



Harmony Foundation of Canada PO Box 50022, Unit 15, 1594 Fairfield Road Victoria BC Canada V8S 1G1
Telephone 250.380.3001 Fax 250.380.0887 Email harmony@islandnet.com Web www.harmonyfdn.ca

Hon. Catherine McKenna
Minister of Environment
House of Commons Ottawa, ON K1A 0A6

June 27, 2019

Catherine.McKenna@parl.gc.ca

Dear Minister McKenna,

Time sensitive

In May 2018 you determined an imminent threat to the recovery of endangered southern mountain caribou. It is now clear that BC has failed to develop the required recovery plan and consequently we urge you to recommend an emergency protection order for cabinet approval before the October election.

The proposed Section 11 Conservation Agreement is inadequate in many ways, resting heavily on killing wolves and penning of pregnant females while doing nothing to end hunting, harassment from recreational ATVs or the prime cause of decline, destruction of critical habitat. The partnership agreement with the West Moberly and Salteaux Nations commendably recognizes the role of First Nations in caribou recovery but it is a modest initiative in one relatively small area. What are needed are commitments for caribou habitat protection and restoration across BC. The proposed agreement between BC and Canada fails to do that and BC's failure to implement a provincial recovery strategy with range management plans for each of BC's 54 caribou herds imperils their survival.

Losing caribou, an apex species, has many other consequences. It means the loss of other wild species dependent on the same habitat. More than that, Canada's northern forests are the world's largest forest ecosystem, exceeding 25% of the world's remaining forest, containing 25% of the world's wetlands and more surface freshwater than anywhere else on Earth. These forests store twice the carbon per acre as tropical forests and hold some of the cleanest water on the planet. They also are home to many First Nations. Therefore, Canada's northern forests are not only vital to our environment, culture and economy but to meeting our commitments on climate change, bio-diversity and indigenous rights.

Thanks to you, Jonathan Wilkinson, Sean Fraser and staff for your efforts towards protection and recovery of southern mountain caribou. However, the situation is urgent and demands an emergency protection order which we urge you to recommend to cabinet without delay. We would appreciate your letting us know in your reply what practical steps you are taking.

Yours truly,

Michael Bloomfield
Founder and Executive Director

Robert Bateman
Chairperson