

## MEETING NOTE

**DATE:** January 9, 2023

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

**REGARDING:** Meeting with David Hendrickson, Executive Director, British Columbia Conservation Foundation regarding

- The Watershed Security Fund and the BC Conservation Foundation
- Clean Coast, Clean Waters Clean Ups

### SUMMARY:

- The BC Conservation Foundation (BCCF) has been active since their incorporation under the *Society Act of British Columbia* in 1969 and is also a federally registered charity.
- Their priorities are the conservation of the fish and wildlife resources in British Columbia (BC) through the protection, acquisition, and enhancement of fish and wildlife populations and habitat. They undertake project management for key stakeholders and reinvestment activities regarding funds for programs and initiatives to support those conservation priorities.
- The Land for Wildlife Fund is a mechanism BCCF uses to conserve natural habitats by pooling resources towards the purchase of land for conservation.
- BCCF maintains the WildSafeBC program to prevent conflicts between people and wildlife. The Bear Aware Program is a well-known example.
- BCCF have run the Wildlife Collision Prevention Program since 2001 to develop education and information about preventing wildlife-vehicle collisions.

### STRATEGIC CONSIDERATION AND MESSAGES:

#### Watershed Security Strategy and Fund

- The Watershed Security Strategy and Fund are a twinned mandate commitment of the Ministry of Water, Land and Resource Stewardship (WLRS). A key focus of the Strategy will be a on actions to develop and maintain healthy watersheds, including through restoration, monitoring, data collection, among others. The Fund will align with key priorities of the Watershed Security Strategy, which is anticipated for launch fall/winter 2023.
- While a Strategy and Fund are being developed, BC invested \$27 through the Healthy Watershed Initiative in 2020 and another \$30 million through Budget 2022 in watershed security funding.
- Projects funded to date have focused on the following opportunities:
  - Restore and maintain ecosystem services (e.g., fish habitat maintenance, stream and wetland restoration, monitoring, planning, inventories)
  - Restore and maintain watershed health with linkages to government's climate resiliency commitments
  - Support for local organizations (i.e., watershed governance)
  - Support for reconciliation with Indigenous peoples and advance implementation of UNDRIP principles
- BCCF works with partners and independently on fish, wildlife habitat inventories, research, enhancement, restoration, resource stewardship and environmental education. This work aligns well with the focus of watershed security funding to date. The current Land for Wildlife Fund has a different focus than the expected intent of the Watershed Security Fund.
- The scope and scale of the Watershed Security Fund is yet to be determined, but it is recognized that a Fund is key to the implementation of the Strategy. Staff would be happy to meet with BCCF to further discuss opportunities for collaborate once government direction is known.

- An Intentions Paper for engagement is the next step in developing the Watershed Security Strategy and will be available through EngageBC early in 2023. BCCF is encouraged to review the paper and provide its feedback to the Province.

### Clean Coast, Clean Waters Clean Ups

- The Clean Coast Clean Waters Initiative Fund (CCCW) was originally part of StrongerBC, the BC government's far-ranging pandemic response and economic recovery initiative. The CCCW has created jobs and support coastal communities, Indigenous Nations, local governments as well as BC non-profits and organizations as they continue to recover from the COVID-19 economic downturn and loss of tourism.
- The CCCW initiative has been led by the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy (ENV), however the Dec 7, 2022, mandate letter for the Minister of Water, Land and Resource Stewardship speaks to developing and delivering a long-term vision for the Clean Coast, Clean Waters program.
  - WLRS staff are currently working with ENV staff to determine a transition strategy for the file inclusive of opportunities for renewed funding.
- Overall, the Province has supported CCCW with nearly \$20M in total funding over two years which has cleared 4000 km of BC's coastline of debris, resulting in over 1000 tonnes of debris collected, including 86 derelict vessels; 65% of the material collected was recycled or upcycled, and the program created close to 1300 jobs.
- The clean up data is expected to be available in Q4 of FY22/23, and it will be used to inform policy in the future such as plastics prevention initiatives or an increased understanding of the movement of debris through ocean currents.
- The CCCW provides benefits through the removal of material from BC's marine coast, and the findings on the source and composition of marine debris can inform strategies, prevention policies and clean-up initiatives in the future – such as potential actions and alignment with the Coastal Marine Strategy (in development).

**Attachment(s):** Attachment 1\_2023 January 11 BCCF Gov Briefing.pdf

**PREPARED BY:**

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**REVIEWED BY:**

	Initials	Date
ADM	JM	Jan 9, 2023
Program Dir/Mgr.	JV	Jan 1, 2023

## BRIEFING NOTE FOR INFORMATION

**DATE:** January 16, 2023

**PREPARED FOR:** Shannon Salter, Deputy Minister, Office of the Premier  
Matt Smith, Chief of Staff, Office of the Premier  
Lori Halls – Deputy Minister, Ministry of Water, Land, and Resource Stewardship

**ISSUE:** Meeting with representatives of Coastal First Nations to discuss fisheries reconciliation and specifically a request for B.C. to help advance Department of Fisheries and Oceans Canada work on a new owner-operator policy for fishery licenses.

