, C. T., "Confronting Uncertainty in Wildlife Management: Performance of Grizzly Bear Management," PLOS ONE, Nov. 2013, Vol. 8, <http://journals.plos.org/plosone/article/file?id=10.1371/journal.pone.0078>

Barb Murray,
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"Bears matter because bears are sentient beings too"

Ponchet, Kim IRR:EX

From: Trish Boyum <trish@oceanadventures.bc.ca>
Sent: Friday, November 10, 2017 8:42 AM
To: Minister, ENV ENV:EX
Cc: OfficeofthePremier, Office PREM:EX; Minister, FLNR FLNR:EX; Minister, AGRI AGRI:EX; Minister, TRD JTT:EX; Transportation, Minister TRAN:EX; Minister, IRR IRR:EX; Minister, EDUC EDUC:EX; Minister, TAC TAC:EX; Minister, AEST AEST:EX; CC Minister MCF:EX; Minister, MCF MCF:EX; Minister, MAH MAH:EX; Minister, CITZ CITZ:EX; Minister, PSSG PSSG:EX; Minister, HLTH HLTH:EX; Minister, FIN FIN:EX; Minister, JTT JTT:EX; Minister, LBR LBR:EX; Minister, MH MH:EX; Minister, SDPR SDPR:EX; Fraser.MLA, Scott LASS:EX; Mungall.MLA, Michelle LASS:EX; Olsen.MLA, Adam LASS:EX; Weaver.MLA, Andrew LASS:EX; Furstenau.MLA, Sonia LASS:EX
Subject: 43218 - "Conservation" Officers respond to 675 bear-human conflicts and kill 26 bears in PG area
Importance: High
Categories: DEALT WITH BY MO

Good Morning Minister Heyman,

This in the news yesterday:

"PRINCE GEORGE, B.C. — This year, twenty-six black bears were put down in the Prince George region by the Conservation Officer Service. Which is slightly down from last year's at this time.

According to the C.O. Service, the bears destroyed are directly related to un-natural attractants. They responded to 675 calls regarding bear-human conflicts.

Do you wonder why the majority of British Columbians don't trust "Conservation" Officers.. those that you would have "police" your proposed "meat" hunt of Grizzly Bears???

The COS needs a complete overhaul to put the "conservation" back in their job. Killing 26 bears because humans left out garbage and other attractants is simply UNACCEPTABLE!

If there are 675 calls regarding bear-human conflicts in PG area, this is absolute proof that this government needs to lead us out of a complete disrespect and disregard for our bears to a new relationship with bears and other wildlife, with serious consequences for people that knowingly attract wildlife so they will be killed.

The culture of killing must end!!

Recently, you were quoted as saying:

""We want to restore and increase transparency and public confidence in our ability to protect our natural environment..."

Given what is happening to our wildlife at the hands of the "Conservation" Officers around this province, I don't think you will find the public has much if any confidence in the government bureaucrats' ability to protect the wildlife and their environment!

Let's start by being honest with one another and using honest words: these bears were not "euthanized" or "put down": they were killed.

Sincerely
Trish Boyum
V9N 4A7

Ponchet, Kim IRR:EX

From: Trish Boyum <trish@oceanadventures.bc.ca>
Sent: Friday, November 10, 2017 9:47 AM
To: Minister, FLNR FLNR:EX; Minister, IRR IRR:EX
Cc: Donaldson.MLA, Doug LASS:EX; OfficeofthePremier, Office PREM:EX; Minister, ENV ENV:EX; Minister, AGRI AGRI:EX; Minister, TRD JTT:EX; Transportation, Minister TRAN:EX; Minister, EDUC EDUC:EX; Minister, TAC TAC:EX; Minister, AEST AEST:EX; CC Minister MCF:EX; Minister, MCF MCF:EX; Minister, MAH MAH:EX; Minister, CITZ CITZ:EX; Minister, PSSG PSSG:EX; Minister, HLTH HLTH:EX; Minister, FIN FIN:EX; Minister, JTT JTT:EX; Minister, LBR LBR:EX; Minister, MH MH:EX; Minister, SDPR SDPR:EX
Subject: 43218 - Sage advice on relationships with bears (and all wildlife)
Importance: High
Categories: DEALT WITH BY MO

Dear Ministers Donaldson and Fraser,

This beautiful story from learned Gitxan leader, Russell Collier, whose traditional lands are in Minister Donaldson's riding, is a strong message to all of us, and especially to those of you that have been entrusted with the care of wildlife.

