

Monday, July 13, 2026

The Honourable David Eby, KC
Premier of British Columbia
Parliament Buildings
Victoria, BC

Re: Follow-up to BC Nature's January 21, 2025 letter regarding Ministerial Mandate Letters and Biodiversity Leadership

Dear Premier Eby,

On January 21, 2025, BC Nature wrote to you regarding your government's ministerial mandate letters, congratulating your government and expressing concern that biodiversity conservation and ecosystem health were not reflected as core government priorities. While we appreciate the many demands on your government over the past year, we are disappointed that we have not received a response.

Over the past eighteen months, the need for strong provincial leadership on biodiversity has only become more urgent. British Columbians continue to experience the effects of climate change through increasingly severe wildfire seasons, drought, flooding, and other extreme weather events. These challenges underscore the importance of protecting the healthy ecosystems that sustain our communities, economy, and quality of life.

British Columbia has made important commitments, including adopting the Biodiversity and Ecosystem Health Framework and supporting Canada's commitment to conserve 30 percent of lands and waters by 2030. Yet significant work remains to translate these commitments into coordinated action across government. Progress on implementing the Framework, completing the Coastal Marine Strategy, advancing the Together for Wildlife Strategy, addressing the recommendations of the Old Growth Strategic Review, and developing effective species-at-risk legislation will be critical if British Columbia is to meet its biodiversity goals.

At the same time, we remain concerned that efforts to accelerate permitting and resource development, while important for economic resilience, should not come at the expense of environmental assessment, Indigenous partnership, or the long-term health of British Columbia's ecosystems. Healthy forests, rivers, wetlands, grasslands, and coastal waters provide essential services that support communities, reduce climate risks, sustain fisheries and tourism, and underpin many sectors of our provincial economy.

We believe British Columbia has an opportunity to demonstrate that conservation and economic prosperity are complementary objectives. Clear direction from government that biodiversity considerations are integrated into decision-making across ministries would provide confidence that long-term ecological resilience remains a provincial priority.

BC Nature represents approximately 6,000 members in nearly 60 nature clubs across British Columbia. Our members include scientists, naturalists, educators, conservation practitioners, and community volunteers who collectively contribute thousands of hours each year to stewardship, citizen science, environmental education, and habitat conservation. We are committed to working collaboratively with government to help achieve shared conservation objectives.

We respectfully request a response to our original correspondence and would welcome the opportunity to meet with you or members of your staff to discuss how BC Nature can support the Province in advancing biodiversity conservation while building resilient communities and a sustainable economy.

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-Letter-Honourable-David-Eby.pdf>