### KEY POINTS:

- **The Province is committed to ongoing collaboration with Coastal First Nations to advance reconciliation, environmental stewardship, and economic opportunities. The upcoming announcement in February of a new Marine Protected Area Network is a significant example of the effectiveness of that collaboration.**
- **The policy decision to implement an ‘owner operator’ policy for fishery licenses will be a decision of the federal Minister of Fisheries and Oceans. However, B.C. has an important role in conveying the provincial interest in terms of ensuring the value of our fisheries stays with First Nations and coastal communities.**
- **We are supportive of working with First Nations and Department of Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) to prioritize this work.**

### BACKGROUND:

- Paul Kariya is the Senior Policy Advisor for Coastal First Nations (CFN), Tasha Sutcliffe is a Senior Advisor for the Fisheries Policy Program for Ecotrust Canada, and Larry Greba is a Project Manager for CFN.
- In July 2019, the government of Canada signed a historic reconciliation agreement with CFN which aims to advance economic opportunities and collaborative governance, as well as expand community-based commercial fishing access in traditional territories for the eight Nations represented by CFN. The agreement will facilitate an enhanced role in collaborative governance, and in fisheries management and decision-making processes for the Coastal First Nations
- In 2019 the Standing Committee on Fisheries and Oceans (FOPO) prepared the West Coast Fisheries: Sharing Risks and Benefits report (the FOPO Report).
- The FOPO Report contains 20 recommendations to Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) with potentially significant changes to the current commercial fisheries licensing and quota regime in British Columbia (B.C.), as well as other recommendations aimed at improving transparency and accessibility to fishing resources.

### DISCUSSION:

- The reconciliation agreement between Canada and CFN intends to facilitate an enhanced role in collaborative governance, and in fisheries management and decision-making processes for

the member Nations. Paul Kariya commented that they would be providing the Province an update on the agreement at this meeting.

- Various groups in B.C. provided input to the FOPO Report and many believe reforms to Pacific fisheries licencing policies are needed to ensure that benefits of fisheries resources reach coastal communities. They support DFO's Atlantic fishing policies, which emphasize owner-operators (a fishing license owner must be the person operating a fishing vessel) and adjacency (benefits of a resource must be given to those communities adjacent to it).
- The comparative Atlantic fisheries policies are very different from those developed for Pacific fisheries and are often viewed as controversial within the B.C. commercial fisheries sectors. Any implementation of these type of policies would likely require extensive consultation and an overhaul of seafood markets, management regimes and the overall socioeconomic structure of fisheries in B.C..
- The recommendations in the FOPO Report are mainly aimed at DFO and largely concern matters solely of federal jurisdiction, such as fisheries licensing reform. However, the overarching objective of these policy reforms is to ensure that the value of fisheries rests with smaller operators who are more likely to be representative of coastal communities and First Nations.
- The FOPO Report reflects elements of B.C.'s Wild Salmon Advisory Council (WSAC) recommendations related to Goal 2: Protect and Enhance Economic, Social and Cultural Benefits to B.C. Communities from Wild Salmon and Fisheries.

#### **INDIGENOUS PEOPLES:**

- CFN member nations include Wuikinuxv, Heiltsuk, Kitasoo Xai'xais, Nuxalk, Gitga'at, Gitxaala, Metlakatla, Old Massett, Skidegate, and Council of the Haida Nation.
- CFN communities occupy the Northern and Central Coast and Haida Gwaii areas of B.C., reaching north to the Alaskan border and as far south as Vancouver Island. This region is the unceded Traditional Territories of more than two dozen First Nations.

#### **MINISTRY RESPONSE:**

- The decision on implementing an owner operator policy is entirely within federal jurisdiction. Recent federal policy statements indicate an interest in advancing these policy reforms, however progress on this commitment has been slow.
- The province can support this work with First Nations and DFO, although there may be a need to pace this with other priorities, including a new transition plan for salmon aquaculture, a new Marine Protected Area Network for the north coast (ie Great Bear Sea), and a new provincial role for Watershed Security as a key contribution to protecting and restoring wild salmon.
- Because of the economic implications for the sector of a significant policy shift, the provincial role should focus on the overarching objective of ensuring the value of fisheries rests with coastal communities and First Nations, and also that any changes are developed through a strong public engagement process.

#### **Attachment(s):**

Attachment 1 Made in B.C. Owner Operator Commercial Fishing Licensing Policy Letter from CFN to Minister Murray and Premier Eby



**PREPARED BY:**

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**REVIEWED BY:**

	Initials	Date
DM	LH	Jan 20, 2023
ADM	JM	Jan 16, 2023
Program Dir/Mgr.	DT	Jan 16, 2023

## BRIEFING NOTE FOR INFORMATION

**DATE:** January 11, 2023

**PREPARED FOR:** Premier David Eby

**ISSUE:** Provincial Permitting/Authorizations

### BACKGROUND:

- Despite best efforts over the past decade to integrate decision making, drive transformation of the natural resource sector and introduce a “one-window approach” to permitting and authorizations across the Natural Resource Ministries (NRMs), these concepts have never been fully realized; permitting and authorizations continue to challenge the system, frustrating Indigenous Nations, industry, local governments and stakeholders, and provide little or no line of sight to help the Province better manage cumulative impacts on its natural resources.
- The NRMs collectively authorize a broad range of land, water, and natural resource activities, from small-scale recreational licenses to major capital projects. *Front Counter BC* is responsible for 70% of authorizations; the remainder are dispersed across the NRMs. On average, annually *Front Counter BC* receives around 18,000 applications while 16,000 get processed to decision. The growing backlog of applications which is greater than 21,000 across the NRMs and the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure (MOTI) impact provincial priorities such as housing and connecting communities to high-speed internet.
- Continuing to simply add more resources to existing processes to address caseload is not sufficient and in the absence of effective land use policy, and co-developed approaches to land and resource management, social trade-off decisions today are being made on a permit-by-permit basis rather than at the landscape level by appropriate decision makers. A suite of solutions to ensure timely, transparent, and fair permitting processes moving forward to address both backlogged applications and the transformation of the permitting regime given the growing population and economy, must be developed.
- Competing interests on the land base, climate change, Indigenous Rights and Title and changing industries means there are no easy decisions left to be made on the land base. Transforming the permitting and authorizations regime will require significant strategic shifts in how we manage and authorize activities on the land base. The province’s legislative regime and regulatory standards need to be modernized for today’s context, ensuring these efforts appropriately factor in level of risk and the principles of reconciliation under the *Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act* (DRIPA).
- With the establishment of the Ministry of Water, Land and Resource Stewardship (WLRS) a dedicated Permitting/Authorizations and Statutory Decision Maker Solutions team (PASS), was established to address advance permitting solutions that are not only focused on priority projects (housing, connectivity, s.17 but also creating the longer-term strategic shifts that are needed.

**DISCUSSION:**

To advance permitting solutions, PASS is focused on three key priority projects that will allow Ministries to use agile improvement methodologies to test drive and iterate changes to policies, practices and processes and identify opportunities where these transformative changes can be applied elsewhere in the permitting regime. The three priority projects include:

- Housing: to increase access to housing, authorizations for in-stream works, water allocations, land tenures or conversions, contaminated sites reviews and assessments, right-of-way access and rural subdivision approvals may be required. A Housing Authorizations Team (HAT name to be confirmed with GCPE) has been established that will focus on provincial permits in a coordinated manner, including setting a prioritization framework. HAT will be comprised of resources from MOTI, Forests, Environment and WLRS that will not only involve the statutory-decision makers but also the key resources needed to establish a single window approach to permitting, transform IT system integration and provide a single point of contact for developers. This team will pilot a delegated decision-making model and implement new Indigenous Nations accommodation approaches.
- s.12; s.16
- Connectivity BC: in alignment with Stronger BC's 2027 target, to bring broadband, high-speed internet into remote and underserved communities, this project will consider improved delegated decision-making functions (e.g., reducing the number of decision makers), streamline intake windows for applicants, ensure high caliber applications and coordinated consultation across permits.

The approaches and improvements taken through the priority projects are intended to be scalable across other natural resource sector permitting.

s.12; s.16

- Development of new technology supports/tools to provide greater transparency on status of permits, data integration to better manage for cumulative effects and effective and reliable reporting of permitting data across the sector to inform resource allocation and future improvements.

s.12; s.16; s.17

Over the next 3 years the province will invest over \$77.0M to hire 203 new FTES to not only provide the capacity to address today's NRS permitting backlog, but more importantly, to resource the necessary capacity to transform the permitting regime.

s.17

### INDIGENOUS PEOPLES:

Important to all these efforts will be the need to shift away from the existing transactional relationship with the province and instead, over time, shift to a more strategic, co-managed approach, getting out of the day-to-day transactional permitting business and instead, through long term planning and stewardship programs, focus our government-to-government relationships more "upstream" as we build a long-term vision for stewarding our natural resources with First Nations governments. This was a significant theme raised by First Nations at the recent First Nations Leadership Gathering. This strategic shift will provide greater certainty to the land and resources over time; in turn allowing the Province to reduce the number of permits/authorizations that are consulted upon and/or reduce the level of consultation across authorization types.

Initial outreach has been made to the First Nations Leadership Council technical staff on this permitting initiative. Given the important role permitting and authorization has in managing natural resources and the need for legislative and policy changes, the province is committed to engaging with First Nations in its development and design and will work with FNLC to build this engagement approach.

### INDUSTRY AND LOCAL GOVERNMENTS:

In the 2021 organizational effectiveness review of the natural resource ministries, industry and local governments identified the need for more predictable, transparent, timely and fair permitting processes. While addressing backlogs was important, industry and local governments wanted to see the permitting regime transformed. Inclusive land use planning processes that involved industry, local governments and communities were recommended as one means to bring certainty to the land base and reduce the need for volume of permits.

#### PREPARED BY:

Jennifer Anthony  
Executive Lead  
Permitting/Authorizations and SDM  
Solutions

#### REVIEWED BY:

	Initials	Date
DM	LH	Jan 9, 2023
ADM	JA	Jan 6, 2023
Program Dir/Mgr.		



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December 7, 2022

Minister Joyce Murray

Premier David Eby,

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**Re: Made in B.C. Owner- Operator Commercial Fishing Licensing Policy**

Dear Minister Murray and Premier Eby,

The Haida Nation, Melakatla First Nation, Gitxaala Nation, Gitga'at First Nation, Kitisoo Xaixais Nation, Heiltsuk First Nation, Nuxalk Nation and the Wuikiniuxv Nation whose territories include the vast majority of marine areas in the northern waters of British Columbia are the member nations of Great Bear Initiative/Coastal First Nations organization (CFN). All of these Nations have ocean-based fishing families and communities who continue to rely on the fish, fish habitat and fisheries of our territories for food security, cultural survival and economic needs. These Nations, together with CFN, signed a transformative Fisheries Resources Reconciliation Agreement (FRRA) with Canada in 2021 which commits to the collaborative governance and management of fish, fish habitat and fisheries, including supporting increased commercial access opportunities to fisheries for the Nations.

Significant funds were provided by Canada to the Nations through the FRRA to support increased commercial fishing opportunities, however this access is based on a willing-seller, willing-buyer transactions. It is well documented that for many commercial fishing licenses and quota categories, corporate and investor concentration and growing offshore ownership of licenses and quota have driven up prices. This licence concentration and offshore ownership is threatening our west coast fisheries, our coastal communities, and independent fishers in British Columbia. If left unchecked, it will undermine the economic objectives of the FRRA.

An important tool to reduce the impact of licence concentration and offshore ownership is to collaboratively develop and implement new owner-operator policies to help reduce foreign and corporate ownership. An owner- operator policy could both help reduce the inflated market value for licenses and quota over time and allow all coastal Nations and independent fishermen more affordable access to licenses and



quota. A renewed owner-operator licencing regime will help to bring back a true market-based fishing economy that supports coastal communities and independent fishers.

Please find attached an owner-operator policy paper which has been developed by several organizations in British Columbia including Coastal First Nations. Attached to this paper are the 2019 Canadian Standing Committee on Fisheries and Oceans (FOPO) recommendations on west coast fisheries, many of which are related and supportive of the policy paper. We understand some of the work contemplated by FOPO, including the west coast license and quota beneficial ownership survey, is now complete. We are interested in working with DFO on the review of this data.

While our interests are unique, we have been working with other organizations such as the United Fishermen and Allied Workers Union (UFAWU) who have also developed a further proposal (attached) for a new owner operator class of licenses and approaches to licence reforms. These approaches are generally complementary with the policy paper and the Coastal First Nations interests, and we will continue to engage with the UFAWU and other organizations in British Columbia to refine this policy paper.

We look forward to working with both Canada and British Columbia on this important initiative. We request the opportunity to work with each of your governments to collaboratively develop and implement a fair, transparent, and collaborative process with all stakeholders to review, finalize and implement an owner-operator policy.

We will be contacting your staff to organize a trilateral conversation to confirm our mutual commitments to move this important initiative forward.

Sincerely,

Christine Martin  
Chief Executive Officer  
Coastal First Nations – Great Bear Initiative

Chief Marilyn Slett  
President  
Coastal First Nations – Great Bear Initiative



# COASTAL FIRST NATIONS

GREAT BEAR INITIATIVE

Cc:

Josie Osborne, Minister of Land, Water and Resource Stewardship, [josie.osborne@gov.bc.ca](mailto:josie.osborne@gov.bc.ca)

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Lana Popham, Minister of Agriculture, [lane.popham@gov.bc.ca](mailto:lane.popham@gov.bc.ca)

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## British Columbia Conservation Foundation

### Our Work

British Columbia Conservation Foundation (BCCF) promotes conservation through the protection, acquisition and enhancement of fish and wildlife populations and their habitats.

We are an enterprising non-profit registered charity and serve communities throughout BC. A percentage of donations and funds are reinvested into mission-aligned conservation efforts across the Province.

### Project Management Service Delivery

Project management services for environmental conservation continue to be the Foundation's forte. Last year we successfully delivered almost 500 projects worth almost \$12 million in projects from Fort Nelson to Osoyoos. We successfully manage projects encompassing diverse landscapes, enhancing waterways, and protecting numerous species of fish and wildlife.

In order to manage a broad scope of geographically and diverse initiatives, we rely on innovative project management tools and practices for securing funding, recruiting, hiring, training, administering financials and overseeing field staff - from project conception to implementation and reporting.

Types of projects we deliver:

- Cumulative Effects Assessment
- Habitat Enhancement/Restoration
- Water Management
- Inventories
- Research and Policy Development
- Monitoring
- Indigenous Engagement
- Data/Modeling/Reporting
- Invasive Species
- Wildlife Health
- Effectiveness Monitoring
- Public Outreach
- Impact Assessment/Mitigation
- Ecosystem Mapping/Modeling

We have a comprehensive 24-7 safety program that reflects our emphasis and commitment to occupational health and safety for all team members, particularly given the remote locations and array of projects we navigate.

A key priority is to engage in meaningful relationships with Indigenous communities and other local partners. We take a collaborative approach towards conservation that focuses on science, education and stewardship. A growing number of initiatives combine Indigenous knowledge with western science approaches.

#### Past Project Examples

For over 50 years, BC Conservation Foundation has implemented over **10,000 conservation projects** at a total value of **over \$200 million** working with all levels of government, non-governmental organizations, First Nations, industry, private groups and educational institutions. Including:

- **BC Conservation Corps Program (2007)** with Ministry of Environment. Received Premier's Silver Award for promoting innovation and excellence.
- **Sensitive Habitat Inventory and Mapping (SHIM project) (Lower Mainland)** Mapping streams and recording sensitive habitats with Habitat Conservation Fund, BC Ministry of Environment, Lands and Parks, Canadian Wildlife Service, Dept of Fisheries and Oceans and Langley Environmental Partners Society.
- **Steelhead Recovery Plan (Vancouver Island)**. 19 watersheds with BC Ministry of Fisheries, Habitat Conservation Fund, BC Ministry of Transportation, BC Ministry of Environment, Lands and Parks, BC Hydro and Timberwest.
- **McMillan Creek Stewardship Program (Prince George)**. Aimed to reverse long-term neglect of Macmillan Creek and involved three levels of government and local wildlife associations.
- **Public Works and Services Canada Standing Offer (1996-2005)**. Temporary help to Environment Canada departments. \$2.2 million.
- **Georgia Basin Living Rivers Program (2009-2014)** at \$6,000,000.

#### Master Agreement with MWLRS, MOECCS, MFOR

BCCF has a **Master Service Agreement** with MWLRS, MOECCS and MFOR (Fish, Wildlife, Water and Ecosystems Project Management and Implementation Services). The "Recoverable Agreement" enables work orders to be issued in an efficient manner to mobilize projects around the province in a transparent, publically accessible process that has established BCCF as a pre-approved contractor available for direct award.

We continue to have a storefront presence in the communities we live and work in on Vancouver Island, in Kamloops and in the Lower Mainland. A few project highlights include:

#### Water for Fish - (Vancouver Island)

The **Bottlenecks to Survival Program**, a collaboration between Pacific Salmon Foundation and BCCF, is investigating when and where Chinook, Coho and steelhead are facing critical mortality periods or "bottlenecks" during the freshwater and early marine periods of life.

Key areas of focus is on Coho and Chinook salmon in the Cowichan, Quinsam, and Stamp river systems along the East Coast Vancouver Island.

The four-year research program is nearing its halfway point and has achieved a tremendous amount by working with First Nations, provincial, and federal governments, academic institutions and citizen scientists.

#### Southwest BC (Surrey)

BCCF has been supporting the **Northern Spotted Owl Breeding Program** since 2013. Funding has diversified from a single Ministry contract to leveraged support from family foundations, private donations and industry.

The conservation of the Northern Spotted Owl in BC took a step forward in August 2022 as three owls born and raised in the breeding facility were released into protected habitat in the Fraser Canyon - the first release of these rare birds into the wild anywhere in the world.

#### Central and Northern BC (Kamloops)

The **Forest and Range Evaluation Program** is a joint three-year monitoring program between Indigenous communities and the Ministry of Forestry. Training and sampling provides a valuable opportunity to build relationships, and mutually learn and incorporate **Indigenous knowledge** into resource stewardship. Land aspects include forest and range practices, riparian areas, water quality, biodiversity and cultural heritage.

#### Current Programs

##### WildSafeBC

**WildSafeBC** (formerly Bear Aware) is the provincial leader in preventing conflict with wildlife through collaboration, education and community solutions. The goal of WildSafeBC is *keeping wildlife wild and communities safe*. WildSafeBC continues to incorporate greater understanding, learnings and respect for wildlife conservation carried by Indigenous knowledge holders. WildSafeBC uses scientific consensus of subject matter experts and focuses on addressing the root causes of human-wildlife conflicts.

WildSafeBC **collaborates with** Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy, Ministry of Forests, Ministry of Land Water and Resource Stewardship, local governments, Indigenous communities, and NGOs such as the Clayoquot Biosphere Trust and Columbia Basin Trust. WildSafeBC augments Provincial initiatives and agencies in meeting their mandates through the Bear Smart Community Program, the Conservation Officer Service and Species-At-Risk management.

A **Provincial Advisory Committee** helps provide WildSafeBC strategic direction comprised of representatives from Ministry of Forests, Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy, Ministry of Land, Water and Resource Stewardship, BC Parks and academia.

### Wildlife Collision Prevention Program

Wildlife Collision Prevention helps ensure BC's highways are safer for people and wildlife. A major focus in the past has been to provide education and awareness for motorists on wildlife vehicle collision prevention. A stakeholder consultation in January 2023 consisting of academics, BC Government staff, civil society and other experts will help identify and prioritize policy implications that BCCF can initiate to develop deeper, strategic and long-term interventions.

### Land For Wildlife Fund

Land For Wildlife Fund has leveraged approximately \$150 million for land conservation acquisition since 1997. We coordinate multi-million dollar efforts with other conservation groups to buy and preserve critical habitats.

Partners include Habitat Conservation Trust Foundation, Land Conservancy of British Columbia, Nature Trust of BC, Ducks Unlimited Canada, the Columbia Basin Fish and Wildlife Compensation Program and Nature Conservancy of Canada.

In 2022, BCCF awarded \$25,000 to Southern Interior Land Trust Society (SILT) that acquired Bourguiba Spring - Lot 16, Osoyoos for conservation in perpetuity. Lot 16 is 16.6 ha (41 acres) of open, moderately to steeply sloped low-elevation (600m) bunchgrass grassland.

### Small Projects Fund

The Foundation has a Small Project Fund that awards funding up to \$10,000 to community groups undertaking community-based conservation work. In 2021, we awarded 10 projects totaling approximately \$90,000.

### Educational Scholarships

BCCF also works with post-secondary institutions in student research that are partially funded by the province, which BCCF facilitates, helping showcase and communicate findings back to BC communities.

Post secondary scholarships are available to BC residents registered in the sciences or related fields that include the JB Holdstock Scholarship and the Dr. Ian and Joyce McTaggart-Cowan Scholarship in Environmental Studies at UVIC.

### Opportunities for Collaboration with MWLRS and BC Conservation Foundation

1. Watershed Security Fund: BC Conservation Foundation-An Experienced Manager  
Collaborate on the Watershed Security Strategy and Fund and implementation of the Wild Salmon Strategy:

- Collaborative partner with various government and non-government entities.
- Managed the Georgia Basin Living Rivers Program (~2009-2014) at \$6,000,000.
- Advisor on conservation projects.



- Experience working with Indigenous communities.

## 2. WildSafeBC

Demand for WildSafeBC Community Programs continues to grow. Many communities reapply for funding each year, which is perceived favourably by funders such as Clayoquot Biosphere Trust and the Columbia Basin Trust. Funding insecurity leads to staff turnover and program disruption.

WildSafeBC Coordinators are effective communicators that require ongoing training and supervision. In 2018, BCCF funded the WildSafeBC Program Manager to support the (Provincially funded) Program Coordinator position. Core funding provides greater clarity in planning, and a more proactive and strategic approach.

Funding **\$300,000 per year for three years (2023-2026)** enables WildSafeBC to:

1. Leverage additional funding for a total budget of \$1,000,000 annually.
2. Support 30 community programs with part-time seasonal staff from April/May to November that reach **1,000,000** British Columbians.
3. Retain a **Program Coordinator** to supervise, train local community coordinators.
4. Field media requests on human-wildlife conflict topics.
5. Support communities to obtain **Bear Smart Community** status (e.g. Rossland, Golden, Kamloops, Northern Rockies Regional Municipality, Port Alberni, Castlegar, Westbank First Nation, West Kelowna, District of Stewart, Tofino and Ucluelet).
6. Create a **Guide for Reducing Predation by Cougars on Livestock** (requested by MFOR and COS).
7. Incorporate **badger information** into website communications (requested by LWRS).
8. Perform **6-10 electric fencing workshops** per year.
9. Integrate community-based social marketing strategies into campaigns, social media and education materials.

In order to accelerate change and reduce an escalation in conflicts, additional programs are proposed:

### 1. Indigenous Collaboration - \$100,000 per year for 3 years (2023-2025)

Indigenous communities often do not have the same opportunities as larger, more urbanized communities that work with WildSafeBC. WildSafeBC proposes to develop a Train the Trainer program for Indigenous people to support their communities in reducing human-wildlife conflicts.

1. Hire for an Indigenous WildSafeBC Coordinator (1 FTE).
2. Provide training, travel costs and workshops in 30 communities (over 3 years).
3. Includes Electric Fence Demonstration Kits and Trainings.
4. Develop culturally appropriate education materials using local Indigenous language and storytelling (with permission and in collaboration).

### 2. Expand Youth Education Program - \$70,000 per year over three years (2023-2025)

Create curriculum, support materials and training for BC teachers (connected to Ministry of Education learning objectives). Curriculum expands the current **WildSafe Ranger Program** to incorporate Indigenous values and stories about the natural environment and safe coexistence with wildlife.

## Year 1

1. Hire **Curriculum Development Specialist** to develop curriculum and resources for K-2 and 3-6.

2. Hire part-time staff to pilot program in School District 73 (10 x 3 hour training sessions for 100 educators for 3,000 students K-6).

## **Year 2**

1. Hire **Content Creator** to develop **eLearning training** for educators.
2. Expand eLearning program to two additional school districts (30 x 3 hour of virtual training of 600 educators for 16,800 students).

## **Year 3**

1. Expand curriculum for grades 7-12.
2. Pilot curriculum in School District 73 (10 x 3 hour training sessions for 100 educators for 3,000 students).
3. Provide 30 x 3 hour of virtual training (600 educators for 16,800 students).

### **3. Wildlife Planning Toolkit for BC Municipalities - \$20,000 over one year (2024)**

The Planning Toolkit expands the Bear Smart Community Program by providing case studies of best practices. Additional funding from outside resources (\$20,000) will promote this initiative through UMBC, Planning Institute of BC, etc. The toolkit will include:

1. Examples of wildlife attractant model bylaws.
2. Official Community Plan's that incorporate Bear Smart values.
3. Development guidelines that specifically design for reduced wildlife conflicts.
4. Landscape Guidelines that rate bear attractants and suggest native species.

### **4. Electric Fencing - \$110,000 per year over two years (2024 and 2025)**

Electric fencing requires training and expertise for effective and safe installation. A training program accelerates knowledge transfer and cost-sharing for regions currently not covered.

Videos, guides and in-person support help develop a network of approved installers and community champions. Other partners can include BC Agriculture, Cattleman's Association, and Food Policy and Security initiatives to incorporate best practices.

1. BC Guide on Electric Fencing for Bear and Wildlife Exclusion
2. Training and certification program for approved installers.
3. Training and networking support for certified installers.
4. Collaborations with BC Agriculture, Beekeepers Associations, Cattleman's Association, and food policy and security groups.
5. 30 installations per year (with \$500 cost-share rebate per installation).

## **Other Areas of Future Interest**

### **A. Western Science and Indigenous Knowledge Capacity Building in Conservation**

BCCF plans to leverage work on some existing conservation projects to spotlight findings, lessons learned and build relationships. Proponents working in conservation can utilize these learnings to help apply Indigenous knowledge in culturally appropriate approaches.

A series of **photo journalism spotlight pieces** interlinked with **multimedia** will be accessible to practitioners and lay audiences to explore innovative ways to learn about water, land and resource stewardship in various regions around BC. Convenings will be organized in Indigenous communities to share these learnings and build capacity.

Findings may be of particular interest to those supporting reconciliation work with Indigenous Peoples, Wildlife Act legislation amendments, Together for Regional Wildlife Advisory Committees (RWACs) and land use cumulative impact research.

B. Clean Coast, Clean Waters Clean Up Crew Mobilization

In discussions with service providers to collaborate and expand scope and impact of work for ongoing clean-up of coastal debris.

C. Exploring partnerships Nature Agreement's 2 Billion Trees Initiative

In discussions with potential partners to undertake collaborative tree planting projects in the Lower Mainland and rural locations.

## BRIEFING NOTE FOR INFORMATION

**DATE:** May 24, 2023

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

**ISSUE:** Coastal Zone Canada Conference, June 11-15, 2023

### KEY POINTS:

- The Coastal Zone Canada (CZC) conference ("the Conference") is taking place June 11-15, 2023, at the Victoria Conference Centre.
- The theme of the upcoming Conference is "Connecting Canadians with Our Coast" and is expected to draw approx. 500 delegates from a wide range of disciplines and backgrounds.
- The Coastal Marine Stewardship Branch (CMSB) of the Ministry of Water, Land and Resource Stewardship (WLRS) has been actively involved in the planning of the Conference and will be participating in a variety of ways, including presentations, and hosting an exhibit space.

