

# **Background Note Meeting of Federal, Provincial and Territorial (FPT) Ministers Responsible for Conservation, Wildlife and Biodiversity**

## **May 25 & 26, 2023 / Ottawa, ON**

**Issue:** Indigenous Protected and Conserved Areas

### ***Recommend Response:***

- Indigenous Protected and Conserved Areas (IPCAs) are largely conservation-focused areas, but may include some industrial use, and identified by First Nations.
- IPCAs generally (1) are Indigenous led; (2) represent a long-term commitment to conservation, and (3) provide opportunities to reconnect with the land and heal both the land and Indigenous Peoples.
- BC views IPCA proposals as a positive indicator that a Nation has developed their land use vision for their territory.
- IPCAs are a valuable point for government-to-government land use planning and management initiatives including supporting reconciliation agreements, or new protections from species at risk recovery or old growth.
- BC does not have a mandate to affect new land use decisions as a result of IPCA proposals.
- As IPCAs can reflect a First Nation's land use vision, they can help identify land use conflicts and help set priorities where government-to-government land use planning can occur.
- Addressing IPCA proposals is best managed through publicly involved land use planning projects, and those projects should occur where there are land use conflicts or where new land use objectives are needed. Currently, the land use planning program is a modest program that has fully allocated resources.
- In the coming year we are going to continue to work with federal colleagues and First Nations partners towards a trilateral Nature Agreement that we expect will include increased investments from the federal government to support Modernized Land use planning.

### ***Key Facts:***

- Engagement on IPCAs will be led by WLRS due to the relationship with modernized land use planning and to confirming social choice on the land base as well as a co-managed land and resource regime. Other ministries in the natural resource sector will support this work (ENV, EMLI, MIRR, FOR).
- In 2017, Canada brought together Indigenous experts along with federal, provincial, and territorial (FPT) government experts as a committee to explore a new approach to protected areas built, in part, from the international Indigenous Community Conserved Areas model. The committee (Indigenous Circle of Experts, or ICE) wrote the report *We Rise Together* a collection of 26 recommendations and advice to all governments on considering IPCAs.
- IPCAs continue to be an emerging issue in BC due to various factors including:
  - Direct federal funding to BC First Nations to pursue IPCAs in their territories.
  - Interest in the new 30% protection targets.

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- Nations who are seeking renewed land use plans with the province; and
- Nations who wish to exert and express more formally rights and title.
- The concept of an IPCA is desirable to many First Nations. This, together with federal resources and encouragement, has resulted in several IPCA proposals from Nations across the province. Although IPCAs may vary in approach, most result in two critical land management results:
  - change to current land designation configurations resulting in different social land use outcomes; and
  - reduced traditional economic activities on the land base affecting jobs, revenues, and the economy.
- Addressing IPCA proposals is best managed through publicly involved land use planning projects, and those projects should occur where there are land use conflicts or where new land use objectives are needed. Currently, the land use planning program is a modest program that has fully allocated resources.

**Date Prepared/Revised: May 9, 2023**

**Ministry Executive Sponsor:**

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# **Background Note Meeting of Federal, Provincial and Territorial (FPT) Ministers Responsible for Conservation, Wildlife and Biodiversity May 25 & 26, 2023 / Ottawa, ON**

**Issue:** Tripartite Nature Agreement

## **Recommend Response:**

- Nature Agreements are a mechanism to advance conservation in Canada by aligning objectives, priorities, and funding to effectively address biodiversity loss and climate change.
- The Governments of Canada and BC committed to launch the development of a nature agreement in February 2021. After engaging with First Nations leadership, the two governments confirmed their interest in co-developing a tripartite nature agreement with the First Nations Leadership Council (FNLC) in early 2023.
- The FNLC received resolutions from their member organizations (the Union of British Columbia Indian Chiefs, BC Assembly of First Nations, and the First Nations Summit) to negotiate an agreement with BC and Canada.
- BC is the only Province negotiating a tripartite Nature Agreement.
- The key goals of the Nature Agreement include habitat protection, conservation, restoration, and enhancement; recovery of species at risk; improving knowledge and information; and indigenous-led conservation.
- Central to the Agreement is the recognition that First Nations in BC have land-based title and rights, are disproportionately affected by biodiversity loss and climate impacts and that First Nations' leadership and knowledge is critical to achieving transformative changes and sustained actions to address the biodiversity and climate crises.
- There is recognition of the need to do the work contemplated in the Nature Agreement and in most cases, that work is already underway or contemplated through established mandates.
- Canada has committed significant funding (to be matched by BC) from the Enhanced Nature Legacy, Nature Smart Climate Solutions Fund, Old Growth Nature Fund, and 2 billion Trees initiatives. Some funding is expected to go directly to First Nations in BC.
- s.13; s.16
- B.C. continues to work with Canada and the First Nation Leadership Council to develop a tripartite agreement.

## **Key Facts:**

- The draft tripartite Nature Agreement is a governance framework to improve alignment and coordination of actions and funding aimed at improving positive conservation outcomes. It is aligned with BC priorities such as prioritization of biodiversity and ecosystem health, Together for Wildlife, modernized Land Use Planning, the Collaborative Indigenous Stewardship Framework, effectively

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conserving 30% of lands and freshwater by 2030; First Nations leadership in conservation, watershed security, and climate change resilience.

- The Nature Agreement does not supersede existing agreements or governance structures, nor does it modify or remove legal requirements under federal laws, including the Species at Risk Act.
- s.13; s.16; s.17

**Date Prepared/Revised: May 8, 2023**

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# **Background Note Meeting of Federal, Provincial and Territorial (FPT) Ministers Responsible for Conservation, Wildlife and Biodiversity**

## **May 25 & 26, 2023 / Ottawa, ON**

**Issue:** Development of a Coastal Marine Strategy

### ***Recommend Response:***

- The ocean holds great promise for building British Columbia's economy and improving the well-being of coastal communities.
- A Coastal Marine Strategy, now under development, will articulate the actions government can take to develop an equitable and balanced "blue economy", adapt to a changing climate, contribute to meaningful reconciliation with First Nations, and foster community resilience.
- With a 20-year outlook, the Coastal Marine Strategy will expand on existing programs and initiatives and present new ideas and concepts.
- Over the last year, we collaborated with coastal First Nations and Ministries across government to develop an Intentions Paper. It presents a vision for protecting ecological, cultural, and economic benefits provided by the coastal marine environment.
  - The Intentions Paper was released for public consultation on December 15, 2022; the comment period closed April 14, 2023.
- The public response has been positive. There is strong support for enhanced stewardship of coastal habitats and species.
- We are on track to have a Coastal Marine Strategy launched in early 2024. The Strategy will reflect the priorities of coastal First Nations and British Columbians.

### ***Key Facts:***

- The ocean-based economy directly and indirectly contributes approximately 8% of the province's GDP (\$21.5B annually) and directly employs 131,000 people full time.
- Three-quarters of British Columbia's (B.C.) population lives in the coastal zone. There are more than 200 communities that dot the coast, and 80 distinct First Nations have identified territories that include the marine environment. First Nations have a deep-rooted relationship with the ocean, which still serves as the primary source of healthy foods.
- B.C.'s coastal and marine areas are extremely biologically diverse - home to many iconic wildlife such as wild Pacific salmon, killer whales, coastal wolves, and many other birds, mammals, fishes and invertebrates.
- Given the close connection B.C. residents have with the ocean and the importance it has in terms of B.C.'s cultural identity, the Province committed to develop a Coastal Marine Strategy (CMS) for B.C.

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- This commitment is included in the mandate letters of Minister of Water, Land and Resource Stewardship, and Parliamentary Secretary of Fisheries and Aquaculture.

### **Policy Direction:**

- The CMS will focus on activities and uses that fall within the provincial government's authority and accountability. Where there is strategic interest, the CMS may include actions to address matters that fall under federal jurisdiction, such as fishing and marine transportation.
- Conservation of marine biodiversity is a priority for B.C. There are several draft actions in the Intentions Paper aimed at keeping the coast of British Columbia abundant and productive. For example,
  - Improved provincial monitoring of habitats critical for maintaining biodiversity;
  - Preventing and abating marine pollution;
  - Protection and restoration of highly productive coastal habitats, such as estuaries, kelp forests, and seagrass meadows;
  - Implementation of the marine protected area network action plan for the Northern Shelf Bioregion, in partnership with Canada and 15 First Nations;
  - Protection and revitalization of wild salmon populations through BCSRIF (B.C. Salmon Restoration and Innovation Fund) and other programs stemming from the Wild Salmon Advisory Council recommendations;
  - Implementation of B.C.'s Ocean Acidification and Hypoxia Plan, as a member of the International Alliance to Combat Ocean Acidification;
  - Expansion of the provincial cumulative effects program to include assessment of marine values;
  - Increased support for Indigenous-led stewardship and conservation of coastal ecosystems (e.g., Guardians, Indigenous Protected and Conserved Areas);
  - Supporting a shift towards nature-based solutions to improve resiliency of coastal ecosystems to climate change.

### **Engagement:**

- To date, staff have hosted over twenty engagement sessions with over 30 First Nations and six First Nations organizations across the coast (including eight modern treaty nations).
- Over 50 stakeholder groups and 11 of 17 coastal Regional Districts have participated in several information sessions.
  - In early March, stakeholders and local governments gathered in person for a CMS Policy Forum to share their perspectives on priority actions.
  - An Indigenous Youth and Young Professionals Summit ran concurrently to bring the voices of Indigenous youth into the policy development process.
- At the close of public engagement, we received 73 written submissions from stakeholders and governments, and 845 online feedback forms. Results of

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engagement will be summarized in a What We Heard report, targeted for the end of July.

- A series of public-open houses in coastal communities are being planned late spring/ summer/ early fall to raise awareness of the CMS.
- The **federal government is engaged** through the Ocean Coordinating Committee and the Regional Committee on Ocean Management. Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC) and Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) staff participated in information sessions and provided comments on the Intentions Paper in draft and final forms. Over the coming weeks and months, federal staff will be invited to review draft products as they are developed.
  - Feedback received to date has emphasized the need for greater specificity about the instances where coordination/ collaboration with federal departments/ agencies is needed to advance B.C.'s interests, and a request to include more details about federal commitments and actions.
  - There are strong synergies with several federal programs and initiatives, particularly:
    - The Oceans Protection Plan (OPP) - announced in 2016 and renewed in 2022. OPP spending is allocated across 5 themes: i) Safer marine traffic, ii) Stronger incident prevention and response, iii) Better protected coastal ecosystems, iv) Stronger partnerships with Indigenous and coastal communities, and v) Building a stronger scientific evidence base.
    - Canada's Blue Economy Strategy - led by DFO, the Strategy will guide future actions and investments to help grow the ocean economy while advancing conservation objectives. DFO anticipates its release in 2024.
    - Canada's National Adaptation Strategy – led by ECCC, the Strategy includes solutions to halt and reverse loss of nature due to climate change (including coastal and marine ecosystems).
    - Nature Legacy Initiative – announced in 2016 and renewed in 2021. The nature legacy fund supports achievement of Canada's 30x30 targets and species-at-risk recovery through program and project funding and the negotiation of Nature Agreements with each P/T. ECCC leads administration of terrestrial stewardship projects, while DFO is responsible for aquatic stewardship projects.

### **Fiscal Implications:**

- CMS implementation budget requirements remain uncertain.
  - Estimates of implementation costs will be considered as WLRS staff work with coastal First Nations and other Ministries to develop specific actions for the CMS.
  - Where there are shared priorities/ synergies, B.C. and federal departments/agencies may be able to establish joint funding contributions,

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- building on successful models of collaboration (e.g., the British Columbia Salmon Restoration and Innovation Fund (BCSRIF)).
- Our ministry has invested in ocean conservation in the Northern Shelf Bioregion (i.e., The Great Bear Sea) <sup>s.13; s.16; s.17</sup>  
s.13; s.16; s.17
- WLRS staff will explore opportunities for innovative funding models.

**Date Prepared/Revised: May 4, 2023**

**Ministry Executive Sponsor:**

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## MEETING NOTE

### B.C. Contributions to Achieving Biodiversity Outcomes

**DATE:** May 4, 2023

**PREPARED FOR:** Honourable Nathan Cullen, Minister of Water, Land and Resource Stewardship

**REGARDING:** Meetings for Ministers Responsible for Conservation, Wildlife and Biodiversity in Ottawa, May 25 and 26, 2023

**INTRODUCTIONS:** Lori Halls, Deputy Minister of Water, Land and Resource Stewardship  
Jennifer Psyllakis, Executive Director, Species at Risk Recovery

#### KEY MESSAGES:

- BC has significant and varied breadth of experience in conservation, wildlife and biodiversity. Based on this, we see that our future commitments with partners must include five things:
  1. Restoration and enhancement of ecosystems must be part of Canada's funding commitment for the province to fully reach the 30 per cent conservation of land and water by 2030. Past development has left many areas degraded. Some will recover on their own with time, however many will need targeted investment for restoration.
  2. Conservation financing mechanisms that allow for government, and philanthropic investment in conservation of key areas as well as the ongoing management of those conserved lands.
  3. Economic transition planning and supports are needed. As we invest in conservation and restoration we must involve local communities, sectors and stakeholders in the socio-economic analysis, planning and development of transition supports to ensure there continues to be high paying rural jobs.
  4. We must have transparent reporting for the public in the status of our lands and natural resources. This must include common definitions for FPTs on Other Effective Conservation Measures for Canada's conservation, wildlife and biodiversity so that the public has trust and confidence in the the future of these lands.
  5. Critical to all of these elements is the need for First Nations leadership in the conservation restoration and ongoing managing of lands. The integrity of a fully-functioning and healthy ecosystem is foundational to upholding First Nations' title, rights and wellbeing.

#### STRATEGIC CONSIDERATION

- The federal government's approach for improving biodiversity outcomes are in some cases well aligned to provincial strategies. In cases where there is lack of alignment, the trilateral Nature Agreement is expected to improve collaboration and alignment.
- In addition to the trilateral Nature Agreement, ongoing discussion with other provinces and territories are key.

#### Nature Agreement

- The Nature Agreement primarily focuses on the following key areas:
  - Indigenous leadership and partnership;

- Habitat and ecosystem conservation and protection in a way that considers and provides support for socio-economic impacts;
  - Habitat enhancement and restoration;
  - Species at risk recovery and protection; and
  - Foundational knowledge and information sharing.
- s.13; s.16; s.17

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### **BC approach to 30% conservation by 2030.**

- Protecting and conserving 30% of lands and waters by 2030 was first recommended by the International Union of the Conservation of Nature following concerns of global biodiversity loss. Canada was an early adopter of the target and encouraged provincial and territorial governments to support.
- Formal adoption of 30% by 2030 was made at COP 15, the global biodiversity conference in Montreal in December 2022. The target (Target 3) was one of 23 actions endorsed as part of the post-2020 biodiversity framework.
- Target 3 states:
  - Ensure and enable that by 2030 at least 30 per cent of terrestrial, inland water, and of coastal and marine areas, especially areas of particular importance for biodiversity and ecosystem functions and services, are effectively conserved and managed through ecologically representative, well-connected and equitably governed systems of protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures, recognizing indigenous and traditional territories, where applicable, and integrated into wider landscapes, seascapes and the ocean, while ensuring that any sustainable use, where appropriate in such areas, is fully consistent with conservation outcomes, recognizing and respecting the rights of indigenous peoples and local communities, including over their traditional territories.
- Areas that will count towards the 30% can be comprised of parks and protected areas – established specifically to protect or conserve conservation values; or “Other effective conservation measures” (OECMs) which are areas protected or conserved for alternative reasons yet provide effective conservation.
- s.13; s.16

s.13; s.16

**Biodiversity and Ecosystem Health**

- In September 2020, the B.C. government committed to implementing all 14 recommendations of the independent Old Growth Strategic Review (OGSR report), including Recommendation #2 to “declare the conservation and management of ecosystem health and biodiversity of British Columbia’s forests as an overarching priority and enact legislation that legally establishes this priority for all sectors.”
- Initiatives already leading the way on aspects of ecosystem health and biodiversity include:
  - Protection of at-risk species (Cariobu Recovery Program \$10M annually, Spotted Owl Captive Breeding Program, dedicated habitat protection measures in place for other wide ranging species at risk including Northern Goshawk and Marbled Murrelet)
  - Development of co-managed land and resource stewardship practices with Indigenous peoples
  - Modernized land use planning
  - Together for Wildlife Strategy
  - Watershed Security Strategy
  - Coastal Marine Strategy
  - Cumulative Effects Framework

**SUMMARY:**

- B.C. is interested in continued and improved partnerships with the Government of Canada to support sustainable resource stewardship and management of land and waters to address the complex challenges for biodiversity, conservation and wildlife.

• s.13; s.16

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**PREPARED BY:**

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**REVIEWED BY:**

	Initials	Date
DM	LH	May 17, 2023
ADM	DM	May 14, 2023
Program Dir/Mgr.		

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**Issue:** Guardians Program

**Recommend Response:**

- We have started a process to work with First Nations to inform a strategic approach to supporting Guardians activities across the province.
- As a first step, this includes co-developing a Guardians and Stewardship Training Initiative, which was included in BC's *Budget 2023*.
- We know that Canada is also investing in Guardians activities: in Budget 2021, Canada announced up to \$100 million over five years (2021-2026) to support new and existing Guardians initiatives across the country.
- BC and Canada are working towards an agreement (Nature Agreement) that would provide funding support for 30X30 conservation goals, and potentially related stewardship and Guardians activities.
- My staff are reaching out to federal staff leading guardians initiatives to explore information sharing and potential opportunities for collaboration.
- Guardians activities vary depending on each Indigenous Nations' priorities and may involve stewardship, compliance monitoring, and cultural heritage and Indigenous knowledge keeping and transmission.
- Any work to advance the concept of a model to support Guardians functions in BC, must be co-developed with Indigenous Peoples.

**Additional Response points (if needed):**

- Many First Nations are implementing guardians programs in their territories, and these are not new activities but a reflection of their stewardship, laws and traditions.
- Guardians have important functions in many communities and increase the capacity of First Nations to steward their lands and waters, partner with BC in co-management, and inform better decisions about resource stewardship.
- BC currently supports Guardians activities through a number of different initiatives across the Natural Resource Sector, including collaborative stewardship initiatives that the Province and First Nations are working on together.

**Key Facts:**

- The term 'Guardians' is used to capture the various stewardship activities undertaken through these programs and may reflect similarly-focused Liaison, Watchmen, Warden, or Ranger initiatives.
  - Some communities also use the term Guardians to cover compliance and/or compliance and enforcement activities.
- BC currently supports Guardians activities through a number of different initiatives (Appendix).

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- In 2021, BC engaged with First Nations on Guardians activities across the province. The engagement found;
  - Support for Guardians activities is of interest to many First Nations as a reflection of self-determination.
  - First Nations identified access to training as a barrier to growing Guardians capacity and programs.
  - The Province currently supports Guardians activities through a number of different initiatives, but funding is ad-hoc and often time-limited.
- BC is working to co-develop a Guardian and Stewardship Training Initiative under the *Future Ready: Skills for the Jobs of Tomorrow Plan*. The initiative provides \$8.9M/3 years.
- Many First Nations and First Nation organizations are developing and leading Guardians programs, including training. Staff will seek to support and align with First Nations-led interests and approaches to Guardians training.
- While the co-development process will focus on building the Training Initiative as the primary objective, BC views this as the first step to developing a more strategic approach to supporting Guardians activities across the Province.

**Date Prepared/Revised:** May 3, 2023

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### Appendix - Examples of current initiatives that support guardians-related activities:

<p><b>Environmental Stewardship Initiative (ESI):</b> 32 Nations across North Area. \$6.5M budget annually, est. 2015.</p> <p><b>Collaborative Stewardship Framework (CSF):</b> 33 Nations province-wide. \$5.5M budget annually, est. 2018.</p> <p><b>Great Bear Rainforest (GBR):</b> 26 Coastal Nations. \$1.5M budget annually, est. 2010. Coastal Guardian Watchmen Program.</p> <p><b>Marine Plan Partnership (MaPP):</b> 16 Nations represented through 4 agreements. \$2M budget annually, est. 2010.</p>	<p><b>Ministry of Forests Compliance &amp; Enforcement (C&amp;E):</b> via agreements between Regional teams and Nations, includes Environment Assessment Office (EAO)</p> <p><b>Conservation Officer Service (COS):</b> via agreements between Regional teams and Nations.</p> <p><b>BC Parks:</b> via agreements between Regional teams and Nations; 2022 Pilots (Kitsao Xai'xais and Nuxalk have signed an MOU to enter a pilot involving shared C&amp;E responsibilities within provincial protected areas)</p> <p><b>Forest &amp; Range Evaluation Program Sampling:</b> via FOR/WLRS agreement</p>
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<b>Aboriginal Liaison Program (ALP):</b> 10 agreements & 15 Indigenous communities. \$1.5M budget annually, est. 2014, admin by BC Energy Regulator /Oil and Gas Research Innovation Society.	<b>Mines monitoring:</b> via Energy, Mines and Low Carbon Innovation agreement  <b>Emergency Management and Climate Readiness:</b> Emergency planning and response
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## BRIEFING NOTE FOR INFORMATION

**DATE:** May 5, 2023

**PREPARED FOR:** Honourable Nathan Cullen, Minister of Water, Land and Resource Stewardship

**ISSUE:** BC Note on Perspectives on Conservation Financing

### KEY POINTS:

- The Ministry of Water, Land and Resource Stewardship (WLRS) is developing a provincial-scale conservation financing mechanism to support protection of biodiverse areas.
- The Province of British Columbia (BC) is developing a new fiscal framework with First Nations, which will include approaches to revenue sharing.
- BC is interested in aligning this work with related federal funding and exploring new opportunities with the Government of Canada (Canada) to support these efforts.

### BACKGROUND:

- WLRS has the mandate to work with Indigenous Peoples, the federal government, industry, and communities, to achieve the goals of protecting 30% of BC's land and marine areas by 2030 (30 by 30), including through Indigenous Protected and Conserved Areas.
- Additionally, BC has committed to the implementation of the Old Growth Strategic Review.
- Driven by these commitments, WLRS has a mandate to develop a new conservation financing mechanism (CFM) to support protection of biodiverse areas with support from the Ministers of Forests (FOR) and Jobs, Economic Development, and Innovation (JEDI), and the Parliamentary Secretary for Environment (ENV).
- BC, Canada, and the First Nations Leadership Council are engaged in negotiations of a "Nature Agreement" to improve coordination of a federal-provincial collaboration on land stewardship and to direct a significant portion of new federal funding envelopes through 2030.
- In March 2022, BC released the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Action Plan (Action Plan), which commits to co-developing with Indigenous Peoples a new distinctions-based fiscal framework that supports the operation of Indigenous governments, and new policy frameworks for resource revenue-sharing.
- BC is co-developing a new distinctions-based fiscal framework and relationship with Indigenous Peoples. A current focus of this work is on co-developing a new forestry revenue sharing model with First Nations and on co-developing principles to inform the new fiscal framework. Since April 2022, BC has been actively engaging with First Nations including through a Discussion paper and What We Heard report, government-to-government meetings, conferences, forums, and a virtual information session.

### DISCUSSION:

s.13; s.16

s.13; s.16

- Progress continues towards a co-developed new fiscal framework with the recent release in April 2023 of a 'What We Heard' report summarizing the perspectives shared by First Nations.

s.13; s.16

- The Action Plan notes that work to co-develop with Indigenous Peoples a new distinctions-based fiscal relationship and framework will include collaboration with Canada; there may be opportunity for future discussions with Canada regarding federal contributions, including through CFM or other mechanisms.

**INDIGENOUS PEOPLES:**

- BC is committed to addressing the dual crises of biodiversity loss and climate change through the lens of conservation, sustainability, and recognition of First Nations' rights and jurisdiction.
- As holders of rights and title in BC, First Nations are integral partners in any approaches to conservation, and must drive decisions about caretaking their communities, lands and territories.
- Each of the areas that have received a contribution from BC for conservation financing have demonstrated Indigenous-led conservation or strong support for the conservation initiative.
- In developing the provincial-scale CFM, WLRS is seeking engagement opportunities with First Nations and anticipates that the governance of the CFM will be led by First Nations.

**SUMMARY:**

- BC is interested in exploring alignment of federal funding as well as new opportunities for federal contributions to the provincial-scale CFM to bolster the leveraging potential with the philanthropic community.

**Attachment(s):** s.13; s.16**PREPARED BY:**

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**REVIEWED BY:**

	Initials	Date
DM	LH	May 17, 2023
ADM	CW	May 7, 2023
Program Dir/Mgr.	RF	May 5, 2023

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# **Background Note Meeting of Federal, Provincial and Territorial (FPT) Ministers Responsible for Conservation, Wildlife and Biodiversity**

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**Issue:** Conservation Investment - BC Interests and Opportunities

### **Recommend Response:**

- B.C. has consistently demonstrated global leadership in championing innovative conservation approaches and deepening stewardship relations with Indigenous peoples.
- The province's co-development approach with First Nations and community partners results in tangible economic gains in diversifying businesses and employment.
- The Great Bear Rainforest (GBR) is a successful model of Indigenous Led Conservation Financing. Direct costs included \$20M over 20 years for negotiations, \$30M each from B.C. and the Federal governments as a contribution to the Coast Funds, and an additional \$1.2M per year in implementation capacity.
- Direct benefits include \$60M additional philanthropic contributions for a total of \$120M Coast Funds which has leveraged \$300M to support 439 projects, new local businesses, and new jobs.
- Indirect ecological and cultural benefits surpass modest financial investment, including ecosystem services, climate resiliency, advanced reconciliation, and increased opportunities for traditional knowledge transfers in the community.
- Investments in conservation and nature-based solutions protect ecological function and are a proactive approach to disaster risk reduction. 2021 natural disasters such as the heat dome, wildfires, and atmospheric river cost B.C.'s economy between \$10-17B. B.C. is investing in nature and climate resilience for safer, healthier, flourishing communities.
- We continue to work to advance a trilateral Nature Agreement and anticipated increased investments from the federal government will support initiatives to sustainably manage land, water, and resources.

### **Key Facts:**

- GBR is a successful Indigenous Led Conservation Financing model where First Nation, B.C., and federal governments partnered to achieve conservation outcomes.
- In collaboration with non-government organizations (NGOs) GBR has resulted in the protection of 6.4 million hectares of rainforest and the establishment of the Coast Funds, financing that sustains economic development projects and conservation stewardship with 27 First Nations.
- Since 2008, Coast Funds has been leveraged for an additional \$300M of investments in stewardship, businesses, and infrastructure in First Nations communities, and provided direct investment of \$109m in 439 conservation, sustainable energy, and economic development projects, resulting in more than



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1,000 permanent jobs and the establishment or growth of more than 100 local businesses.

- B.C. purchases \$3M of carbon offsets from the GBR Carbon Project, enabling the province to meet its international GHG emissions commitments while directly benefiting First Nations partners.
- GBR supports Guardian Watchmen, and a recent business case study found a minimum 10:1 annual return on investment - for each dollar invested in a Guardian program annually, that Nation benefits at least 10 times.
- We are investing in guardians and co-developing a program with Indigenous partners to further benefit from the known positive impacts that such programs provide. These include bringing members back out to the land to protect significant places, language learning, a pathway for meaningful employment, self-governance, and helping children establish cultural continuity and spiritual relationships in their territories.

**Date Prepared/Revised: May 5, 2023**

**Ministry Executive Sponsor:**

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## MEETING NOTE

### BC Key Messages to the Government of Canada

**DATE:** May 4, 2023

**PREPARED FOR:** Honourable Nathan Cullen, Minister of Water, Land and Resource Stewardship

**REGARDING:** Meetings for Ministers Responsible for Conservation, Wildlife and Biodiversity in Ottawa, May 25 and 26, 2023

**INTRODUCTIONS:** Lori Halls, Deputy Minister of Water, Land and Resource Stewardship  
Jennifer Psyllakis, Executive Director, Species at Risk Recovery

### KEY MESSAGES:

s.13; s.16

### STRATEGIC CONSIDERATION

- The federal government's approach for improving biodiversity outcomes are in some cases well aligned to provincial strategies. In cases where there is lack of alignment, the trilateral Nature Agreement is expected to improve collaboration and alignment.
- In addition to the trilateral Nature Agreement, ongoing discussion with other provinces and territories are key.

#### Nature Agreement

- The Nature Agreement primarily focuses on the following key areas:
  - Indigenous leadership and partnership;

- Habitat and ecosystem conservation and protection in a way that considers and provides support for socio-economic impacts;
  - Habitat enhancement and restoration;
  - Species at risk recovery and protection; and
  - Foundational knowledge and information sharing.
- Federal investment to support the Nature Agreement is expected to be up to \$500M, however budget constraints within the federal government are placing some of these funds at risk. Expediting an agreement in principle in June will be necessary to secure federal funding.
- B.C., Canada and the First Nations Leadership Council continue to work towards completing an Agreement with a goal of agreeing in principle in June followed by ratification in September 2023.

### **BC approach to 30% conservation by 2030.**

- Protecting and conserving 30% of lands and waters by 2030 was first recommended by the International Union of the Conservation of Nature following concerns of global biodiversity loss. Canada was an early adopter of the target and encouraged provincial and territorial governments to support.
- Formal adoption of 30% by 2030 was made at COP 15, the global biodiversity conference in Montreal in December 2022. The target (Target 3) was one of 23 actions endorsed as part of the post-2020 biodiversity framework.
- Target 3 states:
  - Ensure and enable that by 2030 at least 30 per cent of terrestrial, inland water, and of coastal and marine areas, especially areas of particular importance for biodiversity and ecosystem functions and services, are effectively conserved and managed through ecologically representative, well-connected and equitably governed systems of protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures, recognizing indigenous and traditional territories, where applicable, and integrated into wider landscapes, seascapes and the ocean, while ensuring that any sustainable use, where appropriate in such areas, is fully consistent with conservation outcomes, recognizing and respecting the rights of indigenous peoples and local communities, including over their traditional territories.
- Areas that will count towards the 30% can be comprised of parks and protected areas – established specifically to protect or conserve conservation values; or “Other effective conservation measures” (OECMs) which are areas protected or conserved for alternative reasons yet provide effective conservation.
- Several policy questions remain following the mandate commitment. These include:
  - Is 30% a cap or a guideline?
  - What is the relationship to the rest of the land base for other activities?
  - Will it be representational across the province?
  - What is considered for new protected or conserved areas? Ecological, recreational, cultural factors?
  - Criteria or priorities for areas? Species at Risk (SAR), old growth, connectivity?
  - Baseline data, conservation information needs to inform choices.

- The role of land use planning (LUP) compared to other processes.

s.13; s.16

### **Biodiversity and Ecosystem Health**

- In September 2020, the B.C. government committed to implementing all 14 recommendations of the independent Old Growth Strategic Review (OGSR report), including Recommendation #2 to “declare the conservation and management of ecosystem health and biodiversity of British Columbia’s forests as an overarching priority and enact legislation that legally establishes this priority for all sectors.”
- Initiatives already leading the way on aspects of ecosystem health and biodiversity include:
  - Protection of at-risk species (Cariobu Recovery Program \$10M annually, Spotted Owl Captive Breeding Program, dedicated habitat protection measures in place for other wide ranging species at risk including Northern Goshawk and Marbled Murrelet)
  - Development of co-managed land and resource stewardship practices with Indigenous peoples
  - Modernized land use planning
  - Together for Wildlife Strategy
  - Watershed Security Strategy
  - Coastal Marine Strategy
  - Cumulative Effects Framework

### **SUMMARY:**

- B.C. is interested in continued and improved partnerships with the Government of Canada to support sustainable resource stewardship and management of land and waters to address the complex challenges for biodiversity, conservation and wildlife.

s.13; s.16

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#### **PREPARED BY:**

David Muter, Assistant Deputy Minister  
Land Use Policy, Planning and  
Ecosystems Division  
(250) 215-5385

#### **REVIEWED BY:**

	Initials	Date
DM	LH	May 17, 2023
ADM	DM	May 14, 2023
Program Dir/Mgr.		

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Withheld pursuant to/removed as

s.13 ; s.16

Summary information sources from the internet and in some cases staff conversations.

Prov/Territory	Status	Scope and commitments
YK	Signed Dec 2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>GoC committed \$20.6 million total to Yukon.</li> <li>Includes funding for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Protection of sensitive habitats; recovery work for species at risk, e.g. northern mountain caribou, grizzlies and plants.</li> <li>Protection and conservation of new land in the Yukon.</li> </ul> </li> <li>Bilateral commitment to work with Indigenous peoples recognizing the unique rights and responsibilities of Indigenous peoples.</li> </ul>
NWT	s.13; s.16	
NU	n/a	Devolution negotiations are underway with Canada and Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated to transfer control over Nunavut's public lands, fresh water and resources to the Nunavut government.
AB	Election underway	No information available
SK	Unknown	No information available
MB	Election upcoming	No information available
ON	Unknown	No information available
QC	s.13; s.16	No information available
NS	s.13; s.16	
NB	Unknown	No information available
NL	s.13; s.16	
PEI	Unknown	No information available



**From:** Diana A McNeill(diana.mcneill@gov.bc.ca)  
**To:** McNeill, Diana A WLRs:EX (Diana.McNeill@gov.bc.ca)  
**Subject:** CLIFF ID 29541  
**Sent:** 06/26/2023 21:09:10  
**Message Body:**

MO-Minister Referral Slip for ID:29541 2023/06/26

Log Type: Invitation Action: Speaking Notes Due: 2023/02/14

Batch: Sig Level: Minister

Type: First Nation

Cheryl Casimer

First Nations Summit

Email: cbaker@fns.bc.ca

Written: 2023/01/31 Resp Type:

Received: 2023/01/25 File No.: 324-40

Due: 2023/02/14 Entered By:s.15; s.22

Approved: Approved By: DM-Deputy Minister

Signed: 2023/02/14 Sign By:

Closed: 2023/02/17

Address To: Minister Nathan Cullen Copy To:

Branch Rsp: MO-Minister Issue:

X-Ref: Drafter:

With Letter:

Subject

Want to invite MNC to speak at the First Nations Summit Meeting wed/thurs Feb 15-16th/23 at the Musqueam Recreation Centre - requesting he provides the chiefs and update overview on our ministries plan to engage with the First Nations in BC ( in particular a trilateral Nature Agreement

Log Notes

2023/02/15 Nathan Speaking on Feb 16th Confirmed

Referral MO-Minister -> DM-Deputy Minister

From: MO-Minister Sent: 2023/02/08 Status: Completed Ref Action: Briefing Note

To: DM-Deputy Minister Received: Reason: Sig Level:

Assign To: Completed: 2023/02/10 Due: 2023/02/14 File No.:

Referral MO-Minister -> DM-Deputy Minister -> LUPPE-ADM

From: DM-Deputy Minister Sent: 2023/02/10 Status: Completed Ref Action: Speaking Notes



To: LUPPE-ADM Received: Reason: Sig Level:

Assign To: Completed: 2023/02/17 Due: 2023/02/14 File No.:

Referral Comments

2023/02/10 DM-Deputy Minister There is an event coming up that the Minister will be speaking at and speaking notes, key messages and Q&As will be required for each. Sara will be assigning this out to David as the lead. I'm assuming that the preparation of these materials will be led by David/LUPPE but also including Colin who may be collaborating on this material and also Sean so he is aware and Comms may be asked to provide input or review the notes.

If this should be assigned differently, please let us know.

Friday, Feb 16 – First Nations Summit

ID: 3025, Title: BN for Minister - First nations Summit

Full Name:

Approval Route: MO>>DMO>>ADMO>>DMO>>MO>>DMO>>ADMO>>OPR

Assigned To: Larkin, Brenda Rush: Yes Briefing Note - Information Note Signature: Deputy Minister

Branch: LUPPE - ADM Other Number: 29541

Link: N/A

Due Date: 2/15/2023 Date Completed: N/A Date Initiated: 2/15/2023 N/A

## Item History

2/17/2023 03:00 PM

Blackstock, Sara FLNR:EX [Assignee] forwarded an eApprovals item to Larkin, Brenda for action  
For file and close please. Thanks

2/15/2023 04:19 PM

Walters, Hailey [Assignee] forwarded an eApprovals item to Blackstock, Sara FLNR:EX for action  
Sending back to you! thanks! HW

2/15/2023 03:26 PM

Blackstock, Sara FLNR:EX [Assignee] forwarded an eApprovals item to Walters, Hailey for action  
Additional materials for MNC for First Nations Summit Feb 16  
PDF - 29541 IN First nations Summit  
Thanks

2/15/2023 03:25 PM

Blackstock, Sara FLNR:EX added a document: 29541 IN First Nations Summit Meeting 2023FEB14.pdf

2/15/2023 12:52 PM

Halls, Lori D [Assignee] approved the item and forwarded it to Blackstock, Sara FLNR:EX for action  
Sara this needs to go with the FNS speaking notes developed for MNC that I sent you yesterday via email mail. Similar speaking notes will be needed for his meetings with UBCIC and AFN.

2/15/2023 12:23 PM

Blackstock, Sara FLNR:EX [Assignee] forwarded an eApprovals item to Halls, Lori D for action  
RUSH: Review and approval please. Due to the MO EOD Feb 15. Once approved please return to Sara Blackstock. Thanks

2/15/2023 09:36 AM

Larkin, Brenda [Assignee] forwarded an eApprovals item to Blackstock, Sara FLNR:EX for action  
provided by email from David.

2/15/2023 09:36 AM

Larkin, Brenda added a document: 29541 IN First Nations Summit Meeting 2023FEB14.docx

2/15/2023 09:15 AM

Blackstock, Sara FLNR:EX [Assignee] forwarded an eApprovals item to Larkin, Brenda for action  
Please assign to staff for a BN for MNC for the First Nations Summit. Due to the DMO Feb 15, 2023. Thanks

2/15/2023 09:14 AM

Blackstock, Sara FLNR:EX created this item

ID: 2933, Title: SN For Minister - First Nations Summit

Full Name:

Approval Route: MO>>DMO>>ADMO>>DMO>>MO>>DMO>>ADMO>>OPR

Assigned To: Larkin, Brenda Rush: No Communications Material - DM/ADM Speaking Notes Signature:  
Deputy Minister

Branch: LUPPE - ADM Other Number: 29541

Link: N/A

Due Date: 2/14/2023 Date Completed: N/A Date Initiated: 2/10/2023 N/A

## Item History

2/17/2023 03:08 PM

Blackstock, Sara FLNR:EX [Assignee] forwarded an eApprovals item to Larkin, Brenda for action  
For file and close please. Thanks

2/17/2023 03:03 PM

Blackstock, Sara FLNR:EX [Site Admin] forwarded an eApprovals item to Blackstock, Sara FLNR:EX for action

2/17/2023 02:59 PM

Blackstock, Sara FLNR:EX [Assignee] forwarded an eApprovals item to Larkin, Brenda for action  
For file and close please. Thanks

2/15/2023 08:52 AM

Walters, Hailey [Assignee] forwarded an eApprovals item to Blackstock, Sara FLNR:EX for action  
Hey Sara, sending back to you to close! Thank you, HW

2/14/2023 04:53 PM

Blackstock, Sara FLNR:EX [Assignee] forwarded an eApprovals item to Walters, Hailey for action  
Materials for MNC for the First Nations Summit  
PDF - Speaking Notes  
Speaking Notes, Key Messages and Q&A's  
Thanks

2/14/2023 04:51 PM

Blackstock, Sara FLNR:EX added a document: Speaking Notes for Minister Cullen.pdf

2/14/2023 04:51 PM

Blackstock, Sara FLNR:EX added a document: Speaking Note Key Messages and Q&As.pdf

2/14/2023 02:44 PM

Halls, Lori D [Assignee] forwarded an eApprovals item to Blackstock, Sara FLNR:EX for action  
Sara - I sent you a revised set of speaking notes via email. Please forward the Key Messages and Qs/As as well in this eapprovals.

2/14/2023 01:03 PM

Blackstock, Sara FLNR:EX [Assignee] forwarded an eApprovals item to Halls, Lori D for action  
Rush: For review and approval please. Due to the MO by EOD Feb 14. Once approved please return to Sara Blackstock. Thanks

2/13/2023 06:08 PM

Muter, David [Assignee] approved the item and forwarded it to Blackstock, Sara FLNR:EX for action  
No Comment

2/13/2023 05:07 PM

Ward, Colin LWRS:EX [Assignee] approved the item and forwarded it to Muter, David for action  
Some suggested edits in both the documents.

2/13/2023 03:28 PM

Muter, David [Assignee] approved the item and forwarded it to Ward, Colin LWRS:EX for action  
Colin - could you please have a look and send back to me any edits or suggestions

2/10/2023 10:24 AM

Larkin, Brenda [Assignee] forwarded an eApprovals item to Muter, David for action

Note due date of Feb 14

2/10/2023 10:24 AM

Larkin, Brenda added a document: Speaking Notes Template for Minister Cullen.docx

2/10/2023 10:23 AM

Larkin, Brenda added a document: Speaking Note Key Messages and Q&As.docx

2/10/2023 09:41 AM

Blackstock, Sara FLNR:EX [Assignee] forwarded an eApprovals item to Larkin, Brenda for action

Please create speaking notes, key messages and Q & A's for MNC for the First Nations Summit. Due to the DMO by noon on Feb 14 for Lori to review. Thanks

2/10/2023 09:39 AM

Blackstock, Sara FLNR:EX added a document: Upcoming speaking events for MNC with FN.msg

2/10/2023 09:37 AM

Blackstock, Sara FLNR:EX created this item

## BRIEFING NOTE FOR INFORMATION

**DATE:** February 14, 2023

**PREPARED FOR:** Honourable Nathan Cullen, Minister of Water, Land and Resource Stewardship

**ISSUE:** Presentation to the First Nations Summit Chiefs Council Meeting regarding a Tripartite Nature Agreement

### KEY POINTS:

- Staff with the First Nations Leadership Council have supported the development and coordination of a resolution that is being presented to the Chiefs Council meetings for the First Nations Summit (FNS), Union of BC Indian Chiefs (UBCIC) and Assembly of First Nation (AFN).
- The respective Chiefs Council meetings are scheduled as follows:
  - FNS February 16
  - UBCIC February 22 and 23
  - AFN March 9 and,10
- Once resolutions are confirmed, ministry staff will work with technical staff from First Nation Leadership Council (FNLC) to finalize a draft trilateral agreement for Minister and FNLC approval.
- s.13; s.16

### BACKGROUND:

- Development of a Canada-BC Nature Agreement was announced publicly in February 2021, with a focus on its potential for improved collaboration to benefit species at risk recovery.
- s.13; s.16

- The drafting approach has been to develop an over-arching strategic agreement which leverages existing provincial programs that have been co-developed with participating First Nations (Modernized Land Use Planning, Together for Wildlife, Collaborative Indigenous Stewardship Framework, etc.).

### DISCUSSION:

s.13; s.16

s.13; s.16

s.13; s.16

## **INDIGENOUS PEOPLES:**

Modernized Land Use Planning and the Collaborative Indigenous Stewardship Framework are two of the most meaningful approaches to advancing stewardship in a manner that is aligned to the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. Both of these programs have well established governance structures that fully involve First Nations rights and title holders.

Modernized Land Use Planning requires that BC and the respective First Nations enter into a Memorandum of Understanding at the start to define the scope and approach to developing the land use plan.

The Collaborative Indigenous Stewardship Framework requires individual project agreements with each group of First Nations partners and includes an overarching Governance Working Group that has representation from all First Nation partners involved in the program and provides advice and guidance on overall program design and delivery.

Other stewardship initiatives in BC have similar structures of co-development and governance (Provincial Caribou Recovery Program, Together for Wildlife, Watershed Security Strategy and Coastal Marine Strategy).<sup>s.13; s.16</sup>

s.13; s.16

#### NEXT STEPS:

- Minister will have the opportunity to present to the Chiefs Council meetings for FNS, UBCIC and AFN
- Once a mandate has been obtained, ministry staff will work with Environment and Climate Change Canada staff and FNLC staff to finalize a Tri-partite Agreement

**Attachment(s):** Draft Resolution

#### PREPARED BY:

David Muter  
Assistant Deputy Minister  
Land Use Policy, Planning and Ecosystems  
(250) 217-5385

#### REVIEWED BY:

	Initials	Date
DM	LH	Feb15, 2023
ADM	DM	Feb 14, 2023
Program Dir/Mgr.		

## Appendix 1: Draft Resolution

### RE: Support for Development of a Tripartite Nature Agreement

**WHEREAS** Nature Agreements are framework mechanisms to describe clear and strong commitments to nature conservation and protection and include mutually agreed upon actions and financial commitments from federal and provincial governments to reach conservation goals and should be codeveloped with inherent Title and Rights holders as partners. More specifically, Nature Agreements may include:

- Creation and expansion of protected and conserved areas, as well as key biodiversity areas, Indigenous-led conservation, and other effective area-based conservation measures;
- Protecting critical habitat and adopting land use planning measures to improve outcomes for species at risk and migratory birds;
- Facilitating information and data exchange to improve conservation outcomes;
- Mitigating and building resilience to climate change by reducing land use change and practices with greenhouse gas emission impacts, and facilitating carbon sequestration and storage through ecosystem restoration;

**WHEREAS** the *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples*, which the Government of Canada has adopted without qualification, and has, alongside the government of B.C., committed to implement, affirms:

**Article 10:** Indigenous peoples shall not be forcibly removed from their lands or territories. No relocation shall take place without the free, prior, and informed consent of the Indigenous peoples concerned and after agreement on just and fair compensation and, where possible, with the option of return.

**Article 18:** Indigenous peoples have the right to participate in decision-making in matters which would affect their rights, through representatives chosen by themselves in accordance with their own procedures, as well as to maintain and develop their own indigenous decision-making institutions.

**Article 25:** Indigenous peoples have the right to maintain and strengthen their distinctive spiritual relationship with their traditionally owned or otherwise occupied and used lands, territories, waters and coastal seas and other resources and to uphold their responsibilities to future generations in this regard.

**Article 26:** 1. Indigenous peoples have the right to the lands, territories and resources which they have traditionally owned, occupied or otherwise used or acquired.

2. Indigenous peoples have the right to own, use, develop and control the lands, territories and resources that they possess by reason of traditional ownership or other traditional occupation or use, as well as those which they have otherwise acquired.

3. States shall give legal recognition and protection to these lands, territories and resources. Such recognition shall be conducted with due respect to the customs, traditions and land tenure systems of the indigenous peoples concerned.

**Article 27:** States shall establish and implement, in conjunction with indigenous peoples concerned, a fair, independent, impartial, open and transparent process, giving due recognition to indigenous peoples' laws, traditions, customs and land tenure systems, to recognize and adjudicate the rights of indigenous peoples pertaining to their lands, territories and resources,



including those which were traditionally owned or otherwise occupied or used. Indigenous peoples shall have the right to participate in this process.

**Article 28:** 1. Indigenous peoples have the right to redress, by means that can include restitution or, when this is not possible, just, fair and equitable compensation, for the lands, territories and resources which they have traditionally owned or otherwise occupied or used, and which have been confiscated, taken, occupied, used or damaged without their free, prior and informed consent.

2. Unless otherwise freely agreed upon by the peoples concerned, compensation shall take the form of lands, territories and resources equal in quality, size and legal status or of monetary compensation or other appropriate redress.

**Article 29:** 1. Indigenous peoples have the right to the conservation and protection of the environment and the productive capacity of their lands or territories and resources. States shall establish and implement assistance programmes for indigenous peoples for such conservation and protection, without discrimination.

2. States shall take effective measures to ensure that no storage or disposal of hazardous materials shall take place in the lands or territories of indigenous peoples without their free, prior and informed consent.

3. States shall also take effective measures to ensure, as needed, that programmes for monitoring, maintaining and restoring the health of indigenous peoples, as developed and implemented by the peoples affected by such materials, are duly implemented.

**Article 32:** 1. Indigenous peoples have the right to determine and develop priorities and strategies for the development or use of their lands or territories and other resources.

2. States shall consult and cooperate in good faith with the indigenous peoples concerned through their own representative institutions in order to obtain their free and informed consent prior to the approval of any project affecting their lands or territories and other resources, particularly in connection with the development, utilization or exploitation of mineral, water or other resources.

3. States shall provide effective mechanisms for just and fair redress for any such activities, and appropriate measures shall be taken to mitigate adverse environmental, economic, social, cultural or spiritual impact; and

**WHEREAS** the Government of Canada and the Province of British Columbia (BC) have confirmed interest in codeveloping a Nature Agreement to address the dual crises of biodiversity loss and climate change and which is grounded in recognition of First Nations' rights and jurisdiction given that First Nations in BC have land-based title and rights in BC and are disproportionately affected by global biodiversity and climate impacts and that First Nations' leadership and knowledge is critical to achieving transformative changes and sustained actions to address these crises.

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that UBCIC Chiefs Council directs the UBCIC Executive, working collectively with the BC Assembly of First Nations, and the First Nations Summit as the First Nations Leadership Council, to engage in tripartite discussions with the Government of Canada and the Province of British Columbia (BC) to co-develop a draft tripartite Nature Agreement for consideration by the Chiefs;

**THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the UBCIC Chiefs Council directs the UBCIC Executive to ensure that any draft Nature Agreement:

- is consistent with and upholds Indigenous human rights described in the *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples*;

- takes a distinctions-based approach to ensure that the unique rights, interests, and circumstances of titleholding First Nations peoples in BC are acknowledged, affirmed, and respected;
- ensures that First Nations are full partners in the identification of areas for conservation and protection and in habitat enhancement and restoration initiatives;
- ensures that First Nations are full partners in any planning and decision-making processes, including for land use and species at risk protection and recovery; and,
- includes a strong and central role for Indigenous knowledge and science, while upholding and respecting Indigenous data sovereignty;

**THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** the UBCIC Chiefs Council directs the UBCIC Executive to ensure that the draft Nature Agreement enables and does not in any way constrain or impact the individual negotiations, joint decision-making, and joint planning that rightfully belongs between the Crown and title-holders;

**THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** the UBCIC Chiefs Council directs the UBCIC Executive, working with the BC Assembly of First Nations and the First Nations Summit as the First Nations Leadership Council, to work with the Government of Canada and Province of BC develop and implement a process for consultation and cooperation with First Nations on the draft Nature Agreement, and provide regular reports to the UBCIC Chiefs Council on the ongoing tripartite discussions; and

**THEREFORE BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED** that UBCIC Chiefs Council directs the UBCIC Executive to bring any recommended draft Nature Agreement to the UBCIC Chiefs Council for review and endorsement by resolution.



**First Nations Summit Chiefs Council Meeting**

*Speaking Notes for*

**Honourable Nathan Cullen**

**Minister of Water, Land and Resource Stewardship**

**February 16, 2023**

## Key Points / Message for Minister to deliver:

- A Tripartite Nature Agreement would ensure a more integrated, collaborative, approach to terrestrial, freshwater, and coastal ecosystem health and biodiversity, with the federal government and with First Nations.
- We are committed to working with both Canada and First Nations to halt and reverse biodiversity loss by conserving and protecting at least 25% of British Columbia's lands and fresh waters by 2025 and 30% by 2030.
- Both the Modernized Land Use Planning program and the Collaborative Indigenous Stewardship Framework are based on partnership with First Nations rights and title holders. These two programs are a strong foundation that can be used to support the implementation of a tripartite Nature Agreement.

## Opening:

- Thank you, Chiefs, for the kind invitation to join you today for a part of your Chief's Council meeting.
- Before I continue, I would like to acknowledge with respect that I am speaking to you from the Traditional Territory of the Lekwungen Peoples, also known today as the Esquimalt and Songhees First Nations

- Today you are going to consider a resolution to support the development of a ***Tripartite Nature Agreement***.
- I am very pleased to come and speak with you in support of this resolution, as I believe such an agreement can be instrumental in how we advance reconciliation, improve conservation and stewardship of important values, and ensure that we undertake this work as true partners.
- While we each will have our interests and focus, the conservation and stewardship of B.C.'s natural resources so that they are here to support generations to come is a shared responsibility.
- First Nations in B.C. have been stewards of their lands and waters since time immemorial and are leaders in conserving and protecting nature.
- As a province, BC has always been and will continue to be a leader in conservation and protection of biodiversity.
- We have the greatest diversity of species, ecosystems, and habitats of any of province or territory in Canada, and British Columbians feel a deep connection to these natural environments.
- A Tripartite Nature Agreement would ensure a more integrated, collaborative, approach to terrestrial, freshwater, and coastal ecosystem health and biodiversity, with the federal government and with First Nations.
- Protecting and conserving areas, restoring ecosystems, enhancing habitat, and using nature-based solutions to respond to climate change can help ensure sustainability and the well-being of people and economies in this Province.

- I see a tripartite Nature Agreement as a way to increase investment and alignment for:
  - habitat and ecosystem conservation and protection
  - habitat enhancement and restoration
  - species at risk protection and recovery
  - foundational knowledge and information sharing
- We are committed to working with both Canada and First Nations to halt and reverse biodiversity loss by conserving and protecting 30% of B.C.'s lands and freshwater by 2030.
- Too often in the past, we have worked at cross-purposes under approaches where senior levels government have dictated approaches in areas that are not aligned – either with each other, or with Nations on whose land the approaches are being considered.
- As we move forward in light of our commitments to the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, we are committed to ensuring that this work is carried out in partnership with First Nations.
- Achieving the 30% by 2030 target will require a range of conservation measures, including new protected areas established through:
  - provincially designated conservation areas
  - Indigenous Protected and Conserved Areas (IPCAs)
  - other effective area-based conservation measures (OECMs)

- In all cases, we recognize that these measures will only be achieved through successful partnership with First Nations.
- The Modernized Land Use Planning program is the approach that we have been using since 2018, working in partnership with First Nations to implement land use change and recognize the land use vision of First Nations .
- The most critical element of our Modernized Land Use planning Program is the commitment to partnership. It is only through partnership with First Nations Rights and title holders that any land use planning process is done in B.C.
- It is a critical process for:
  - Achieving 30% protected and conserved areas by 2030.
  - Advancing reconciliation.
  - Creating new land use approaches that will advance co-management and decision making.
  - Helping our economy by bringing predictability to the land base.
- In order to do good land use planning together we need to have a foundation of trusted data.
- The Collaborative Indigenous Stewardship Framework is the primary place where we have been working for almost a decade with First Nations to develop trusted data that is then used to improve stewardship and resource management.
- Through the Collaborative Indigenous Stewardship Framework we have established regionally-based forums gather trusted data on the land, ecosystems and wildlife to support co-management.

- This work now includes 16 Forums covering close to 80% of the provincial land base and 124 Nations.
- With the trusted data that we are building together through the Collaborative Indigenous Stewardship Framework and then applying through the Modernized Land Use planning program I believe that together we can improve the stewardship and conservation of BC for generations to come.
- Because both the Modernized Land Use Planning program and the Collaborative Indigenous Stewardship Framework are based on partnership with First Nations rights and title holders, we see these two programs as a strong foundation that can be used to implement shared conservation and stewardship goals.
- As we move forward there will also be new approaches that we will need to develop together to build a co-managed land and resource framework.
- The development of a tripartite Nature Agreement will help implement new, land use plans that have been developed in partnership with First Nations and expand Collaborative Indigenous Stewardship Frameworks to continue to build the trusted foundation so important for making conservation decisions.
- We also see the potential for a tripartite framework to support additional areas of collaboration around co-management and shared decision-making.
- Ultimately, we must work together to address the dual crises of biodiversity loss and climate change. We know that First Nations are at the forefront of these crises.



- We believe the Nature Agreement creates an opportunity for to work collectively to provide support in tackling these crises, including support at the community level.
- And BC is committed to doing this in a way that is grounded in recognition of First Nations' rights and jurisdiction and recognizes that First Nations' leadership and knowledge is critical to achieving transformative changes and sustained actions to address these crises.
- Thank you for the opportunity to speak with you today.
- If there is time, I would be happy to answer any questions.

---

**Title:** *First Nations Summit Chiefs Council Meeting*

**Date:** February 16, 2023

---

**Key Messages:**

- A Tripartite Nature Agreement would ensure a more integrated, collaborative, approach to terrestrial, freshwater, and coastal ecosystem health and biodiversity, with the federal government and with First Nations.
- We are committed to working with both Canada and First Nations to halt and reverse biodiversity loss by conserving and protecting at least and 30% of B.C.'s lands and fresh waters by 2030.
- Both the Modernized Land Use Planning program and the Collaborative Indigenous Stewardship Framework are based on partnership with First Nations rights and title holders. These two programs are a strong foundation that can be used to support the implementation of a tripartite Nature Agreement.

## **Questions & Answers:**

### **What is the Modernized Land Use Planning Program?**

- Modernized land use planning is led by the B.C. government in partnership with Indigenous governments and with engagement of communities, local governments, industry and other stakeholders. It is a transparent and public-facing process that respects the values, knowledge, and traditions of Indigenous Peoples.

### **How will the provincial government recognize IPCAs?**

- We respect and acknowledge the efforts of First Nations to protect ecosystems within their territories and care for the water, land, animals, and other natural resources that their communities have relied on for millennia.
- My ministry is committed to working together with First Nations on a co-managed approach to land and resource management.
- Where possible, our preferred approach is for Indigenous-led stewardship interests, such as IPCAs, to be addressed through government-to-government collaborative processes like modernized land use planning.
- This ensures that economic, environmental, social, and cultural values are considered, that collaborative processes can be built with First Nations and that robust engagement can be undertaken with stakeholders, local government, and the public.
- Our government welcomes the opportunity to work with First Nations to better understand and share our collective perspectives and to jointly develop an approach to land stewardship.

### **What is the Collaborative Indigenous Stewardship Framework?**

- The Collaborative Indigenous Stewardship Framework (CISF) has been underway since 2011.

- These forums are a regionally-based model for co-management that includes 16 Forums covering close to 80% of the provincial land base and 124 Nations as represented by:
  - The Environmental Stewardship Initiative (ESI) – initiated by EMLI and now led by WLRs
  - The Collaborative Stewardship Framework (CSF) initiated by FLNR and now led by WLRs
  - The Marine Plan Partnership for the North Pacific Coast (MaPP), - initiated by ENV and led by WLRs
  - The Great Bear Rainforest (GBR) Forums. Initiated by FLNR and continue to be led by FOR

**Why didn't you start with a tripartite agreement. Why are we hearing about this after you have already started work with the federal government?**

- We are continually learning how to ensure we are meeting the standards of the UN Declaration and how that must inform our work.
- It was our intention that any initiative supported by the Nature Agreement would only be undertaken in partnership with Nations at the community level, but we should have begun our process of negotiations in a tripartite way.
- A tripartite Nature Agreement is a good approach to ensure this partnership going forward.

END -

**From:** Marilyn Teneese(MTeneese@fns.bc.ca)  
**To:** Minister, WLRS WLRS:EX (WLRS.Minister@gov.bc.ca)  
**To:** XT:Braker, Colin FOR:IN (cbraker@fns.bc.ca)  
**Subject:** 29541 Incoming; FNS Correspondence - Invitation to the February 2023 First Nations Summit Meeting  
**Sent:** 01/27/2023 00:43:31

**Message**

**Body:**

[EXTERNAL] This email came from an external source. Only open attachments or links that you are expecting from a known sender.

Good day,

Attached is a PDF file containing FNS correspondence inviting Minister Cullen to attend the February 2023 First Nations Summit meeting at the Musqueam Community Centre or via Zoom on February 15 – 16, 2023.

Thank you,

First Nations Summit

# First Nations Summit

January 26, 2023

Hon. Nathan Cullen  
Minister of Water, Land and Resource Stewardship  
Sent via Email: [wlr.minister@gov.bc.ca](mailto:wlr.minister@gov.bc.ca)

Dear Minister Cullen:

**Re: February 2023 First Nations Summit Meeting**

Further to recent discussions among our senior officials, we wish to invite you to address Chiefs and Leaders at our February 2023 First Nations Summit meeting, scheduled on Wednesday and Thursday, February 15 – 16, 2023 at the Musqueam Recreation Centre in Vancouver, BC, with a Zoom option for those unable to attend in-person.

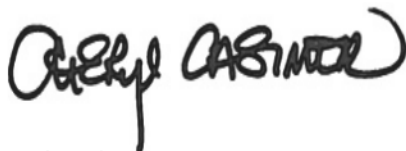
We request that you provide to the Chiefs in Assembly an update/overview on your and your ministry's plan to engage with First Nations in BC, particularly with respect to work towards a draft unprecedented trilateral Nature Agreement. We believe that it will be beneficial for the First Nations Summit Chiefs in Assembly to hear from you personally and confirm intentions to address the climate emergency, support conservation, and advance ecosystem health and biodiversity.

We will ask our staff to work with your officials to coordinate an agreeable agenda time. As well, for your information we have received confirmation from federal minister Guilbeault's office that he will also address our assembly. We hope that you will take this opportunity to meet with the First Nations Summit Chiefs in Assembly.

Please contact Colin Braker of our office to confirm your attendance and coordinate an agreeable agenda time slot either in-person or via Zoom. He can be reached at (604) 328 4094 or [cbraker@fns.bc.ca](mailto:cbraker@fns.bc.ca).

We look forward to receiving your positive response.

Yours sincerely,  
**FIRST NATIONS SUMMIT POLITICAL EXECUTIVE**



Cheryl Casimer



Hugh Braker



Robert Phillips

**From:** Diana A McNeill(diana.mcneill@gov.bc.ca)  
**To:** McNeill, Diana A WLRS:EX (Diana.McNeill@gov.bc.ca)  
**Subject:** CLIFF ID 29592  
**Sent:** 06/26/2023 21:08:38  
**Message Body:**

LUPPE-ADM Referral Slip for ID:29592 2023/06/26

Log Type: Briefing Note Action: Briefing Note-Meeting Due: 2023/02/03

Batch:

Type: Ministry Staff

Nathan Cullen, Minister

Ministry of Water, Land and Resource Stewardship

Written: 2023/02/03

Received: 2023/02/03 File No.: 280-20

Due: 2023/02/03 Entered By: s.15; s.22

Approved: 2023/02/06

Closed: 2023/02/09

Address To: ADM-LUPPE

Branch Rsp: LUPPE-ADM Issue: Nature Agreement

X-Ref: Drafter: David Muter

With Letter:

Subject

Meeting with Minister Stephen Guilbeault and the First Nations Leadership Council regarding a trilateral Nature Agreement on February 8, 2023

Log Notes

2023/02/09 approved. Documents embedded into cliff and closed. eApproval log returned to branch for closing and appropriate filing as OPR.

Referral LUPPE-ADM -> LUPPE-ADM

From: LUPPE-ADM Sent: 2023/02/09 Status: Completed Ref Action: Accept

To: LUPPE-ADM Received: 2023/02/09 Reason: Sig Level:

Assign To: Completed: 2023/02/09 Due: 2023/02/03 File No.:

ID: 2841, Title: BN for Minister - Nature Agreement

Full Name:

Approval Route: MO>>DMO>>ADMO>>DMO>>MO>>DMO>>ADMO>>OPR

Assigned To: Larkin, Brenda Rush: Yes Briefing Note - Information Note Signature: Deputy Minister

Branch: LUPPE - ADM Other Number: 29586

Link: N/A

Due Date: 2/3/2023 Date Completed: N/A Date Initiated: 2/2/2023 N/A

## Item History

2/6/2023 02:41 PM

Blackstock, Sara FLNR:EX [Assignee] forwarded an eApprovals item to Larkin, Brenda for action  
For file and close please. Thanks

2/6/2023 02:22 PM

Walters, Hailey [Assignee] forwarded an eApprovals item to Blackstock, Sara FLNR:EX for action  
Thanks Sara! Back to you. HW

2/6/2023 02:18 PM

Blackstock, Sara FLNR:EX [Assignee] forwarded an eApprovals item to Walters, Hailey for action  
Materials for MNC for Feb 7 Nature Agreement Meeting  
PDF - 29592 BN MSG and FNLC  
Thanks

2/6/2023 02:15 PM

Blackstock, Sara FLNR:EX added a document: 29592\_BN MSG and FNLC re trilateral Nature Agreement Feb 3.pdf

2/6/2023 01:01 PM

Halls, Lori D [Assignee] approved the item and forwarded it to Blackstock, Sara FLNR:EX for action  
No Comment

2/3/2023 03:48 PM

Blackstock, Sara FLNR:EX [Assignee] forwarded an eApprovals item to Halls, Lori D for action  
For review and approval please. Once approved please send back to Sara Blackstock. Thanks

2/3/2023 03:37 PM

Gysbers, Samantha FLNR:EX [Assignee] forwarded an eApprovals item to Blackstock, Sara FLNR:EX for action  
For DM review and approval

2/3/2023 02:31 PM

Muter, David [Assignee] approved the item and forwarded it to Gysbers, Samantha FLNR:EX for action  
No Comment

2/3/2023 01:36 PM

Gysbers, Samantha FLNR:EX added a document: 29592\_BN MSG and FNLC re trilateral Nature Agreement.docx

2/2/2023 03:26 PM

Larkin, Brenda [Assignee] forwarded an eApprovals item to Muter, David for action  
David - Jennifer P is attending the pre-meeting as it is scheduled on Feb 7th. You had indicated that you would do the material as it relates to MNC meeting with Minister Guilbeault

2/2/2023 02:56 PM

Blackstock, Sara FLNR:EX [Assignee] forwarded an eApprovals item to Larkin, Brenda for action  
Please assign to staff for a meeting note with a stakeholder. Due to the DMO by EOD Feb 3, 2023. Thanks

2/2/2023 02:55 PM

Blackstock, Sara FLNR:EX made some changes to this item's details

2/2/2023 02:34 PM

Blackstock, Sara FLNR:EX created this item



## MEETING NOTE

**DATE:** February 3, 2023

**PREPARED FOR:** Honourable Nathan Cullen, Minister of Water, Land and Resource Stewardship

**REGARDING:** Meeting with Minister Stephen Guilbeault and the First Nations Leadership Council regarding a trilateral Nature Agreement

**INTRODUCTIONS:** Lori Halls, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Water, Land and Resource Stewardship

### STRATEGIC CONSIDERATION AND MESSAGES:

- BC has always been and will continue to be a leader in conservation and protection of biodiversity.
- We also recognize the leadership of First Nations in the sustainable management of lands and resources since time immemorial and acknowledge that we have much to learn in relation to the protection of biodiversity.
- The Province of British Columbia ("BC") is fully committed to the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. Consistent with the Declaration, I would like to confirm that First Nations will be full partners in the development of an agreement for nature conservation.
- I welcome the opportunity to work with you to develop a trilateral agreement for nature conservation and apologize, on behalf of the Province, for the manner and timing in which your organizations were brought into the process.
- Through this work, we are committed to increasing the percentage of the land base in BC that is designated for the effective co-designed conservation and protection of ecosystems, watersheds and habitats to 25% of terrestrial lands and freshwaters by 2025 and 30% by 2030. We have many existing programs developed in partnership with First Nations that we expect will be crucial to supporting this work.
  - For example the Modernized Land Use Planning program is the approach that we follow – working in partnership with First Nations to implement land use change and ensure that First Nations land use visions are implemented.
  - As well the Collaborative Indigenous Stewardship Framework is a place where we work with First Nations to develop trusted data that is then used to improve stewardship and resource management.
- We see a significant opportunity in this work and through an Agreement to ensure that all parties are coordinated and supportive of any conservation decisions, and believe that this can be a tool to support the recognition of Indigenous rights and interests as it relates to land and resources matters.
- I understand that as a first step your respective organizations will need to engage and confirm a mandate to work with us on this initiative. I have instructed my staff to provide any support necessary. I am hopeful that we could aim to complete the trilateral agreement in an expedited manner, recognizing the benefit it can provide to all.

### SUMMARY:

- The First Nations Leadership Council executive has recently met to discuss the approach for obtaining mandates for the Union of BC Indian Chiefs (UBCIC), Assembly of First Nations (AFN) and First Nations Summit (FNS) to enter into a trilateral Nature Agreement with BC and Canada.

- Resolutions will be sought at each of the upcoming Chiefs Council meetings as follows:
  - FNS Feb 15,16
  - UBCIC Feb 22, 23
  - AFN March 9,10
- Once resolutions are confirmed, Ministry staff will work with technical staff from FNLC to finalize a draft trilateral agreement for Minister and FNLC approval.
- BC and Canada have a shared interest to finalize negotiations quickly and align the trilateral closely to the scope of the draft that was developed in December with FNLC staff. A long delay in finalizing the Agreement could result in Canada allocating funding to other provinces.

**PREPARED BY:**

David Muter  
ADM Land Use Policy Planning and  
Ecosystems  
(250) 217-5385

**REVIEWED BY:**

	Initials	Date
DM	LH	February 6, 2023
ADM	DM	February 3, 2023
Program Dir/Mgr.		

**From:** Diana A McNeill(diana.mcneill@gov.bc.ca)  
**To:** McNeill, Diana A WLRs:EX (Diana.McNeill@gov.bc.ca)  
**Subject:** CLIFF ID 29924  
**Sent:** 06/26/2023 21:09:35  
**Message Body:**

MO-Minister Referral Slip for ID:29924 2023/06/26

Log Type: Briefing Note Action: Briefing Note-Meeting Due: 2023/03/22

Batch:

Type: MLA-Government

Murray Rankin, Minister

MIRR

Email: IRR.Minister@gov.bc.ca

Written: 2023/03/13

Received: 2023/03/13 File No.: 280-20

Due: 2023/03/22 Entered By: s.15; s.22

Approved: 2023/03/29

Closed: 2023/05/04

Address To: MIRR

Branch Rsp: MO-Minister Issue:

X-Ref: Drafter:

With Letter:

Subject

Briefing Materials to be prepared for Minister Murray Rankin re: Nature Agreement. Briefing confirmed for Monday, April 3rd at 11:30-11:30am.

Log Notes

2023/05/04 Meeting on April 3, 2023

Referral MO-Minister -> DM-Deputy Minister

From: MO-Minister Sent: 2023/03/13 Status: Completed Ref Action: Briefing Note

To: DM-Deputy Minister Received: Reason: Sig Level:

Assign To: Completed: 2023/03/13 Due: 2023/03/22 File No.:

Referral MO-Minister -> DM-Deputy Minister -> LUPPE-ADM

From: DM-Deputy Minister Sent: 2023/03/13 Status: Completed Ref Action: Briefing Note

To: LUPPE-ADM Received: 2023/03/13 Reason: Sig Level:

Assign To: Completed: 2023/05/04 Due: 2023/03/22 File No.:

Referral MO-Minister -> DM-Deputy Minister -> LUPPE-ADM -> LUPPE-Wildlife, Habitat and SRR

From: LUPPE-ADM Sent: 2023/03/13 Status: Completed Ref Action: Briefing Note

To: LUPPE-Wildlife, Habitat and SRR Received: Reason: Sig Level:

Assign To: Completed: 2023/03/23 Due: 2023/03/22 File No.:

ID: 3467, Title: BN for MMR - Nature Agreement

Full Name:

Approval Route: MO>>DMO>>ADM-LUPPE>>ADM-RNRSP>> DMO>> MO>> DMO>> ADMO>> OPR

Assigned To: Blackstock, Sara FLNR:EX Rush: No Briefing Note - Information Note Signature: Deputy Minister

Branch: LUPPE - ADM Other Number: 29924

Link: N/A

Due Date: 3/27/2023 Date Completed: N/A Date Initiated: 3/13/2023 N/A

## Item History

3/30/2023 12:25 PM

Blackstock, Sara FLNR:EX [Assignee] has put this item on hold.

Meeting on April 3, 2023.

3/30/2023 09:49 AM

Walters, Hailey [Assignee] forwarded an eApprovals item to Blackstock, Sara FLNR:EX for action

Thanks Sara, shared with MO Staff and MIRR MO. HW

3/29/2023 07:38 PM

Blackstock, Sara FLNR:EX [Assignee] forwarded an eApprovals item to Walters, Hailey for action

Materials for MMR for the April 3 Nature Agreement Meeting. Please forward over to his MO.

PDF - 29924 IN\_Nature Agreement\_MMR

Thanks.

3/29/2023 07:36 PM

Blackstock, Sara FLNR:EX added a document: 29924\_IN Nature Agreement\_MMR\_March 23.pdf

3/29/2023 05:02 PM

Halls, Lori D [Assignee] approved the item and forwarded it to Blackstock, Sara FLNR:EX for action

No Comment

3/29/2023 11:43 AM

Blackstock, Sara FLNR:EX [Assignee] forwarded an eApprovals item to Halls, Lori D for action

For review and approval please. Updated with your changes from David Muter. Due to the MO by EOD March 30, 2023. Once approved please send back to Sara Blackstock. Thanks.

3/28/2023 04:43 PM

Larkin, Brenda [Assignee] forwarded an eApprovals item to Blackstock, Sara FLNR:EX for action

Sara, David has updated per Lori's direction.

3/28/2023 10:06 AM

Muter, David [Assignee] approved the item and forwarded it to Larkin, Brenda for action

updated to show that AFN may not be able to approve until September unless an emergency meeting is scheduled

3/27/2023 07:24 AM

Halls, Lori D [Assignee] forwarded an eApprovals item to Muter, David for action

Please see me to discuss

3/24/2023 02:12 PM

Blackstock, Sara FLNR:EX [Assignee] forwarded an eApprovals item to Halls, Lori D for action

For review and approval please. Due to the MO by EOD March 30, 2023. Once approved please send back to Sara Blackstock. Thanks.

3/24/2023 08:34 AM

Larkin, Brenda [Assignee] forwarded an eApprovals item to Blackstock, Sara FLNR:EX for action

approved by A/ADM, Lisa Helmer.

3/24/2023 06:09 AM

Helmer, Lisa FLNR:EX [Assignee] approved the item and forwarded it to Larkin, Brenda for action

Approved.

3/23/2023 04:23 PM

Larkin, Brenda [Assignee] forwarded an eApprovals item to Helmer, Lisa FLNR:EX for action

Lisa as A/ADM, can you please approve this note. David is supporting this meeting. Thank you

3/23/2023 04:06 PM

Neeson, Erynn [Assignee] forwarded an eApprovals item to Larkin, Brenda for action

Over to you Brenda. Please see Jen's note about recommending it be sent to Colin for further review<sup>6.22</sup>

3/23/2023 03:22 PM

Psyllakis, Jennifer FLNR:EX [Assignee] approved the item and forwarded it to Neeson, Erynn for action

please have a quick proof read. Recommend that Colin Ward review/approves.<sup>22</sup>

3/23/2023 03:20 PM

Psyllakis, Jennifer FLNR:EX added a document: 29924\_Nature Agreement\_MMR\_wlrs\_bn\_-\_information.docx

3/13/2023 02:00 PM

Neeson, Erynn [Assignee] forwarded an eApprovals item to Psyllakis, Jennifer FLNR:EX for action

Please draft BN. Thank you,

3/13/2023 01:19 PM

Larkin, Brenda [Assignee] forwarded an eApprovals item to Neeson, Erynn for action

Hi Erynn, Jennifer is expecting this one. Can you please pass to Jennifer. Note timeline for an ED approved briefing note is by March 23 at 10:00. Thank you

3/13/2023 10:45 AM

Blackstock, Sara FLNR:EX [Assignee] forwarded an eApprovals item to Larkin, Brenda for action

Please assign to staff for an information note for MMR regarding Nature Agreement. ADM approved materials will be due to the DMO by EOD March 27, 2023. Please email Sara Blackstock with the names of staff who should attend as support and if they will be virtual or attending in person. Thanks.

3/13/2023 10:44 AM

Blackstock, Sara FLNR:EX added a document: RE BRF REQUEST - MMR re Nature Agreement.msg

3/13/2023 10:43 AM

Blackstock, Sara FLNR:EX created this item

## BRIEFING NOTE FOR INFORMATION

**DATE:** March 23, 2022

**PREPARED FOR:** Honourable Murray Rankin, Minister of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation

**ISSUE:** Trilateral Nature Agreement with First Nations Leadership Council, Canada and BC

### KEY POINTS:

- The Nature Agreement is a governance tool that will support identification of shared priorities and enable strategic alignment of funding from multiple sources towards these priorities.
- The Nature Agreement respects that stewardship initiatives must be developed between the provincial government and the government of the First Nation whose territory the initiative would occur. Based on agreements between a Nation and government, the parties then can seek supportive funds through various means including the Nature Agreement.
- If endorsed, the Nature Agreement provides a significant opportunity to leverage funding, improve administrative efficiency, and target stewardship impact through four key areas: indigenous-led conservation; habitat conservation, restoration, and enhancement; species at risk recovery; and knowledge acquisition and mobilisation. Several provincial mandates can benefit including reconciliation; implementation of agreements with First Nations (e.g., Treaty 8); Land Use Planning and 30 x 30; Together for Wildlife; Collaborative Indigenous Stewardship Forums; and, the Old Growth Strategic Review, including the policy framework for biodiversity and ecosystem health.

### BACKGROUND:

- In June 2021, BC and Canada began negotiations of a "Nature Agreement" to improve coordination of a federal-provincial collaboration on land stewardship and to direct a significant portion of new federal funding envelopes through 2030.
- While the draft Nature Agreement was nearing completion in late 2022, concerns were raised by the First Nations Leadership Council (FNLC) that the agreement was not built with Indigenous involvement and that it should be a tripartite agreement with First Nations.
- In early 2023, BC and Canada began work with the FNLC to develop a tripartite agreement that reflects the importance of recognizing the role of First Nations in implementing initiatives that will be supported through the Nature Agreements.
- The FNLC obtained mandate, through resolutions from the Union of BC Indian Chiefs (UBCIC), Assembly of First Nations (AFN) and First Nations Summit (FNS), to enter into a trilateral Nature Agreement with BC and Canada.
- Ministry staff are working with technical staff from FNLC to finalize a draft trilateral agreement for Provincial, Federal and FNLC approval. FNLC approval will require resolutions from UBCIC (June); FNS (June) and AFN (TBC or September).

### DISCUSSION:

- The Nature Agreement has potential to help advance BC's global leadership in conservation and protection of biodiversity, in partnership with First Nations and aligned with the Global Biodiversity Framework (Canada signatory). It will be the first trilateral agreement of its kind in Canada.

- Canada anticipates contributing up to \$600 million from the Federal Budget to support implementation. \$50 million of this funding is available to support socio-economic impacts of conservation in some coastal forest ecosystems and in the Interior wet belt forest ecosystem. In general, this funding must be match 1:1. Therefore, the Nature Agreement represents a potential \$1.2 billion investment.
- BC and Canada have a shared interest to finalize negotiations quickly and align the trilateral closely to the scope of the draft that was developed in December with FNLC staff. A long delay in finalizing the Agreement could result in Canada allocating funding to other provinces.
- The Agreement will not commit BC to any specific conservation initiative, it does commit to making progress towards targets which does imply a future fiscal impact for BC. Where funding is not already secured, future treasury board submissions may be necessary.

• s.13; s.16

s.13; s.16 . Canada has committed that with approval of UBCIC and AFN they will hold the full funding for the Agreement.

## INDIGENOUS PEOPLES:

- Stewardship, relationship with land, and sustainable management is central to reconciliation and the Rights and Title of First Nations. Alignment to the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous People and advancing indigenous-led conservation is central throughout to the design of the Nature Agreement.
- The negotiation with FNLC has followed a distinctions-based approach which has created some concerns from Canada given broader federal responsibilities to Metis and Inuit in urban locations.
- Consultation directly with provincial rights and title holders is not planned. This may result in concerns from First Nations that are not members of any FNLC organizations. The Nature Agreement is not exclusionary, however, and implementation is driven from a local level.

## NEXT STEPS:

- FNLC, BC, Canada finalize draft trilateral Nature Agreement s.13; s.16
- Seek approvals from leaderships.13; s.16

s.13; s.16

- Canada confirms transfer agreements s.13; s.16
- Approve trilateral Nature Agreement with signing ceremony s.13; s.16

s.13; s.16

## PREPARED BY:

Jennifer Psyllakis  
Executive Director  
Wildlife, Habitat, Species Recovery  
(250) 812-7797

## REVIEWED BY:

	Initials	Date
DM	LH	March 29, 2023
ADM	DM	March 28, 2023
ED	JP	March 23, 2023



**From:** Diana A McNeill(diana.mcneill@gov.bc.ca)  
**To:** McNeill, Diana A WLRS:EX (Diana.McNeill@gov.bc.ca)  
**Subject:** CLIFF ID 29995  
**Sent:** 06/26/2023 21:11:46  
**Message Body:**

DM-Correspondence Referral Slip for ID:29995 2023/06/26

Log Type: Letter via Email Action: Draft Reply Due: 2023/04/11

Batch: Sig Level: Deputy Minister

Type: Association

Peter Ballin, Acting President

BC Nature

1620 Mt. Seymour Road

North Vancouver, BC, CA V7G 2R9

Phone: (604) 985-3057

Fax: (604) 985-3059

Email: manager@bcnature.ca

Written: 2023/03/17 Resp Type: Letter via Email

Received: 2023/03/20 File No.:

Due: 2023/04/11 Entered By:s.15; s.22

Approved: 2023/05/15 Approved By: DM-Deputy Minister

Signed: 2023/05/15 Sign By: DM-Deputy Minister

Closed: 2023/05/15

Secondary Authors

Type: Association

Betty Davison, Office Manager

BC Nature

Email: manager@bcnature.ca

Address To: Minister Nathan Cullen Copy To: Premier David Eby

Branch Rsp: LUPPE-Wildlife, Habitat and SRR Issue: Nature Agreement (30x30)

X-Ref: Drafter:

With Letter:

Subject

2022 Ministerial Mandate Letter re biodiversity

## Log Notes

2023/05/15 Approved by DM Lori Halls, signed letter emailed to 'manager@bcnature.ca'. Returning to Program Area for electronic filing and eApp closure.

2023/03/20 Deputy Minister Response obo Minister - sent to LUPPE, please provide:

1. Draft wording
2. List of people to be copied, any external email addresses
3. Approved by (OPR to enter into Log Notes in CLIFF)
4. Drafter's name (OPR to complete drafter field in CLIFF)

This is due to the CU by Apr 7 2023

Please notify the CU (LWRS.Correspondence@gov.bc.ca) if this is NOT your issue within 2-3 days.

Thanks.

Referral DM-Correspondence -> MO-Minister

From: DM-Correspondence Sent: 2023/03/20 Status: Completed Ref Action: FYI/File

To: MO-Minister Received: Reason: Sig Level:

Assign To: Completed: 2023/05/15 Due: File No.:

Referral DM-Correspondence -> MO-Minister -> DM-Correspondence

From: MO-Minister Sent: 2023/03/20 Status: Completed Ref Action: Coordinate Response

To: DM-Correspondence Received: Reason: Sig Level:

Assign To: Completed: 2023/05/15 Due: 2023/04/05 File No.:

Referral Comments

2023/05/12 DM-Correspondence To DM Lori Halls for review and approval

Referral DM-Correspondence -> MO-Minister -> DM-Correspondence -> LUPPE-Wildlife, Habitat and SRR

From: DM-Correspondence Sent: 2023/03/20 Status: Completed Ref Action: Draft Wording

To: LUPPE-Wildlife, Habitat and SRR Received: Reason: Sig Level:

Assign To: Completed: 2023/05/09 Due: 2023/04/05 File No.:

Referral DM-Correspondence -> MO-Minister -> DM-Correspondence -> LUPPE-Wildlife, Habitat and SRR -> LUPPE-ADM

From: LUPPE-Wildlife, Habitat and SRR Sent: 2023/05/09 Status: Completed Ref Action: Signature

To: LUPPE-ADM Received: 2023/05/09 Reason: Sig Level: Deputy Minister

Assign To: CU 2023.05.12 Completed: 2023/05/12 Due: 2023/04/07 File No.:

## ID: 3609, Title: 2022 Ministerial Mandate Letter

Full Name: Peter Ballin

Approval Route: CU – Erynn – ADM – CU – DM - CU

Assigned To: Neeson, Erynn Rush: No Category: Correspondence - Letter via Email Signature: Deputy Minister

Branch: LUPPE - Wildlife, Habitat & Species at Risk Recovery Other Number: 29995

Link: N/A

Due Date: 4/7/2023 Date Completed: N/A Date Initiated: 3/17/2023 Date Reply Sent: N/A

### Item History

5/15/2023 09:04 AM

Klugie, Katelynn LWRs:EX [Assignee] forwarded an eApprovals item to Neeson, Erynn for action

Approved by DM Lori Halls, signed letter emailed to 'manager@bcnature.ca'. Returning to Program Area for electronic filing and eApp closure.

5/15/2023 09:01 AM

Klugie, Katelynn LWRs:EX added a document: 29995 - Ballin - Final Outgoing.msg

5/15/2023 07:20 AM

Halls, Lori D [Assignee] approved the item and forwarded it to Klugie, Katelynn LWRs:EX for action

Approved with changes.

5/12/2023 03:09 PM

Klugie, Katelynn LWRs:EX [Colleague of WLRs Correspondence] forwarded an eApprovals item to Halls, Lori D for action  
DM letter for your review and approval

5/12/2023 01:20 PM

Chaplin, Julie [Assignee] forwarded an eApprovals item to WLRs Correspondence for action  
ADM Approved.

5/12/2023 11:35 AM

Muter, David [Assignee] approved the item and forwarded it to Chaplin, Julie for action  
No Comment

5/9/2023 01:23 PM

Larkin, Brenda [Assignee] forwarded an eApprovals item to Muter, David for action  
for your approval - DM0 signature

5/9/2023 11:35 AM

McNeill, Diana A [Assignee] forwarded an eApprovals item to Larkin, Brenda for action  
Approved by Jen and ready for ADM approval please.

5/9/2023 11:34 AM

McNeill, Diana A deleted a document: 29995 Draft Response BC Nature \_ minister mandate letter.docx

5/9/2023 11:34 AM

McNeill, Diana A added a document: 29995 WLRs - DM\_Halls\_letterhead.docx

5/7/2023 10:22 PM

Psyllakis, Jennifer FLNR:EX [Assignee] approved the item and forwarded it to McNeill, Diana A for action  
for formatting and return to CU

5/7/2023 10:21 PM

Psyllakis, Jennifer FLNR:EX added a document: BC Nature \_ minister mandate letter.docx

3/21/2023 12:27 PM

Neeson, Erynn [Assignee] forwarded an eApprovals item to Psyllakis, Jennifer FLNR:EX for action  
Hi Jen, please advise who should be coordinating the response. Thank you.

3/20/2023 03:34 PM

Jap, Jayson added a document: 29995 - Ballin - Incoming 1.msg

3/20/2023 03:34 PM

Jap, Jayson created this item

DM sig for LUPPE staff to draft. Thanks!

3/20/2023 03:34 PM

Jap, Jayson has created a new eApprovals item and assigned it to Neeson, Erynn

**From:** WLRS DMO WLRS:EX(WLRS.DMO@gov.bc.ca)  
**To:** manager@bcnature.ca  
**Subject:** 2022 Ministerial Mandate Letter  
**Sent:** 05/15/2023 16:00:45  
**Message Body:**

Reference: 29995

May 15, 2023

VIA EMAIL: manager@bcnature.ca

Dear Peter J. Ballin:

Please see attached letter regarding biodiversity.

Sincerely,

Office of the Deputy Minister

Ministry of Water, Land and Resource Stewardship

Attachment (1)

From: BC Nature >

Sent: Friday, March 17, 2023 1:06 PM

To: Minister, WLRS WLRS:EX >

Cc: OfficeofthePremier, Office PREM:EX >

Subject: 2022 Ministerial Mandate Letter

[EXTERNAL] This email came from an external source. Only open attachments or links that you are expecting from a known sender.

Dear Minister Cullen;

Please find enclosed, correspondence from BC Nature regarding the 2022 Ministerial Mandate Letter.

Please do not hesitate to contact the sender if you have any issues opening the attached .pdf.

Thank you and we look forward to your response.

Betty Davison

Office Manager

BC Nature

manager@bcnature.ca

<https://bcnature.org/>

Office – 604-985-3057

Remote office number – S.17 (cell)

BC Nature is situated on the unceded traditional Territory of the Tsleil-Waututh Nation.

We would like to thank the Coast Salish people and value the opportunity to learn, share and grow on this traditional territory



Reference: 29995

May 15, 2023

**VIA EMAIL:** [manager@bcnature.ca](mailto:manager@bcnature.ca)

Dear Peter J. Ballin:

Thank you for your letter of March 17, 2023 to the Honourable Nathan Cullen, Minister of Water, Land and Resource Stewardship. I have been asked to respond on his behalf.

There is urgency to halt and reverse the decline of biodiversity. There are also opportunities to align actions that better protect biodiversity with actions that improve landscape resilience to climate change and support the long-term health of communities and resource economies.

The Province is advancing numerous partnerships, policy initiatives and legislative reviews to achieve tangible conservation outcomes by 2030. Through initiatives already underway (for example, the Declaration Act Action Plan, Together for Wildlife, Caribou Recovery, Land Use Planning, Forest Landscape Planning, Watershed Security Strategy, etc) - we are making progress. More recently, the Province has initiated a review of the Wildlife Act and is developing a Biodiversity and Ecosystem Health Framework.

It is imperative that the Province advances this work in alignment with the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous People. Conservation designations are expected to primarily emerge from partnership with First Nations. At the same time, the Province continues to engage with the public and important interest holders and experts and we look forward to engagement with BC Nature on our ambitious goals.

Thank you again for your support and commitment to conservation in British Columbia.

Sincerely,

Lori Halls  
Deputy Minister  
Ministry of Water, Land and Resource Stewardship

**From:** WLRS Correspondence WLRS:EX(LWRS.Correspondence@gov.bc.ca)  
**To:** WLRS Correspondence WLRS:EX (LWRS.Correspondence@gov.bc.ca)  
**To:** Jones, Tristan WLRS:EX (Tristan.Jones@gov.bc.ca)  
**Subject:** FW: 2022 Ministerial Mandate Letter  
**Sent:** 03/17/2023 20:21:50  
**Message Body:**

DM response OBO MO, forward to LUPPE WHSRR for letter draft

From: BC Nature >

Sent: Friday, March 17, 2023 1:06 PM

To: Minister, WLRS WLRS:EX >

Cc: OfficeofthePremier, Office PREM:EX >

Subject: 2022 Ministerial Mandate Letter

[EXTERNAL] This email came from an external source. Only open attachments or links that you are expecting from a known sender.

Dear Minister Cullen;

Please find enclosed, correspondence from BC Nature regarding the 2022 Ministerial Mandate Letter.

Please do not hesitate to contact the sender if you have any issues opening the attached .pdf.

Thank you and we look forward to your response.

Betty Davison

Office Manager

BC Nature

manager@bcnature.ca

<https://bcnature.org/>

Office – 604-985-3057

Remote office number –s.17 (cell)

BC Nature is situated on the unceded traditional Territory of the Tsleil-Waututh Nation.

We would like to thank the Coast Salish people and value the opportunity to learn, share and grow on this traditional territory



March 17, 2023

To: Honourable Nathan Cullen  
Minister of Water, Land and Resource Stewardship  
[LWRS.minister@gov.bc.ca](mailto:LWRS.minister@gov.bc.ca)

Dear Minister Cullen,

Re: 2022 Ministerial Mandate Letter

BC Nature, a federation of 55 naturalist groups including more than 6,000 members, expresses its support for the commitments outlined in your December 7, 2022 Mandate Letter and the February 8, 2023 WLRS Service Plan, and their affirmation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework.

In particular, we applaud the goal of partnering with the federal government, stakeholders, and Indigenous peoples to achieve the Nature Agreement's goals of protecting 30% of BC's land base by 2030, on the march to 50% by 2050. We urgently need to preserve globally significant biodiversity hotspots in this province, such as the Fraser River Estuary and our rare Inland Temperate Rainforest (the recent designation of the Incomappleux Valley as a conservancy will protect numerous rare and at-risk species). We have concerns: we wish the preservation to proceed expeditiously, with effective processes and accountability. We require a plan with short term target milestones to track our progress. BC Nature offers its knowledge and expertise to assist in the process of deciding which areas shall be protected.

Since many species in BC are endangered or on the brink of extinction, we need to accelerate the pace of protection along with implementation of robust measures. We encourage you to refine legislative tools such as the *Wildlife Act*, the *Park Act*, and the *Ecological Reserves Act*, to enact new, more holistic biodiversity legislation, and to implement the Old Growth Strategic Review. We require a well-connected system of parks and protected areas, especially those with endangered ecosystems and species. This will call for not only government support but also participation of municipalities and private landowners, along with a system of incentives designed to encourage the public to conserve biodiversity; as you have written, a collaboration with internal and external partners, including Indigenous peoples, to develop and improve relationships, agreements, and strategies that enhance wildlife stewardship and biodiversity outcomes. BC Nature wishes to offer its expertise and experience to expedite ecosystem conservation, restoration, and protection through advice and in the field.

BC Nature also supports your mandate to develop a new conservation financing mechanism to protect biodiverse areas. We encourage the development of robust mechanisms such as a land acquisition fund to work with the ENGOs already pursuing this agenda. In addition, more economic development funding must be directed towards helping Indigenous peoples protect, on a sustained basis, critical biodiversity hotspots in the province.

-2-

Given the recent Blueberry River First Nation court decision and landmark agreement, the province must focus on the cumulative effects of industrial development: the “death by a thousand cuts”. Environments must be assessed not on a project-by-project basis, but on a broader scale of regional ecosystem integrity to arrive at formal management plans.

We are pleased to see the mandate letter emphasizing collaboration. We hope to bring the perspectives of our members to discussions with you and your Ministry, including your two Parliamentary Secretaries, Kelly Greene and Fin Donnelly. We especially look forward to action towards our mutual goals. We anticipate your response.

Sincerely yours,



Peter J Ballin  
Conservation Committee Chair and Acting President  
BC Nature

cc: Honourable David Eby, Premier of BC [premier@gov.bc.ca](mailto:premier@gov.bc.ca)

# **Background Note Meeting of Federal, Provincial and Territorial (FPT) Ministers Responsible for Conservation, Wildlife and Biodiversity**

## **May 25 & 26, 2023 / Ottawa, ON**

**Issue:** B.C.'s Approach to Prioritizing Biodiversity and Realizing Area-Based Conservation Goals

### ***Recommend Response:***

- B.C. has consistently demonstrated global leadership in the championing of innovative conservation approaches and deepening stewardship relations with Indigenous peoples.
- The overarching goals and targets of the new post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF) are central to the purpose of the Ministry of Water, Land and Resource Stewardship. Several B.C. initiatives are directly aligned to support the GBF targets, including:
  - Development of a B.C. Biodiversity and Ecosystem Health Framework ("Biodiversity Framework"), that will prioritize ecosystem health and maintain and enhance biodiversity. The Biodiversity Framework will be supported by the development of new legislative tools.
  - Working with First Nations on an area-based conservation approach that will set conservation goals and co-develop land stewardship plans, including Indigenous Protected and Conserved Areas.
  - Continue to work with federal colleagues and First Nations partners to advance a trilateral Nature Agreement.
- B.C. is building on its progress to protect threatened species and enhance biodiversity. Some examples include continuing to implement the B.C. Together for Wildlife Strategy, developing a Coastal Marine Strategy, implementing the 14 recommendations of the Old Growth Strategic Review, and establishing a new 58,654-hectare conservancy for the Incomappleux.

### ***Key Facts:***

- The conservation of long-term ecosystem health and biodiversity is crucial for the health and well-being of communities, economic sustainability, maintaining clean air and water, and the responsible stewardship of wildlife and natural resources for future generations.
- The Biodiversity Framework will ensure land stewardship planning prioritizes for maintaining ecosystem health and biodiversity. This framework will be developed in partnership with Indigenous Peoples (in recognition of aboriginal and treaty rights) and with guidance and input from all sectors, local communities, municipal leaders, academia, and other interested parties.
- B.C. initiatives already leading the way on various aspects of ecosystem health and biodiversity include:
  - Protection of at-risk species
  - Biodiversity enhancement and restoration
  - Development of co-managed land and resource stewardship practices with Indigenous peoples

**Background Note Meeting of Federal, Provincial and  
Territorial (FPT) Ministers Responsible for Conservation,  
Wildlife and Biodiversity  
May 25 & 26, 2023 / Ottawa, ON**

- Modernized land use planning.
  - Together for Wildlife Strategy
  - Watershed Security Strategy
  - Coastal Marine Strategy
  - Cumulative Effects Framework
- In December 2022, the B.C. government committed to advancing conservation to achieve 30% by 2030 and to developing a new conservation financing mechanism to formalize an approach to third-party funding, including a principled approach that recognizes Provincial-Indigenous reconciliation and ensure third party funding complements government funding.
- B.C. is taking an integrated approach to land management and conservation to achieve meaningful and lasting conservation. This B.C. Area-Based Conservation Approach reflects our commitment to co-development and co-management with Indigenous peoples. It will integrate the biodiversity and ecosystem management-based initiatives, necessary and ongoing, to achieve efficiencies and to sustainably manage land, water, and resources.
- B.C. will continue to work with federal colleagues and First Nations partners to advance a trilateral Nature Agreement that we expect will include increased investments from the federal government to support Modernized Land use planning.

**Date Prepared/Revised: May 8, 2023**

**Ministry Executive Sponsor:**

Name: Celine Davis

Phone: 778 698-4060

**Alternate Contact for Issue:**

Name: Rhonda Cage

Phone: 778-256-3952

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s.16

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s.13 ; s.16

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s.16

## MEETING NOTE

### B.C. Key Messages for National Indigenous Leaders Session

**DATE:** May 15, 2023

**PREPARED FOR:** Honourable Nathan Cullen, Minister of Water, Land and Resource Stewardship

**REGARDING:** Meetings for Ministers Responsible for Conservation, Wildlife and Biodiversity in Ottawa, May 25 and 26, 2023

**INTRODUCTIONS:** Lori Halls, Deputy Minister of Water, Land and Resource Stewardship  
Jennifer Psyllakis, Executive Director, Species at Risk Recovery

#### KEY MESSAGES:

- We recognize that the integrity of a fully-functioning and healthy ecosystem is foundational to upholding First Nations' title, rights and wellbeing.
- B.C. is committed to collaboration with First Nations leadership in conservation, restoration and ongoing management of land and water.
- s.13; s.16

#### STRATEGIC CONSIDERATION

- Minister Cullen was invited to lead the conversation for Discussion # 2 – Accelerating Action to Halt and Reverse Biodiversity Loss: Opportunities for Working Together and Noted Barriers.
- The guiding question is:
  - *How can we collaborate to address the challenges in implementing Indigenous-led conservation in each jurisdiction?*
- B.C. is actively engaging on the first trilateral Nature Agreement with the Government of Canada, and the First Nations Leadership Council.
- B.C. continues proactive collaborations with First Nations for the B.C. Watershed Security Strategy and Fund, recently committing \$100 million to the Fund.



**Discussion # 1 – The Kunming-Montréal Global Biodiversity Framework (KMGBF) in the Canadian context**

**B.C. Key Messages for Discussion # 1:** *How can FPTs meaningfully consider Indigenous priorities, perspectives and knowledge in decision-making and actions that impact biodiversity going forward?*

- B.C. legislation, the *Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Action Act* (the Declaration Act), is a commitment by the province to the principles of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.
- The overarching goals and targets of the KMGBF are central to the purpose of the Ministry of Water, Land and Resource Stewardship.
- My Ministry works with First Nations, First Nation Leadership Organizations, and other ministries to advance co-development of a co-managed land and resource regime, including:
  - partnerships with Nations through strategic planning work, such as Land Use Planning,
  - partnerships that support collaborative stewardship and guardianship, and
  - partnerships that support shared decision-making, including joint or consent-based decision-making agreements under the Declaration Act.
- In the past, integrated land and resource management efforts often focussed on improving business/systems processes and other values were secondary.
- Today the context has changed and governments need to evolve. We recognize the need for more integration in natural resource governance, strategies, legislation, and policy.
- In December 2022, the B.C. government committed to advancing conservation to achieve 30% by 2030 and to developing a new conservation financing mechanism to formalize an approach to third-party funding, including a principled approach that recognizes Provincial-Indigenous reconciliation and ensures third party funding leverages government funding.
- s.13; s.16

**Discussion # 2 – Accelerating Action to Halt and Reverse Biodiversity Loss: Opportunities for Working Together and Noted Barriers**

**B.C. Key Messages for Discussion # 2 –** *How can we collaborate to address the challenges in implementing Indigenous-led conservation in each jurisdiction?*

**Minister Cullen to lead the discussion:**

- B.C. consistently demonstrates global leadership in the championing of innovative conservation approaches and deepening stewardship relations with Indigenous peoples.
- The conservation of long-term ecosystem health and biodiversity is crucial for the health and well-being of communities, economic sustainability, maintaining clean air and water, and the responsible shared stewardship of wildlife and natural resources for future generations.
- My ministry is taking the B.C. reconciliation framework and applying it into necessary policy and practice in the natural resource sector to effectively implement the Declaration Act.
- B.C., Canada and the First Nations Leadership Council are working towards a trilateral Nature Agreement, aiming for agreement in principle in June and ratification in September 2023.
- In addition to these negotiations for a trilateral Nature Agreement, B.C. is actively working with First Nations on multiple initiatives including:
  - An Area-Based Conservation Approach that will set conservation goals and develop land stewardship plans, including Indigenous Protected and Conserved Areas.

- Proactive collaborations with First Nations to develop and action the B.C. Watershed Security Strategy and Fund, recently committing \$100 million to the Fund.
- A modernized First Nation Consultation System that supports Section 35 consultations for the majority of the over 14,000 permitting decisions made annually, with added elements that support coordination and more durable and transparent decisions.
- These are some of our collective reconciliation efforts in action. They reflect our commitment to co-development and co-management with Indigenous peoples for the biodiversity and ecosystem management necessary to sustainably manage land, water, and resources.
- Another key aspect for B.C. is how our government is reducing financial barriers and supporting capacity, so First Nations have the resources required to enhance government-to-government work including for conservation, wildlife and biodiversity.

***Additional Response points (if needed):***

- B.C. is providing capacity funding to First Nations to support involvement in conservation, wildlife and biodiversity including:
  - \$200M for Declaration Act Engagement Fund
  - \$53M for Indigenous Funding Program
- B.C. is funding co-development and implementation of new initiatives with First Nations:
  - \$8.9M for Guardians and Stewardship Training
  - \$100M for a Watershed Security Strategy and Fund
  - \$25M for new Forest Landscape Planning

**Discussion # 3 – Path Forward for Achieving Biodiversity Outcomes**

- *How will FPTs actions involve Indigenous partners to achieve positive Indigenous-led conservation outcomes?*
- *How will Indigenous partners advance biodiversity conservation and sustainable use within and across communities and jurisdictions?*

**B.C. Key Messages for Discussion # 3**

- **Example 1:** B.C. continues to work with the federal government and 15 First Nations to implement the co-developed Marine Protected Network Action Plan (the Network Action Plan).
- B.C. endorsed this blueprint for Canada's first network of marine protected areas at the 5<sup>th</sup> International Marine Protected Area Congress in Vancouver, February 4, 2023.
- The Network Action Plan will protect and maintain marine biodiversity, ecological representation, and special natural features, with additional goals for the conservation of fishery resources and their habitats, tourism and recreation, community well-being, traditional uses and cultural values, and scientific research and education.
- **Example 2:** The Collaborative Indigenous Stewardship Framework (CISF) represents B.C.'s fundamental, strategic approach to shared stewardship and collaborative land and resource management between B.C. and partner First Nations.
- The CISF model is comprised of 15 regional Forums with 124 Nations involved - four in the Marine Plan Partnership for the North Pacific Coast, one in the Great Bear Rainforest, four Environmental Stewardship Initiative Forums in the North Area, and six province-wide Collaborative Stewardship Forums.

**SUMMARY:**

- B.C. is interested in continued and improved partnerships with Indigenous peoples and the Government of Canada to support sustainable resource stewardship and management of land and waters to address the complex challenges for biodiversity, conservation and wildlife.



**Compiled from Existing ADM approved FPT  
Meeting Notes**

Ann Eastman, Director, WLRS IGR

**REVIEWED BY:**

	Initials	Date
DM		
ADM	DM	May 17, 2023
ED	AN	May 16, 2023
Program Dir/Mgr.	AE	May 16, 2023

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s.13 ; s.16

Page 104 of 114 to/à Page 114 of 114

Withheld pursuant to/removed as

s.16

**From:** Sit, Vera FOR:EX(Vera.Sit@gov.bc.ca)  
**To:** Muter, David WLRS:EX (David.Muter@gov.bc.ca)  
**To:** Bawtinheimer, Brian WLRS:EX (Brian.Bawtinheimer@gov.bc.ca)  
**Subject:** RE: Heads-up: OG Nature Agreement will be signed soon.  
**Sent:** 03/10/2023 18:06:53  
**Message Body:**

Hi David,

Here is the TB sub on this fund. You can do some quick cut and paste to build the note you need for briefing Lori. Hope this helps.

Vera

From: Muter, David WLRS:EX

Sent: March 9, 2023 4:17 PM

To: Sit, Vera FOR:EX

Cc: Bawtinheimer, Brian WLRS:EX

Subject: FW: Heads-up: OG Nature Agreement will be signed soon.

Hi Vera,

Thanks for leading this work would you be able to provide me with a quick 1 page on the fund so that I can catch up with Lori.

Thanks

D

From: Bawtinheimer, Brian WLRS:EX >

Sent: Thursday, March 9, 2023 1:52 PM

To: Muter, David WLRS:EX >

Subject: FW: Heads-up: OG Nature Agreement will be signed soon.

fyi

Brian Bawtinheimer

Executive Director, Provincial Stewardship Strategies and Planning

Land Use Policy, Planning, and Ecosystems Division

Desk: 778 974 2497 • Cell: 250 888 0620 • brian.bawtinheimer@gov.bc.ca

I am grateful to live and work on the unceded territory of the lək'wəŋən peoples,

the Esquimalt and Songhees Nations

From: Sit, Vera FOR:EX >

Sent: Tuesday, March 7, 2023 3:48 PM

To: Bawtinheimer, Brian WLRS:EX >; Psyllakis, Jennifer WLRS:EX >

Subject: Heads-up: OG Nature Agreement will be signed soon.

Hi Brian, Jennifer,

s.12; s.13

As soon as I get the final draft, I will share with you<sup>s.12; s.13; s.17</sup>  
s.12; s.13

Vera Sit, Executive Director

Office of the Chief Forester — Caring for B.C.'s Forests

Ministry of Forests

Office: 778-974-3047

Cell:<sup>s.17</sup>

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s.12 ; s.13

Page 13 of 29

Withheld pursuant to/removed as

s.12 ; s.13 ; s.17

**From:** Bawtinheimer, Brian WLRS:EX(Brian.Bawtinheimer@gov.bc.ca)  
**To:** Cage, Rhonda R WLRS:EX (Rhonda.Cage@gov.bc.ca)  
**Subject:** FW: Heads-up: OG Nature Agreement will be signed soon.  
**Sent:** 04/17/2023 21:58:46  
**Message Body:**

Brian Bawtinheimer

Executive Director, Provincial Stewardship Strategies and Planning

Land Use Policy, Planning, and Ecosystems Division

Desk: 778 974 2497 • Cell: 250 888 0620 • brian.bawtinheimer@gov.bc.ca

I am grateful to live and work on the unceded territory of the ɫəkwəŋən peoples,  
the Esquimalt and Songhees Nations

From: Sit, Vera FOR:EX

Sent: Friday, March 10, 2023 10:07 AM

To: Muter, David WLRS:EX

Cc: Bawtinheimer, Brian WLRS:EX

Subject: RE: Heads-up: OG Nature Agreement will be signed soon.

Hi David,

Here is the TB sub on this fund. You can do some quick cut and paste to build the note you need for briefing Lori. Hope this helps.

Vera

From: Muter, David WLRS:EX >

Sent: March 9, 2023 4:17 PM

To: Sit, Vera FOR:EX >

Cc: Bawtinheimer, Brian WLRS:EX >

Subject: FW: Heads-up: OG Nature Agreement will be signed soon.

Hi Vera,

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Thanks

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From: Bawtinheimer, Brian WLRS:EX >

Sent: Thursday, March 9, 2023 1:52 PM

To: Muter, David WLRS:EX >

Subject: FW: Heads-up: OG Nature Agreement will be signed soon.

fyi

Brian Bawtinheimer

Executive Director, Provincial Stewardship Strategies and Planning

Land Use Policy, Planning, and Ecosystems Division

Desk: 778 974 2497 • Cell: 250 888 0620 • brian.bawtinheimer@gov.bc.ca

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the Esquimalt and Songhees Nations

From: Sit, Vera FOR:EX >

Sent: Tuesday, March 7, 2023 3:48 PM

To: Bawtinheimer, Brian WLRS:EX >; Psyllakis, Jennifer WLRS:EX >

Subject: Heads-up: OG Nature Agreement will be signed soon.

Hi Brian, Jennifer,

s.12; s.13

As soon as I get the final draft, I will share with you. 's.12; s.13; s.17  
s.12; s.13

Vera Sit, Executive Director

Office of the Chief Forester — Caring for B.C.'s Forests

Ministry of Forests

Office: 778-974-3047

Cell:s.17

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s.12 ; s.13

Page 26 of 29

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s.12 ; s.13 ; s.17

**From:** Bawtinheimer, Brian WLRS:EX(Brian.Bawtinheimer@gov.bc.ca)  
**To:** Psyllakis, Jennifer WLRS:EX (Jennifer.Psyllakis@gov.bc.ca)  
**Subject:** draft NA estimates note  
**Sent:** 03/04/2023 00:03:12

**Message Body:**

For comments, edits and uploading. I've kept it quite basic.

Brian Bawtinheimer

Executive Director, Provincial Stewardship Strategies and Planning

Land Use Policy, Planning, and Ecosystems Division

Desk: 778 974 2497 • Cell: 250 888 0620 • brian.bawtinheimer@gov.bc.ca

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the Esquimalt and Songhees Nations



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s.12 ; s.13