

Open letter from coalition of 54 to BC government to immediately end three 'wildlife killing contests'

March 10, 2019

Dear Honourable Minister Donaldson,

We, the undersigned coalition of 54 environmental and animal welfare organizations, conservationists and wildlife-based businesses respectfully ask that the government of British Columbia **URGENTLY** end all current 'wildlife killing' contests and modernize regulations to prohibit such 'contests' from being held in future.

Our coalition recently learned of three 'wildlife killing' contests. The 'Predator Tournament' organized by the Creston Valley Rod and Gun Club runs from March 16 to the 24th, 2019 and Chilcotin Gun Store in Williams Lake advertizes the 'Wolf-Whacking' contest that began Dec 1, 2018 and runs until March 31, 2019. Also, there is a 'bounty of \$500 being offered to members of The West Kootenay Outdoorsmen for each wolf killed. Club members can keep the pelts which are stated to be worth as much as \$200 each. (see attached Ads)

Is it this government's intention to allow these wildlife killing contests to proceed while most B.C. residents and visitors are sickened by such senseless killing as evidenced by the overwhelming support to ban the grizzly bear trophy hunt and the mounting opposition to B.C.'s wolf culls?

It is outrageous enough that the province sponsors cruel and senseless wolf culls, costing approximately \$2M and conducted by sharp shooters out of helicopters, and allows unlimited wolf hunting/trapping under the guise of "saving endangered caribou and bighorn sheep." But to allow or ignore these 'bloodlust' contests' that rank alongside illegal and barbaric dog and cock fighting, goes beyond the pale.

Our Coalition against 'Wildlife Killing Contests' urges the government of British Columbia to immediately put a STOP to these 'killing contests' and modernize hunting regulations to make such abhorrent contests illegal in the future.

We look forward to a timely response to our coalition's concerns as the lives of British Columbia's wildlife are at stake!

Sincerely,

The Undersigned – 54 Signatories,

54 Signatories

1. Animal Alliance of Canada – Liz White
2. Animal Justice – Camille Labchuk
3. Animal Protection Party of Canada Liz White
4. Animals Advocates Society of B.C. Judy Stone
5. Animals Asia – Dr. Jill Robinson
6. BC Nature – Dr. Alan Burger
7. BC SPCA – Dr. Sara Dubois
8. **Bears Matter – Barbara Murray**
9. Born Free Cdn Office Barry Kent MacKay
10. Canadians for Furbearers Ainslie Willock
11. Clayoquot Action SocietyBonny Glambeck
12. Coyote Watch Canada Lesley Sampson

13. DeerSafe – Kelly Carson
14. Eastern Coyote/Coywolf Research USA Jon G. Way
15. Evelyn Kirkaldy Artist, Bear Smart Educator
16. Exposed with John E. Marriott
17. Friends of the Lardeau River Jim Lawrence
18. Get Bear Smart Society – Sylvia Dolsen
19. Gosia Bryja – Environmental Scientist
20. Great Bear Chalet – Jefferson Bray
21. Grizzly Girls – Margaret McCullough
22. Hope Mountain Black Bear Committee Lydia Koot
23. Humane Society International/Canada Julie MacInnes
24. International Animal Rescue Alan Knight
25. Justice for BC Grizzlies – Val Murray
26. Kerulos Centre for Nonviolence Dr. Gay Bradshaw
27. Kootenay Reflections Photography Jim Lawrence
28. Lifeforce Foundation – Peter Hamilton
29. Martin Ryer Nature Photography
30. National Wolfwatcher Coalition USA Nancy Warren
31. North Shore Black Bear Society Christine Miller
32. Ocean Adventures Charter Co Ltd. Eric & Trish Boyum
33. Ocean Light II Adventures Ltd Jenn Broo
34. Pacific Rainforest Adventure Tours Inc Ronda and Gary Murdock
35. Pacific Wild – Ian McAllister
36. Paul C. Paquet – Biologist
37. Project Coyotes – Camilla Fox
38. Reno Sommerhalder – Bear Specialist
39. Robert Bateman – Artist
40. Ross Peterson – Biologist, retired
41. Sierra Club BC – Jen Wieting
42. Spirit Bear Lodge – John Czornobaj
43. Stephen Williamson Photography
44. Susan Musgrove- BC Poet
45. The Furbearers – Lesley Fox
46. Tourists Against Trophy Hunting Judy Malone
47. Valhalla Wilderness Society Anne Sherrod
48. Vancouver Humane Society Emily Pickett
49. Wayne McCrory – R.P. Bio
50. Wilderness Committee Joe Foy/Charlotte Dawe
51. Wildlife Defence League Tommy Knowles
52. Winton Bear Foundation UK Lesley Winton
53. Wolf Awareness Inc – Sadie Parr
54. Zoocheck Canada – Julie Woodyer