



# COMMITTEE REPORTS

QUARTER 1



## Q1 REPORT, 2020 FIREARMS COMMITTEE



Prime Minister Justin Trudeau and other MPs observe a minute of silence in the House of Commons on the 30th anniversary of the 1989 École Polytechnique Montreal Massacre on Friday. (Adrian Wyld/The Canadian Press)

BCWF needs your help. Please contact your MP and convince him or her that Canada has a gang problem, not a gun problem. Be polite but be insistent.

Please tell your MP that owning guns is normal, that gun ownership does not threaten public safety. The BCWF office recently sent out a Call to Members to Take Action that held helpful information that backs up the claim that gun ownership benefits society and is not a threat to public safety.

<https://bcwf.bc.ca/initiatives/your-firearms-rights/>

The needless “Buy back” is nothing more than taxpayer financed confiscation of lawfully owned and used property

In Q1, the Firearms Committee collected signatures at the February HACS gun show in Chilliwack and encouraged 36 Canadians to sign and send letters to Minister Blair objecting to the so-called “buy back.”

Copies of these signed letters were also sent to the gun owner’s Member of Parliament:

- NDP 3
- LPC 3
- CPC 30

Mike Fowler, Firearms Committee member and President, Region 5 (Cariboo Chilcotin), convinced all of the gun clubs in Region 5 to pass resolutions opposing Trudeau's ill conceived "buy back." He reached out to contact clubs that are not currently members of BCWF.

We recruited two new members of the Firearms Committee: Welcome Darrel Shiels of Creston and Doug Romilly Langley!

The Firearms Committee coordinated with Doug Bancroft and the Recreational Sports Shooting Committee to:

- Develop material for the head office on talking points for members to use when meeting with their MP on Bill C-71 & the buy back. <https://bcwf.bc.ca/initiatives/your-firearms-rights/>
- A reply to a BCWF member's comments about an article in BC Outdoors.
- Prepared a presentation for BCWF Convention in Nanaimo (cancelled).
- Preparations for a table at HACS two-day show in Chilliwack (cancelled).
- Prepared for a booth at BC Outdoors Show in Chilliwack (cancelled).

**Independent Professor:** Wearing his hat as a professor emeritus, Gary Mauser posted multiple comments on justiceforgunowners.ca and on various social media platforms which were shared by thegunblog.ca, Dennis Young, and others.

A few recent posts that might interest you:

<https://justiceforgunowners.ca/will-canadians-comply-with-trudeaus-buy-back/>

<https://justiceforgunowners.ca/new-zealand-arms-bill-is-a-red-herring/>

Professor Gary also managed to get a few articles published: "Trudeau government's 'buy back' gun program likely a multi-billion boondoggle," *Fraser Forum*, Fraser Institute, January 21, 2020.

<https://www.fraserinstitute.org/blogs/trudeau-governments-buy-back-gun-program-likely-a-multi-billion-boondoggle>

"Trudeau's 'buy back' is a multi-billion boondoggle," *Canadian Access to Firearms*, February 2020, p 18.

"A modern scapegoat: New Zealand's knee-jerk gun ban," *Canadian Firearms Journal*, March-April, p 46.

Thank you for reading the Firearms Committee report.

For more information to help you when you contact your MP, please check the BCWF website:

<https://bcwf.bc.ca/initiatives/your-firearms-rights/>

**If we don't stand up for ourselves, who will?**

Respectfully Submitted By: Gary Mauser, Firearms Committee Chair

## **Q1 REPORT, 2020 INLAND INTERIOR FISHERIES COMMITTEE**

### **Overview**

There has been little activity or new issues for the committee during January-March 2020. This of course has been in part due to the COVID-19 issue that has been a major distraction for everyone.

The following report summarizes activities of the committee during the last few months:

### **IFS Recovery:**

This issue was to be raised at the AGM with a resolution put forward for hatchery intervention. While some BCWF members express support for a hatchery solution the science does not support such a measure. Even if hatchery fish survived and returned as adults, they would be simply be caught in greater numbers in the gill net fisheries. A hatchery solution is not a solution and the science is very clear about the implications of diluting the genetic integrity of the wild stock(s). The solution is to remove the chum salmon gill nets from the river during October-November.

Promoting use of selective fishing methods like pound nets, fish wheels or traps is a major part of this committee's goal. A few First Nations have submitted proposals for pilot selective fishing on the lower Fraser and Harrison rivers. DFO has agreed to a pound net on the lower Skeena and this signals the beginning of transition from gill nets to more selective fishing methods. The Board has expressed support for this proposal conditional on reduction of gill nets.

### **Kootenay Lake:**

The West Arm Outdoors club has been successful in receiving a HCTF grant of nearly \$50,000 to provide incentives to anglers to get back out on the lake and fish. The proposal is to provide monthly draw prizes for those who provide rainbow and bull trout heads at designated stations. The intent is to increase angler participation and reduce the number of predators. Angler effort is down 70% due to the kokanee collapse that in turn has resulted in significantly reduced size of the predators. Gerrard rainbow trout are now only 3-4 lbs compared to 15-20 lbs ten years ago. The club proposal has been supported by the Ministry and additional funds are planned to be added. Start date for this project has yet to be determined. West Kootenay clubs have been informed and their participation is expected to help increase fishing on the lake. News items will be sent out over the next few weeks.

### **Big Bar Slide:**

The province and DFO continue to provide progress reports on plans for fish passage remediation at the big bar slide. Spring flows have begun limiting construction activity. Meanwhile a fish way is planned for the west side in case rock removal from the river isn't completed in time.

### **Dragon Lake:**

The proliferation of goldfish in this lake has prompted the Ministry to revise its stocking plan for 2020. The plan calls for introduction of Horsefly rainbow trout into Dragon Lake. This strain of rainbow trout is highly predacious, and it is expected they will prey on introduced goldfish and provide excellent size trout to the angler.

**Heart of the Fraser:**

A conference call with Minister Donaldson was held March 31<sup>st</sup> to discuss new strategies to protect the HOF. Protection of the gravel reach of the Fraser River remains a very high priority and BCWF efforts in 2020 to increase public awareness of the importance of this area will be ramped up. A number of conservation groups including the BCWF are actively engaged in designating the area as an ecologically sensitive area under the revised Fisheries Act. However, DFO does not intend on moving on this designation anytime soon hence our discussions with the province.

Respectfully Submitted By: Harvey Andrusak, Inland Interior Fisheries Committee Chair

## **Q1 REPORT, 2020**

### **INDIGENOUS RELATIONS & RECONCILIATION COMMITTEE**

After receiving approval from the B.O.D. regarding our committee budget and quarterly plan on January 25, 2020, we initially came out of the gates running. Unfortunately, with this recent epidemic, it has closed many doors for us. However, as we continue to work from home, we are constantly reaching out around the province, ensuring that Bands, parliament and local clubs know that we at the BCWF have re-established the Indigenous Relations committee.

Rob Chipman and I look forward to working with Jesse Zeman, as he will be including us in meetings he may have with Indigenous organizations, in order for us to carry on and pursue issues that we together may overcome. Due to isolation & COVID-19, there are no immediate plans to travel, instead we will continue to reach out via email and phones.

To all other committees, and club presidents, please keep us in mind and don't hesitate to reach out to us if there are any First Nation developments in your areas.

Respectfully Submitted By: Boris Ivanoff, Indigenous Relations & Reconciliation Committee Chair

## **Q1 REPORT, 2020**

### **RECREATIONAL SPORTS SHOOTING COMMITTEE**

#### **Purpose:**

The goals of the BCWF Recreational Shooting Sports Committee are to ensure that member ranges continue to operate now and into the future, in compliance with federal and provincial legislation and regulation, and in a manner consistent with BCWF overall goals pertaining to environmental stewardship.

#### **RSSC Mandate:**

- Support to individual member clubs seeking advice and/or assistance on technical matters related to environmental matters, noise, or other potential threats to range operations.
- Lead Management and Remediation for Outdoor Shooting Ranges, including working with the MC Ministry of Environment on a template for a range Environmental Management Plan, and a Code of Practice for lead recycling from ranges.
- Best practices for Noise Management and Remediation for Outdoor Shooting Ranges.
- Assisting BCWF Firearms Committee with Advocacy and Outreach.

