



**University
of Victoria**

University of Victoria
PO Box 3020 STN CSC
Victoria British Columbia V8W 3N5 Canada
www.uvic.ca

May 3rd, 2013

Dear MLA NDP Candidate-

We are writing today to urge you to protect species at risk and their critical habitats in British Columbia, should you be elected in the upcoming provincial election.

British Columbia has remarkable biodiversity: at least half of the species found in Canada call this province home. BC biodiversity contributes significantly to our quality of life, and people travel from all parts of the globe to visit '*Super, Natural British Columbia*'. Yet many species are experiencing declines in their populations. We are concerned that without provincial legislation to protect and manage threatened species, many will slide toward extinction.

Most residents of BC are unaware that we are one of only two provinces in Canada without provincial legislation to protect our threatened and endangered species. Canada's Species at Risk Act (SARA) applies only on federally owned land, thus leaving species in 99% of the province unprotected. There are currently 164 federally listed species in BC that require management to rebuild to sustainable levels, including the endemic Vancouver Island marmot and the basking shark; the provincial Red and Blue lists contain hundreds more.

Bill M-211 (the Species Protection Act) was tabled in 2011 to bring endangered species protection to BC. This bill did not pass, but it listed many of the key components of a strong endangered species law, including prohibiting harming endangered species and mandating protection for the species' critical habitat. It also provided a way for a minister to prevent a species from being listed if he or she determined that legal protection would be too costly.

Strong provincial species-at-risk legislation would provide a powerful tool for ensuring that BC's biodiversity is protected for generations to come. **We note that the BC NDP platform includes language describing their plans to introduce legislation to protect endangered species and habitats. We would be interested to know what your plans are, and we urge you to prioritize the development and implementation of binding Endangered Species legislation, should you be elected.**

As scientists, we would be more than happy to help serve as a resource if you wish to discuss these issues further.

Sincerely,

Dr. Julia K. Baum
Assistant Professor & Sloan Research
Fellow in Ocean Sciences
Department of Biology

Dr. Brian Starzomski
Ian McTaggart-Cowan Professor of Biodiversity
Conservation and Ecological Restoration
School of Environmental Studies

Dr. Gerry Allen
Associate Professor, Department of Biology

Dr. Natalie C. Ban
Assistant Professor, School of Environmental Studies

Dr. Jonaki Bhattacharyya
Hakai Post-Doctoral Fellow, School of Environmental Studies

Dr. James E. Bryan, BC Resident

Dr. Chris Darimont
Assistant Professor, Department of Geography

Dr. Lawrence M. Dill
Professor Emeritus of Biology (SFU)

Dr. Sarah Dudas
Canada Research Chair Shellfish Ecosystems Interactions, Vancouver Island University

Dr. Rana El-Sabaawi
Assistant Professor, Department of Biology

Dr. Jason T. Fisher
Adjunct Asst. Professor, School of Environmental Studies

Dr. Barry Glickman
Professor, Department of Biology

Dr. Eric Higgs,
Professor, School of Environmental Studies,

Dr. Stephen J. Insley
Adjunct Professor, Department of Biology

Dr. Donald L. Kramer
Professor Emeritus (McGill), BC Resident.

Dr. Terri Lacourse
Associate Professor, Department of Biology

Dr. Trevor Lantz
Assistant Professor, School of Environmental Studies

Dr. T. E. Reimchen,
Adjunct Professor, Department of Biology

Emily Rubidge, PhD
Visiting Scientist, Department of Biology, BC Resident]

Dr. Verena Tunnicliffe,
Fellow of the Royal Society of Canada
Canada Research Chair in Deep Oceans,
Department of Biology & School of Earth & Ocean Sciences

Dr. John Volpe
Associate Professor, School of Environmental Studies

Lia F. Chalifour, Bsc. Biologist, Galiano Conservancy Association

Teegan B. Jessop, BSc

Chanda Brietzke, BA Anthropology and Environmental Studies

Anthea D. Bryan, MSc Ecology

Heather M. Bryan, PhD Candidate

Heather Leech, MSc Candidate, Department of Geography

Jennifer Long
MSc Candidate, Department of Biology

Shannon A. McFadyen
MSc Candidate, Department of Geography

Valerie Mucciarelli
MSc Candidate, School of Environmental Studies

Stephanie J. Peacock, PhD candidate, Biology

James Robinson, PhD Candidate, Department of Biology

Jason R. Straka
MSc. Environmental Studies

Justin P. Suraci, M.Sc., Ph.D. Candidate, Department of Biology

Shanley Thompson, MSc, PhD Candidate, University of Victoria

Maryann S. Watson, B.Sc Student, Biology

To correspond with all the signees, please contact:

Julia K. Baum baum@uvic.ca and/or Dr. Brian Starzomski starzom@uvic.ca



**University
of Victoria**

University of Victoria
PO Box 3020 STN CSC
Victoria British Columbia V8W 3N5 Canada
www.uvic.ca

May 3rd, 2013

Dear MLA NDP Candidate-

We are writing today to urge you to protect species at risk and their critical habitats in British Columbia, should you be elected in the upcoming provincial election.

British Columbia has remarkable biodiversity: at least half of the species found in Canada call this province home. BC biodiversity contributes significantly to our quality of life, and people travel from all parts of the globe to visit '*Super, Natural British Columbia*'. Yet many species are experiencing declines in their populations. We are concerned that without provincial legislation to protect and manage threatened species, many will slide toward extinction.

Most residents of BC are unaware that we are one of only two provinces in Canada without provincial legislation to protect our threatened and endangered species. Canada's Species at Risk Act (SARA) applies only on federally owned land, thus leaving species in 99% of the province unprotected. There are currently 164 federally listed species in BC that require management to rebuild to sustainable levels, including the endemic Vancouver Island marmot and the basking shark; the provincial Red and Blue lists contain hundreds more.

Bill M-211 (the Species Protection Act) was tabled in 2011 to bring endangered species protection to BC. This bill did not pass, but it listed many of the key components of a strong endangered species law, including prohibiting harming endangered species and mandating protection for the species' critical habitat. It also provided a way for a minister to prevent a species from being listed if he or she determined that legal protection would be too costly.

Strong provincial species-at-risk legislation would provide a powerful tool for ensuring that BC's biodiversity is protected for generations to come. **We are happy to see that the BC NDP platform includes language describing your plans to introduce legislation to protect endangered species and habitats. We strongly support this effort and urge you to prioritize this legislation, should you be elected.**

As scientists, we would be more than happy to help serve as a resource if you wish to discuss these issues further.

Sincerely,
Dr. Julia K. Baum
Assistant Professor & Sloan Research
Fellow in Ocean Sciences
Department of Biology

Dr. Brian Starzomski
Ian McTaggart-Cowan Professor of Biodiversity
Conservation and Ecological Restoration
School of Environmental Studies

Dr. Gerry Allen
Associate Professor, Department of Biology

Dr. Natalie C. Ban
Assistant Professor, School of Environmental Studies

Dr. Jonaki Bhattacharyya
Hakai Post-Doctoral Fellow, School of Environmental Studies

Dr. James E. Bryan, BC Resident

Dr. Chris Darimont
Assistant Professor, Department of Geography

Dr. Lawrence M. Dill
Professor Emeritus of Biology (SFU)

Dr. Sarah Dudas
Canada Research Chair Shellfish Ecosystems Interactions, Vancouver Island University

Dr. Rana El-Sabaawi
Assistant Professor, Department of Biology

Dr. Jason T. Fisher
Adjunct Asst. Professor, School of Environmental Studies

Dr. Barry Glickman
Professor, Department of Biology

Dr. Eric Higgs,
Professor, School of Environmental Studies,

Dr. Stephen J. Insley
Adjunct Professor, Department of Biology

Dr. Donald L. Kramer
Professor Emeritus (McGill), BC Resident.

Dr. Terri Lacourse
Associate Professor, Department of Biology

Dr. Trevor Lantz
Assistant Professor, School of Environmental Studies

Dr. T. E. Reimchen,
Adjunct Professor, Department of Biology

Emily Rubidge, PhD
Visiting Scientist, Department of Biology, BC Resident]

Dr. Verena Tunnicliffe,
Fellow of the Royal Society of Canada
Canada Research Chair in Deep Oceans,
Department of Biology & School of Earth & Ocean Sciences

Dr. John Volpe
Associate Professor, School of Environmental Studies

Lia F. Chalifour, Bsc. Biologist, Galiano Conservancy Association

Teegan B. Jessop, BSc

Chanda Brietzke, BA Anthropology and Environmental Studies

Anthea D. Bryan, MSc Ecology

Heather M. Bryan, PhD Candidate

Heather Leech, MSc Candidate, Department of Geography

Jennifer Long
MSc Candidate, Department of Biology

Shannon A. McFadyen
MSc Candidate, Department of Geography

Valerie Mucciarelli
MSc Candidate, School of Environmental Studies

Stephanie J. Peacock, PhD candidate, Biology

James Robinson, PhD Candidate, Department of Biology

Jason R. Straka
MSc. Environmental Studies

Justin P. Suraci, M.Sc., Ph.D. Candidate, Department of Biology

Shanley Thompson, MSc, PhD Candidate, University of Victoria

Maryann S. Watson, B.Sc Student, Biology

To correspond with all the signees, please contact:

Julia K. Baum baum@uvic.ca and/or Dr. Brian Starzomski starzom@uvic.ca