Katrine Conroy

Minister of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations, and Rural Development, BC

As a conservationist and hunter, I am extremely concerned about the trajectory of wildlife and habitat in British Columbia and the constant attacks by anti-hunting organizations on my heritage and way of life.

At one time, British Columbia was known as the Serengeti of North America. Today, moose, long regarded as a staple of the Canadian wilderness and a cultural keystone species for communities across B.C., are at record lows. Mule deer and elk are declining. Mountain caribou populations, which sustained hunting 25 years ago, are now endangered or extinct. Successive governments have failed to invest in British Columbia's wildlife and habitat, contrary to the motto on our Coat of Arms, "Splendour without Diminishment", and our license plate, "Beautiful British Columbia".

As a conservationist and a hunter, I care deeply about wildlife. Hunters have historically been among the strongest advocates for wildlife. The North American Model of Wildlife Conservation, widely recognized as the most successful model, was created by hunters and depends on them for its success. Here in B.C., numerous hunter-created and funded organizations contribute significantly to wildlife conservation.

Despite the hundreds of millions of dollars that hunters have contributed to wildlife conservation, we are increasingly faced with attacks from anti-hunting groups. Their rhetoric seeks to stereotype and define me and what I stand for. They seek to characterize anyone who hunts black bears, cougars, or wolves as a trophy hunter. This could not be further from the truth. I hunt to spend time with friends and family, to connect with nature, and to secure healthy, organic meat for my friends and family.

Conservation and hunting are central to my identity. I am worried that the provincial government does not support my efforts or my way of life. I donate my time and money to conservation organizations to leave a brighter future for my children and my children's children, yet I see the government ignoring wildlife and habitat. I support science-based wildlife management, which means managing predators sometimes, and prey other times, yet I see the government making decisions based on emotion and the rhetoric of anti-hunting groups rather than science.

As a conservationist, I hope you will support science-based wildlife management and prioritize the conservation of wildlife and habitat in British Columbia. The current trajectory will lead to a legacy of extinction if we don't change course. As a hunter, I hope you will support my way of life and who I am as an individual.

Please tell me you support me as a British Columbian, conservationist, and hunter. Show me how you intend to bring wildlife and habitat back to this province; show me how you will support me as a hunter.

Yours sincerely,

Name

Email Address

Address