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Urgent and Important Notice to All BC Wildlife Federation members:

On behalf of the BC Wildlife membership we are announcing the following with a call to action from all or our 30,000 plus members:

BC Government representatives have informed the BCWF Executive that a decision has been made to restrict the resident harvest of black bears on the Queen Charlotte Islands to a maximum 4 bears per year based on a business transaction. This restriction is slated to come into effect if and when there is a successful purchase of the Guide Outfitting tenure on the Queen Charlotte Islands by anti-bear hunting interests. The Executive Committee was in receipt of this knowledge as a proposal, as a courtesy by the Ministry of Environment prior to it becoming public knowledge but were requested by ministry staff to maintain confidentiality of the proposal.

On Nov. 5th our Executive Director was informed the proposal was no longer considered confidential and that there are media articles being prepared on the Queen Charlotte Black Bear hunt with a story being aired on CTV on the 7th or 8th of November. The Executive Committee, in their efforts to provide strong representation on behalf of the BCWF membership has already sent a letter to the Minister of Environment stating the Federation's strong opposition to a restriction being placed on resident harvest for anything other than conservation concerns. In this letter it was also stated that such a decision would set precedent for further restrictions on residents for other species across the province.

If we do not take collective and strong action on this by our 30,000 plus membership at this time, we may very well have a precedent situation which will open the door to losing opportunity to hunt black bears across the province and possibly leading to loss of hunting opportunities for other species. This is a high priority item although it is not the only one we are dealing with at this time.

This demands a major focus and determined effort from the membership in order to stop this action which erodes the very principles of the North American Conservation model and will impact our children's and grandchildren's ability to enjoy the same rights to feed their families by hunting that we have today. The implementation of this proposal would also be in direct contravention of the Allocations Policy provisions that state if one of the user groups fails to fully utilize their share of the Harvestable Surplus that the underutilized portion will revert to the other user group

The Executive want to stress that the Ministry of Environment does not appear to be the source of this direction and that we will need to concentrate our opposition efforts on higher levels of government if we are to avoid this threat to scientific wildlife management in the province. As we go forward we need to have a strong and reasoned approach, we need to be strong yet respectful in our dealings with government. While we have difficult issues to put on the table and

work needs to be done we want to ensure that the door to government remains open so that the BC Wildlife retains their position at government tables recognized as a longtime responsible partner in fish, wildlife and habitat decision making. Tell the BC government there is no place for wildlife decision making that is not based on science, that there should be no 'backdoor deals' such as harvest restrictions tied to commercial transactions, government should not be involved.. Remind government who they are elected to represent, and that the BC Wildlife Federation will not stand for this action.

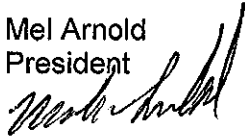
The following is a link to the BC government website for email and addresses <http://www.dir.gov.bc.ca/>

We encourage individual members to both email and write to their MLAs. We can only succeed in stopping this by a strong and unified voice of our many valued members, take action now!

Yours in Conservation,

The BC Wildlife Federation Executive,

Mel Arnold
President



Rodney Wiebe
Vice President



Mike Fowler
Vice President



Wilf Pfeiderer
Immediate Past President



Bill Bosch
Treasurer



Patti MacAhonic
Executive Director



Please contact Patti MacAhonic for further information: patti@bcwf.bc.ca