

Monday, July 13, 2026

The Honourable Randene Neill
Minister of Water, Land and Resource Stewardship
Parliament Buildings
Victoria, BC V8V 1X4

Re: Follow-up to BC Nature's January 27, 2025 Letter Regarding Your Ministerial Mandate

Dear Minister Neill,

On January 27, 2025, BC Nature wrote to congratulate you on your appointment as Minister of Water, Land and Resource Stewardship while expressing concern that your mandate letter placed insufficient emphasis on biodiversity conservation, ecosystem protection, and species at risk. We appreciated the opportunity to share our perspective but are disappointed that we have not yet received a response.

We recognize that your ministry has faced many competing priorities over the past eighteen months. At the same time, the need for decisive action to conserve British Columbia's biodiversity has only become more urgent.

British Columbia has made important commitments through the Biodiversity and Ecosystem Health Framework and has endorsed Canada's commitment under the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework to conserve 30 percent of lands and waters by 2030. These commitments now require continued implementation through coordinated action, measurable outcomes, and sustained leadership across government.

As the ministry responsible for stewardship of British Columbia's public lands, wildlife, and freshwater resources, your ministry plays a central role in protecting the ecological systems upon which communities and the provincial economy depend. We remain concerned that progress on key initiatives, including implementation of the Biodiversity and Ecosystem Health Framework, advancing effective species-at-risk legislation, completing the Coastal Marine Strategy, implementing the recommendations of the Old Growth Strategic Review, and strengthening habitat protection, has not matched the urgency of the biodiversity crisis.

Healthy ecosystems are fundamental infrastructure. They provide clean water, reduce flood and wildfire risks, support fisheries, agriculture, tourism, recreation, and forestry, and help communities adapt to a changing climate. Protecting biodiversity is not separate from building a strong economy, it is essential to sustaining one.

BC Nature represents approximately 6,000 members in nearly 64 naturalist clubs across British Columbia. Our members include naturalists, scientists, educators, conservation practitioners, and community volunteers who contribute thousands of hours annually to stewardship, citizen science, environmental education, and habitat conservation. We believe this expertise can help support the Province in achieving its conservation objectives.

We respectfully request a response to our original correspondence and would welcome the opportunity to meet with you or members of your ministry to discuss how BC Nature can assist in advancing British Columbia's biodiversity and ecosystem health goals.

Thank you for your consideration. We look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Harold Sellers".

Harold Sellers
President, BC Nature

Reference: <https://bcnature.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/01/2025-01-Ministerial-Mandate-Honourable-Randene-Neill.pdf>