#### **RSSC Q1 2020 Activities:**

Q1 started with an in-person meeting with meeting with the BCWF President, Vice President, Director of Operations, and Gary Mauser Chair of the Firearms Committee. This was my first meeting with the BCWF President, and it was clear, concise, concrete and productive. Concise committee operating processes were established, and both Gary and I briefed others on how we intended to work collaboratively on key issues of mutual concern for us, the committees, the BCWF and our members. In addition, I gave a quick update on RSSC activities to date and priorities.

Worthy of note, in 2019, the Lower Arrow Lakes (LALCA) located in an Agricultural Land Reserve, was ordered by the Agricultural Land Commission to close their club and range, remediate the site, and leave. LALCA designated Thomas Loo of the RSSC as an "agent" for the purposes of work on behalf of LALCA to obtain a reconsideration of this decision. Early in January the RSSC was informed that the Lower Arrow Lakes Conservation Association (LALCA) was successful in getting their lease renewed, despite initial rejection by the Agricultural Land Commission. Thomas made a substantive contribution in assisting the LALCA being successful in this process.

I provided a full briefing on RSSC activities to both the Annual General meeting of the BCWF Region 1, as well as to a General Members Meeting of the Parksville Qualicum Fish & Game. The presentation was well received, and resulted another requested site visit and presentation, this time to the Courtenay Region Fish and Game Protective Association.

RSSC members continued to provide advice as requested to clubs on preparing for and responding to Shooting Range Inspections and Shooting Range License renewals, as well as environmental issues. Club supported included:

- East Kootenays Wildlife Association
- Creston Valley Rod & Gun Club



I worked closely with Gary Mauser (Chair Firearms Committee) and the BCWF Communications Coordinator to respond to the federal government proposed gun ban and buyback programs. This included:

- Encouraging each range and as many members individually meet with the member of Parliament.
- Encouraging each member to write a letter each to their MP, Minister Public Safety, and PM.
- Supporting the BCWF communications in sending out email blasts and publishing web articles to support the government e-petition.
- Supporting a formal BCWF Emergency Resolution condemning the buyback program.

I engaged with MoE staff to follow up with the slow, but steady roll out of the Code of Practice for range operations and lead management. I also reached out to them for technical considerations on contaminated sites and assessment for taxes for a member range,

**The RSSC Steering Committee - Responsibility and Expertise:**

- Doug Bancroft, Co-Chair – environmental/lead management for Shooting Ranges.
- Gary Mauser, Ex Officio member as Chair of the BCWF Firearms Committee – Federal Advocacy.
- Chuck Zuckerman, BCWF Vice-President, Federal Advocacy, and liaison to BCWF Board of Directors and Executive.
- Thomas Loo – environmental and noise management, dealing with local governments.
- Tex Mahler – Range Inspections, Range Licenses and Range Operations.
- Guy Lahaye – Range Inspections, Range Licenses and Range Operations, and Possession and Acquisition Licenses.
- Jim Marten – Safety.
- Dave Carter – Safety.
- Andy Wadell
- Doug Romilly
- David Oliver
- Darrell Shiels

Respectfully Submitted By: Doug Bancroft, Recreational Sports Shooting Committee Chair



## Q4 REPORT, 2020 WILDLIFE ALLOCATION COMMITTEE

As with all aspects of life, the COVID-19 pandemic has impacted wildlife and habitat engagement — it's been quiet, but the committee chair continues to have discussions with Wildlife and Habitat staff in Victoria.

### COVID-19 Impacts on Hunting:

Unlike some other jurisdictions (Washington State, Oregon, and Alaska), angling and hunting are still supported by government. The Provincial Health Officer (PHO) has not issued any orders restricting individuals from angling and/or hunting at this time. At all times, individuals are expected to follow the [orders and guidance](#) provided by the Provincial Health Officer (PHO). Dr. Henry has also indicated that everybody should stick to activities close to home according to her orders and guidelines, and that travelling to smaller communities is not recommended at this time as the medical capabilities in smaller communities are not up to handling a COVID-19 outbreak. Government may choose to restrict hunting and angling if people choose to ignore these orders, guidance and recommendations.