The author of the post below, Russell Collier, was one of Canada's foremost Aboriginal mappers and land-use planners.
Russell Collier is Gitxan.

In respect for Russell Collier, I ask that you read this entire post from him. His message is too important to simply scan.



Russell Collier

9 November 2013 at 02:07 · 21

A cousin once told me he didn't fear encounters with bears while out picking berries. He said he would just talk in our language, Gitxsanimx, to them and they would leave him alone. The reason, he said, that they would do this is because our people and local bears have lived alongside each other for so long that bears have got used to the sound of our language being spoken.

He wasn't saying the bears understood our language, though who knows, maybe they do. He WAS saying that a relationship built up over thousands of years between our people and the bear people was what was needed to maintain peace and respect for each other.

I can't help but reflect on the difference between this approach and the approach offered by the "managers" of wildlife, the provincial authorities, who say it is okay to hunt our bear relations for sport, for the thrill of killing another sentient creature.

From a Gitxsan traditional perspective, the provincial Grizzly hunt is wrong on at least two accounts. First, the hunt denies the relationship between human and bear, setting one up as "superior", and in the right to kill purely for the pleasure, the thrill, of killing one's relations. And second, this kind of hunt reduces everything else "not human" as secondary, an object, something that may be impacted by humans without regard for personal or societal consequences. There may be other reasons I have not thought of yet.

Don't hunt for pleasure or for profit. Don't hunt because it makes you feel superior to those you hunt. And when you do hunt, remember you are killing your relation; some of the matter that went into the creation of you also went into the creation of your prey. You and your prey are one, and so it is best not to deny the relationship. If you are successful (and if you are a good hunter you will be successful) then remember to give thanks to the brother or sister who gave their life to feed you and your families.

These are among the most sage words I have ever read or heard.

Minister Heyman was recently quoted as saying:

""We want to restore and increase transparency and public confidence in our ability to protect our natural environment..."

While we respect and applaud the end to hunting Grizzly Bears in the Great Bear Rainforest, we hope that MLAs and Ministers will see, from this lesson from Russell Collier, that the hunting of Grizzly Bears must end across all of B.C..

It's time to shift the colonial paradigm from a culture of killing to a culture of respect for wildlife and their wild homes.

Respectfully,
Trish Boyum
V9N 4A7

Ponchet, Kim IRR:EX

From: Trish Boyum <trish@oceanadventures.bc.ca>
Sent: Monday, November 13, 2017 12:52 PM
To: Minister, ENV ENV:EX; Minister, FLNR FLNR:EX
Cc: OfficeofthePremier, Office PREM:EX; Minister, AGRI AGRI:EX; Minister, TRD JTT:EX; Transportation, Minister TRAN:EX; Minister, EDUC EDUC:EX; Minister, TAC TAC:EX; Minister, AEST AEST:EX; CC Minister MCF:EX; Minister, MCF MCF:EX; Minister, MAH MAH:EX; Minister, CITZ CITZ:EX; Minister, PSSG PSSG:EX; Minister, HLTH HLTH:EX; Minister, FIN FIN:EX; Minister, JTT JTT:EX; Minister, LBR LBR:EX; Minister, MH MH:EX; Minister, SDPR SDPR:EX; Minister, IRR IRR:EX; Donaldson.MLA, Doug LASS:EX; Heyman.MLA, George LASS:EX; Fraser.MLA, Scott LASS:EX; Mungall.MLA, Michelle LASS:EX; Conroy.MLA, Katrine LASS:EX; Rice.MLA, Jennifer LASS:EX
Subject: 43218 - "...is it ethically supportable to kill Grizzly Bears anywhere."
Categories: DEALT WITH BY MO

Dear Honourable Ministers,

I would like to bring your attention to the following quote from some of Canada's leading scientists. These are scientists that garner the respect of British Columbians, unlike the "scientists" that pay "lip service" to Grizzly Bear hunters.

It is not about whether bear killing is "sustainable," as provincial wildlife managers and many hunters are often trying to assert (despite evidence to the contrary for many areas). Rather, we question whether it is ethically supportable to kill grizzlies anywhere. In other words, just because there might be enough grizzlies to kill does not imply they should be killed.

To learn more from my learned friends, Dr. Kyle Arielle, Dr. Chris Darimont, Dr. Paul Paquet, Dr Faisal Moola and Chris Genovali, you can click on the following link that will take you to their recent op-ed in the Times Colonist:

<http://www.timescolonist.com/opinion/op-ed/comment-end-all-grizzly-bear-hunting-throughout-b-c-1.23091753>

I respectfully suggest to you , that no matter how the hunting of Grizzly Bears is green-washed, the people of this province are not going to be quiet while attempts are made to "close loopholes" . It is time ladies and gentlemen to end the hunting of Grizzly Bears in BC.

Let's remember that trophy hunters from BC and south of the border, donated many, many, many thousands of dollars to the liberals in an attempt to prevent you from getting elected!

The trophy hunters are not our (NDP) friends, no matter what anyone tells you!

Very sincerely
Trish & Eric Boyum

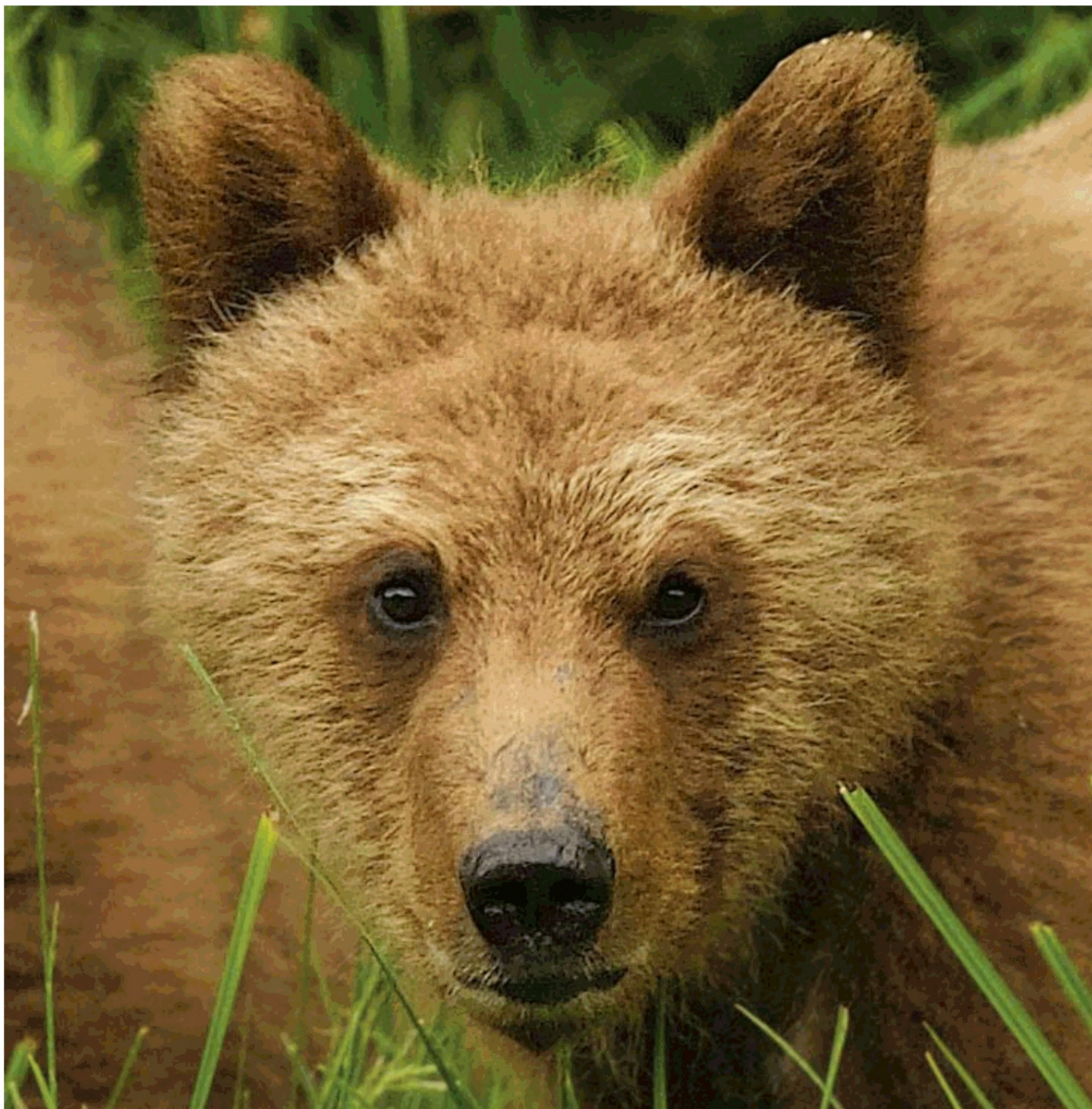
Ponchet, Kim IRR:EX

From: Trish Boyum <trish@oceanadventures.bc.ca>
Sent: Tuesday, November 14, 2017 12:10 PM
To: Minister, ENV ENV:EX; Minister, FLNR FLNR:EX
Cc: OfficeofthePremier, Office PREM:EX; Minister, IRR IRR:EX; Minister, AGRI AGRI:EX; Minister, TRD JTT:EX; Transportation, Minister TRAN:EX; Minister, EDUC EDUC:EX; Minister, TAC TAC:EX; Minister, AEST AEST:EX; CC Minister MCF:EX; Minister, MCF MCF:EX; Minister, MAH MAH:EX; Minister, CITZ CITZ:EX; Minister, PSSG PSSG:EX; Minister, HLTH HLTH:EX; Minister, FIN FIN:EX; Minister, JTT JTT:EX; Minister, LBR LBR:EX; Minister, MH MH:EX; Minister, SDPR SDPR:EX; Donaldson.MLA, Doug LASS:EX; Heyman.MLA, George LASS:EX; Fraser.MLA, Scott LASS:EX; Conroy.MLA, Katrine LASS:EX; Mungall.MLA, Michelle LASS:EX; Rice.MLA, Jennifer LASS:EX
Subject: 43218 - Time for Change
Attachments: AH7O4984.tiff
Categories: DEALT WITH BY MO

Dear Honourable Ministers,

This beautiful young Grizzly and her family have taught us much about the true nature of Grizzly Bears. This bear and her family are not the savage, man-eating beasts that their killers want us to believe.

These are peace loving, sentient beings who's lives should be a model for us, not lives to be destroyed by careless, selfish, unthinking people that may not even have the same capacity for empathy as the bears themselves.



We worked hard to help get the NDP elected because we believed what you said.. that it is time for change.

It is time to end the hunting of Grizzly Bears in B.C..

