

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 Clearly, allowing these outdated, appalling contests to continue flies in the face of the values of the vast majority of British Columbians.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.