### BACKGROUND:

- The Coastal Zone Canada Association (CZCA) is a nationally incorporated non-profit society of coastal zone management professionals committed to promoting Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM) practices in Canada and abroad. The CZCA was incorporated in 1993 with the objective of sponsoring coastal zone management conferences and otherwise promoting improvements in ICZM practices.
- Delegates at the upcoming Conference are expected to include First Nation, provincial, federal, and local government representatives, youth, academics, non-governmental organizations, industry, community members, and international stakeholders.
- CMSB staff have played an integral role in planning the Conference, including participation in the local organizing committee and related sub-committees focused on program development, First Nations engagement, field trip opportunities, and support for early career professionals.
  - In 2022/23, CMSB also provided \$30,000 in sponsorship funds (through a grant to CZCA) to support planning and delivery of the Conference.
- Parliamentary Secretary Kelly Greene is scheduled to provide opening remarks at the event, alongside representatives of the Songhees and Esquimalt Nations and the Mayor of Victoria Marianne Alto.
- Over the course of the week, CMSB staff will be leading or participating in more than 10 presentations and special sessions (Attachment 1). Other Ministries, such as ENV, are also expected to participate in the Conference.
- CMSB staff will also be hosting a 8' x 8' exhibit space, profiling the Coastal Marine Strategy, collaborative marine planning efforts, marine protected areas and other related provincial initiatives. 1-2 CMSB staff will be available at the exhibit to answer questions and share information from June 12-14.

### DISCUSSION:

- This is the first time the Conference has been held on the west coast since 2008 and in Victoria since 1998. With upwards of 500 participants anticipated, this will be one of the largest CZC conferences to date and will offer an excellent opportunity to profile the work underway at WLRS and other ministries.

- The themes and topics of the Conference - including coastal and marine planning, conservation and management, sustainable development, and nature-based solutions to climate change mitigation and adaptation - have strong alignment with WLRS's Service Plan and other cross-government priorities.

s.17; s.18.1

## INDIGENOUS PEOPLES:

- The Conference is being held on the territory of the lək'wəŋən peoples. The local organizing committee reached out to the Songhees and Esquimalt Nations, as well as others across the South Island, at the outset of Conference planning.

s.17; s.18.1

- The Conference will feature presentations, special sessions, and exhibit spaces led by Indigenous peoples and representatives. In addition, two field trips have been arranged to help highlight lək'wəŋən culture: (1) a Songhees Cultural Walking Tour and (2) the Restoration, Wildlife, and Working Harbour Tour, where a Songhees community member will provide interpretation at the Songhees Walkway Pocket Beach.

## SUMMARY:

- CMSB will be playing an active role in the upcoming CZC Conference, through presentations, hosting of an exhibit space, and participation in other special events.
- The Conference will provide a great opportunity for information-sharing among coastal zone managers, Indigenous representatives, social and natural scientists, engineers, and others from across Canada. It will also allow CMSB to highlight various initiatives underway.

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**Attachment:** (1) Coastal Zone Canada Conference 2023 Presentation Schedule – Coastal Marine Stewardship Branch

### PREPARED BY:

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### REVIEWED BY:

	Initials	Date
DM	LH	May 30, 2023
ADM	JM	May 24, 2023
Program Dir/Mgr.	CS	May 24, 2023

**Attachment 1: Coastal Zone Canada Conference 2023 – Coastal Marine Stewardship Branch  
Session/ Presentation Schedule**

Date and Time	Session/ Presentation Title	CMSB Staff
Monday June 12		
10:30-12:00	Into the Blue: The Future of Canada's Blue Economy	Emery Hartley
13:00-14:30	Investigating the Resilience of Kelp Forests to Harvest amid a Rapidly Changing Ocean	Danielle Denley
15:00-16:30	A Coastal Marine Strategy for British Columbia	Charlie Short
15:00-16:30	Modeling Marine Ecosystem Services to support MPA Network Planning in Coastal BC	Emery Hartley
Tuesday June 13		
8:30-10:00	Mobilizing Collaborative Interdisciplinary Science and Multiple Ways of Knowing to Tackle Coastal Resilience and Climate Adaptation ( <i>Moderator</i> )	Charlie Short
13:00-14:30	MaPP Putting Plans into Action: A Look at What Has Been Achieved and What is Still to be Done	Sally Cargill
15:00-16:30	The Marine Protected Area Network in the Northern Shelf Bioregion: A Trilateral Approach to Planning, Governance, Implementation, and Monitoring	Kristin Worsley
15:00-16:30	Socio-ecological Trade-offs between Indigenous Kelp Fisheries and Mariculture can Reveal Climate-Resilient and Socially Just Ocean Governance	Danielle Denley
Wednesday June 14		
10:30-12:00	Considerations for Marine Spatial Planning in Southern British Columbia	Kira Stevenson
10:30-12:00	MaPP Regional Kelp Monitoring Symposium: From Monitoring to Action	Danielle Denley
15:00-16:30	Equity in Coastal and Marine Spaces	Kira Stevenson