“The greatness of a nation and its moral progress can be judged by the way its animals are treated.”
M. Gandhi

Very sincerely
Trish & Eric Boyum

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Columbia
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October 18, 2017

To: The Honourable Doug Donaldson,
Minister of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource
Operations
and Rural Development
PO BOX 9049
STN PROV GOVT
Victoria, B.C. V8W9E2

To: The Honourable Scott Fraser,
Minister of Indigenous Relations and
Reconciliation
PO BOX 9051
STN PROV GOVT
Victoria, B.C. V8W9E2

Re: Grizzly Bear Hunt Consultations

Dear Ministers Donaldson and Fraser,

In an effort to increase engagement with our constituents and other governments within the North Coast riding, my office has reached out to coastal First Nations informing them of the New Democrat government's proposed ban on the grizzly bear trophy hunt and ending the grizzly bear hunt within the Great Bear Forest.

The feedback my office received from Kelly Brown, director of the Heiltsuk Integrated Resource Management Department (HIRMD), the stewardship arm of the Heiltsuk Nation, is a recommendation to contact the HIRMD office to arrange face to face/government to government discussions on this important matter. My interpretation is that submitting comments online will not suffice for an issue so important to the Heiltsuk people.

Considering the extensive work the Heiltsuk and other coastal First Nations have done on the grizzly bear trophy hunt and in the spirit of moving forward with a new relationship with Indigenous people it is, in my view, worth considering engaging Indigenous people and Indigenous leaders in a markedly different and much more respectful way.

If I can be of assistance facilitating a face to face meeting, please don't hesitate to call upon me or my constituency office.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jennifer Rice". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Jennifer Rice
MLA, North Coast
Parliamentary Secretary for Emergency Preparedness

CC Kelly Brown, Director HIRMD

Sas, Jonathan IRR:EX

From: Fraser, Scott IRR:EX
Sent: Tuesday, January 23, 2018 12:00 PM
To: Sas, Jonathan IRR:EX
Subject: FW:
Attachments: 20171018-LetterRequestingHeiltsukMeeting.pdf; ATT00001.txt

-----Original Message-----

From: Fraser, Scott IRR:EX
Sent: Wednesday, October 18, 2017 2:46 PM
To: Sas, Jonathan IRR:EX; Wood, Jessica IRR:EX
Subject: