

BC Federation of Drift Fishers

4054 212 St. Langley, BC
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January 31st, 2024

Kevin Falcon
Leader B.C. United Party

Dear Sir,

We thank you for your support in ensuring the rights & opportunities of all B.C. residents to unfettered access to our priceless crown lands is protected now and for future generations.

Our organization is representative of B.C. anglers who treasure our opportunities to enjoy the bounties of "Supernatural" B.C. and we commit thousands of volunteer hours toward protecting and preserving fish, wildlife and habitat. We share with our Indigenous friends a common goal toward ensuring our natural resources are preserved for our respective future generations. Toward that goal we are very active in citizen based reconciliation which promotes collaboration between all parties at the grass roots level. On behalf of our group, I chair two separate reconciliation committees through the Outdoor Recreation Council (ORC) with a membership exceeding 100,000 members, and a reconciliation committee through the Sport Fish Advisory Board (SFAB) which represents tidal and non-tidal anglers who contribute in excess of \$1 billion dollars annually to the B.C. economy.

To allow veto powers in crown land decisions to any group is a total non starter and we suggest demonstrates an extreme lack of responsibility to govern for all B.C. residents. We have great concern that granting veto can expand to restricted access to crown land for many forms of recreation which has been the cornerstone of public access for all citizens.

We suggest that any decisions on crown land must be vetted through consultation with all B.C. residents and we cannot accept veto powers to any specific sector. We further suggest that this attempt to push through critical legislation is contrary to the accepted goals of reconciliation toward adequate consultation and consideration of concerns of both indigenous and non-indigenous peoples.

We suggest this perceived predetermined decision toward onerous changes to crown land management demonstrates the critical need for a reconciliation forum which will allow full consultation and consideration of concerns of all residents. Until that is established any major decisions on issues such as crown land changes must be curtailed.

Based on the tremendous reaction to this issue we know our concerns are shared by many.

Thank you again for your support in ensuring that B.C. is governed for all citizens.

Rod Clapton

President, BC Federation of Drift Fishers