

# OUR LAND IS OUR FUTURE

UNION OF BRITISH COLUMBIA INDIAN CHIEFS

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November 1, 2022

Honourable Katrine Conroy  
Minister of Forests  
Via email only: [FLNR.Minister@gov.bc.ca](mailto:FLNR.Minister@gov.bc.ca)

Honourable Josie Osborne  
Minister of Land, Water, Resources and Stewardship  
Via email only: [LWRS.Minister@govbc.ca](mailto:LWRS.Minister@govbc.ca)

## **Re: Urgent Ban on BC Killing Contests**

Dear Minister Conroy and Minister Osborne,

We are writing to request an urgent ban on unauthorized and unethical wolf killing contests in BC.

As you're aware, the Union of BC Indian Chiefs (UBCIC) passed Resolution 2022-09 "Support for BC First Nations' Territorial Management and Protection of Caribou and Wolf Populations" on February 23, 2022 (enclosed). By Resolution 2022-09, the UBCIC Chiefs Council fully recognizes the challenges that wolf culls present to First Nations that are rooted in the provincial government's mismanagement of caribou habitat. The province must prioritize rehabilitation and reclamation work in core habitat zones and reduce resource development in areas of critical important to caribou, otherwise the only alternative to protect caribou from predation for many First Nations is to support selective wolf culls. On March 17, 2022, we wrote a similar letter (enclosed) demanding an end to wolf culls and calling on BC to focus on habitat revitalization, curbing resource development in critical habitat zones and we have not yet received a response.

The provincial government has failed to protect these critical habitat areas and the result is that one species must be sacrificed in favour of another species; a tactic that has proven not to work for revitalizing caribou populations. The foundational issue is logging in these critical areas, which has

resulted in a caribou population reduction, not wolf predation. A key component of saving these animal populations is in Indigenous jurisdiction and legal orders as the proper Title and Rights Holders and upholding Indigenous conservation and stewardship over wildlife and wildlife areas.

The false narrative that blames wolves as the source of the problem is a misdirection of the real issue which is resource development sanctioned by BC with no regard to our future generations which has resulted in the eradication of major habitat areas. We now face the grave issue of non-Indigenous gun clubs producing “killing contests” and engaging in unethical hunting and culling practices. This is in direct opposition to Indigenous traditional values, reciprocity with our animal relatives and our inherent Title and Rights Holders as the stewards of our lands and impedes on our legal orders and jurisdiction over our territorial lands.

The UBCIC Chiefs Council fully prioritizes and supports First Nations inherent jurisdiction as the rightful stewards of the land and demands that BC advance a full-stop end to wolf culls and unethical hunting, and develop an approach, with Indigenous consultation, that respects First Nations jurisdiction and territorial management, supports caribou habitat and recovery areas, and does not jeopardize First Nations caribou recovery programs and efforts.

We look forward to your response and action on this urgent matter.

**On behalf of the UNION OF BC INDIAN CHIEFS**



Grand Chief Stewart Phillip  
President



Chief Don Tom  
Vice-President



Kukpi7 Judy Wilson  
Secretary-Treasurer

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UBCIC Chiefs Council  
Humane Society International  
Pacific Wild  
Animal Alliance  
Animal Justice

The Fur-Bearers  
BC SPCA

Encl: UBCIC Resolution 2022-06  
March 17, 2022 Letter