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BC Wildlife Congratulates Hoepfner

Vancouver, BC – The 35,000 members of the BC Wildlife Federation extends sincere congratulations to Portage-Lisgar MP Candice Hoepfner for the passage at Second Reading yesterday of her Private Member's Bill C 391 to eliminate the Long Gun Registry. We would also like to extend a heartfelt thank you to all MPs who voted in favour of sending Ms. Hoepfner's bill to the Public Safety and National Security Committee.

MP Candice Hoepfner's bill will not affect the requirement that people who wish to own firearms be properly trained and be screened by police to ensure their appropriateness to do so. It also leaves in place all the current registration and restrictions in place for Restricted (most Handguns) and Prohibited (Small Handguns and Fully Automatic) firearms.

A special note of thanks goes out to the Member for Esquimalt—Juan de Fuca, The Honourable Keith Martin (Liberal) and to the Member for Skeena—Bulkley Valley, Nathan Cullen (New Democratic Party). Although all the Conservative Party of Canada Members voted for Ms. Hoepfner's bill, only 21 from the Opposition benches also voted in favor. Mr. Martin and Mr. Cullen were the only two from B.C to do so.

The vote to Approve In Principle indicates that the House of Commons agrees with the BCWF and the majority of Canadians, that gun owners are not the cause of the drug and gang related violent crime in our larger cities and that a piece of paper cannot stop acts of violence. It also clearly indicates that despite efforts by Registry supporters to portray the question as part of either the urban – rural or east - west divide, it is neither, with MPs from urban, rural, east and west ridings, all voting to eliminate the totally ineffectual and hugely expensive Long Gun Registry.

The BCWF is well aware that the vote yesterday is only one of the steps that will be required to end this waste of billions of dollars of public funds. Far more effective would be seeing the money saved and redirected to programs that will actually deal with crime and violence in Canadian society.

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For further information contact Patti MacAhonic, Executive Director of the BCWF at 604-291-9990 extension 230 or at patti@bcwf.bc.ca.

The BCWF is a province-wide voluntary conservation organization representing over 35,000 British Columbian members whose aims are to protect, enhance and promote the wise use of the environment for the benefit of present and future generations.

The B.C. Wildlife Federation was incorporated under the B.C. Societies Act in 1951 and it became a registered charity in 1969. The Federation is British Columbia's largest and oldest conservation organization.