

Nov 16, 2018

Hon. John Horgan
Premier, Province of British Columbia
premier@gov.bc.ca

Hon. George Heyman
Minister of Environment and Climate Change Strategy
ENV.Minister@gov.bc.ca

Hon. Scott Fraser
Minister of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation
ABR.Minister@gov.bc.ca

Hon. Doug Donaldson
Minister of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development
FLNR.Minister@gov.bc.ca

Dear Premier and Ministers:

As Mayors and Chairs of local governments and regional districts in the interior of British Columbia, we are writing to you to express our concern about the current process underway between the BC government and the federal government to achieve a Section 11 Conservation Agreement for caribou protection and the lack of consultation with communities in this process.

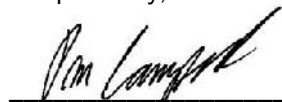
We find it disappointing to learn that plans are underway that will have a significant impact on the socio-economic components of our communities and region. Many of our communities have attempted to engage with the Provincial Government throughout 2018 to “get a seat at the table” and to understand the plans to deal with the Southern Mountain Caribou.

Our understanding is that there are negotiations underway between the BC Ministry of Environment and certain Treaty 8 First Nations to create a new caribou habitat protection area that could cover a significant portion of land for the south peace area. The result of these negotiations could have potential long lasting impacts to the economic conditions and way of life for our communities.

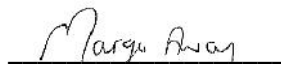
We feel it is imperative that the Provincial Government engage us and involve us in the discussion taking place as it relates to the impacts of resource and tourism development in the North and Interior. Our communities, our livelihoods and our families have a lot at stake. Our communities need to be involved in the decisions that are being made as they may have severe impacts on our forestry, energy, mining, and tourism sectors.

We are united in urging the Premier and the Provincial Ministers involved in the Caribou file to arrange for an immediate meeting with all of the Northern and Interior Mayors and Regional District Chairs.


Respectfully,




Mitch Campsall, Mayor
District of 100 Mile House

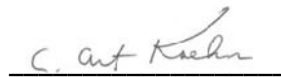



Margo Wagner, Chair
Cariboo Regional District





Dale Bumstead, Mayor
City of Dawson Creek


Allen Courtoreille, Mayor
District of Chetwynd



Art Kaehn, Chair
Regional District
Fraser Fort George



Gerry Thiessen, Mayor
District of Vanderhoof

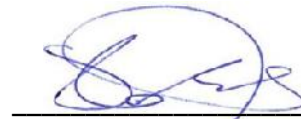

Joan Atkinson, Mayor
District of MacKenzie


Carol Leclerc, Mayor
City of Terrace


Mayor Lorraine Michetti
Village of Pouce Coupe


Lyn Hall, Mayor
City of Prince George


Keith Bertrand, Mayor
Municipality of Tumbler Ridge


Walt Cobb, Mayor
City of Williams Lake

Cc: Don Wright, Deputy Minister
Office of the Premier

Geoff Meggs, Chief of Staff
Office of the Premier

John Allan, Deputy Minister
Minister of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development

Mark Zacharias, Deputy Minister
Minister of Environment

Doug Caul, Deputy Minister
Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation