



Reference: 33670

April 23, 2024

VIA EMAIL: nancylwilkin@gmail.com; chiefharrynyce@gmail.com

Chief Harry Nyce Sr., Co-chair and
Nancy Wilkin, Co-chair
Minister's Wildlife Advisory Council

Dear Chief Nyce and Nancy Wilkin:

Thank you for your letter dated January 16, 2024, regarding rapid action to increase fees, surcharges and fines, and to ensure that these revenues go to a dedicated wildlife fund to support stewardship of wildlife and habitat.

Wildlife and habitat are top priorities for the Province. Policy initiatives, specific goals, and new funding commitments complement the Together for Wildlife Strategy and create a holistic approach to improve stewardship outcomes.

A few highlights of this strategy include: the development of a Biodiversity and Ecosystem Health Framework, commitment to conserve 30 percent of B.C.'s land and water by 2030 (30 x 30); the Tripartite Agreement on Nature Conservation which will align shared goals with funding; the development of the Conservation Financing Mechanism to help secure acquisitions that count toward the 30 x 30 target; and the Collaborative Indigenous Stewardship Framework which aims to build a trusted information foundation to advance our work together in partnership with First Nations.

Your interest in redirecting funding toward on-the-ground projects, either led or supported by First Nations, and capacity building are important components of reconciliation. Additionally, these interests align with the goals set out in the Together for Wildlife strategy including:

- Goal 3 - Stewardship actions achieve tangible benefits for wildlife and their habitats, and
- Goal 5 - Collaborative wildlife stewardship advances reconciliation with Indigenous governments.

Your specific recommendations (7 and 8) related to increasing fees and fines, and redirecting these funds to wildlife and habitat, are currently being considered as part of the *Wildlife Act* Review project. The policy analysis is underway, and we are exploring options to accelerate

Chief Harry Nyce Sr. and Nancy Wilkin

these decisions in advance of the spring 2026. These recommendations have received broad support in the current targeted engagement and do not require legislative change. We will continue to engage with MWAC as the work progresses and appreciate the advice that you have shared to date.

Again, thank you for communicating these recommendations and the supporting advice.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Nathan Cullen". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Nathan Cullen
Minister

cc: Pam Doerksen, Director of Strategic Initiatives – Wildlife Act Review, Ministry of Water, Land and Resource Stewardship