### COVID-19 Angling and Hunting Updates:

<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/sports-culture/recreation/fishing-hunting/fishing-and-hunting-covid-19-updates>

Service BC and Front Counter BC (FCBC) offices are not providing in-person services for anglers, hunters, guides and outfitters until further notice. However, Service BC's community access terminals are still accessible. Therefore, a person could go into a Service BC office to use their computer to buy licenses (species licenses would be mailed). This process could change in the future. Licenses can be purchased online. Indications are that species licenses are being delivered quite quickly. BC Mail Plus and Canada Post continue business as usual currently. Some license vendors are still open, but it is recommended that the hunter/angler call first to confirm. Government has provided plenty of license stock to vendors. FCBC has increased Contact Centre support and is well prepared to help hunters/anglers get their licenses.

More information:

[www.gov.bc.ca/hunting](http://www.gov.bc.ca/hunting)  
<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/sports-culture/recreation/fishing-hunting/fishing/recreational-freshwater-fishing-licence>

Hunting license and species license sales have been brisk so far in 2020 compared to recent years for January to March:

Year (Jan, Feb and March)	2017	2018	2019	2020
<b>Resident Hunting Licenses</b>	1844	2478	2324	4852
<b>Black Bear</b>	1441	1968	1886	4803
<b>Grand Total Hunting Licenses (all types) and Species Licenses</b>	<b>6626</b>	<b>9192</b>	<b>9073</b>	<b>17,356</b>

**Provincial and Regional Regulation Proposals for 2020-2022 and Wildlife Act Updates:**

The decisions on provincial and regional hunting regulation proposals and the updates to the Wildlife Act related to UNDRIP are still pending.

**Provincial Budget:**

When the provincial budget was released in February 2020, it was clear that fish, wildlife, habitat and the conservation officer service were not a priority as indicated by reduced funding. We have been told that the \$10 million “uplift” in 2020 associated with the *Together for Wildlife* initiative is still in place, although that could all change given the COVID-19 challenges. There are no details about how the money is being spent and we have concerns that stakeholders are not able to provide input — the BCWF has told government that we expect the focus to be on landscape level activities that really make a difference for wildlife.

**Together for Wildlife/Ministers Wildlife Advisory Council:**

The application deadline for Minister’s Wildlife Advisory Council has passed, but there has been no word on who is on the council. The BCWF had several representatives apply to be part of the council. News should be coming soon, and we have been told that despite the COVID-19 situation, the council is still a go and a priority.

**Caribou Recovery:**

Government remains committed to continue maternal penning and a broadened wolf removal program for Southern Mountain Caribou recovery. Wolf collaring and removal work continued through the end of March 2020. There is also some talk of captive breeding experiments in the south-eastern part of the province. Lowering moose and/or deer numbers as a method to reduce predation on caribou continues to be a controversial topic and stakeholders prefer a multi-species approach with density objectives for caribou, moose, deer, predators and other wildlife. The Provincial Caribou Recovery Program (David Muter and Darcy Peel) will be providing a brief update on Wednesday, April 22 by teleconference.

**Provincial Hunting and Trapping Advisory Team (PHTAT):**

PHTAT is scheduled to meet in early May, but logistics are still being worked out as a face-to-face meeting is highly unlikely.

**Chronic Wasting Disease:**

The Provincial Chronic Wasting Disease Advisory Committee is scheduled to meet in early May, but logistics are still being worked out.

**Caribou Moose Allocation/Environment Appeal Board Guide Outfitter Appeals:**

The COVID-19 situation has delayed the “respondent’s” (Director of Wildlife) response to the Guide Outfitters’ submissions, but at this time, the decision by the Environmental Appeal Board is still on track for late April 2020.

**Joint Letter from the BCWF and GOABC to Government:**

A letter under the signatures of both the president of the BCWF and GOABC was sent to government in response to a threatened court challenge of aerial wolf removal in support of caribou recovery. A strong message was sent thanking government for continuing with the program and making decisions based on science and not on emotions or repercussions at the ballot box. It is expected that the BCWF and GOABC will continue to cooperate on sending joint messages to government when the two organizations have a common interest.

Respectfully Submitted By: Gerry Paille, Wildlife Allocation Committee Chair