

## OPEN LETTER BY COALITION ASKING BC GOVERNMENT TO END WILDLIFE KILLING CONTESTS

December 6, 2022

Dear Minister Conroy,

We, the undersigned 35 environment and animal protection organizations, conservationists, and wildlife-based businesses respectfully ask that the government of British Columbia urgently update BC's Wildlife Act to prohibit 'wildlife killing contests'.

Following media backlash in 2019, wildlife killing contests have been driven underground, yet these unethical events still take place legally across British Columbia. For example, hunting forums reveal recent self-organized killing contests, such as a "bear derby" in 2021, where cash prizes were awarded based on the size of the bear or bear skull harvested. The 'CARIBOU AND YOUNG UNGULATE SURVIVAL PROJECT' organized by a local gun club attempts to brand its annual activities as predator control, yet is very much a killing contest, awarding points and cash prizes according to the number and species of animals killed.

Wildlife killing contests embody and promote a deplorable lack of respect for BC's wildlife and do nothing to contribute to wildlife management. Notably, scientists have repeatedly warned that killing contests can disrupt stable breeding structures, creating further wildlife conflict and population imbalances.

BC residents are overwhelmingly opposed to the indiscriminate slaughter of wildlife for entertainment, with 91 percent of residents opposing trophy hunting. Clearly, allowing these outdated, appalling contests to continue flies in the face of the values of the vast majority of British Columbians.

With California and Washington already outlawing wildlife killing contests, and similar measures under consideration in Oregon, BC stands increasingly alone on the West Coast in permitting these egregious killing events to continue. We urge the government of British Columbia to modernize the Wildlife Act as soon as possible to make these unethical contests illegal.

We look forward to hearing from you and we request a response detailing how you plan to address the above concerns.

Sincerely,

The Undersigned

Adventuress Sea Kayaking  
Animal Alliance of Canada  
Animal Justice  
Animal Protection Party of Canada  
Animals Asia Foundation  
BC Nature

BC SPCA  
Bears Matter  
Clayoquot Action  
Coyote Watch Canada  
Eastern Coyote/Coywolf Research  
EXPOSED Wildlife Conservancy Hope  
Mountain Black Bear Committee  
Humane Society International/Canada  
International Animal Rescue  
John E. Marriott (Wildlife Photographer)  
National Wolfwatcher Coalition North  
Shore Black Bear Society Ocean  
Adventures Charter Co., Ocean Light  
Adventures  
Pacific Wild Alliance  
Project Coyote  
Robert Bateman (Artist)  
Sierra Club BC  
Spirit Bear Lodge  
Susan Musgrave (Poet)  
Takaya Legacy Project  
The Fur-Bearers  
The Kerulos Center for Nonviolence  
The Union of BC Indian Chiefs  
Tourists Against Trophy Hunting  
Vancouver Humane Society  
Wilderness Committee  
Wolf Awareness  
Zoocheck Inc.