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February 9, 2023

File: 6000-30-10; 5770-30-10

Via email: [avicc@ubcm.ca](mailto:avicc@ubcm.ca)

Regular mail copy to follow:

Association of Vancouver Island and Coastal Communities  
525 Government Street  
Victoria BC V8V 0A8

**Re: 2023 Resolution**

Please be advised that on January 11, 2023, the Islands Trust Executive Committee passed the following resolution for the 2023 AVICC Annual General Meeting:

*That the Executive Committee direct staff to draft a resolution and backgrounder on the following: request that the Province enact endangered species legislation for British Columbia in consultation and jointly with First Nations for submission to the Association of Vancouver Island and Coastal Communities 2023 convention for the Chair's consideration in January 2023.*

Please find attached the proposed resolution and backgrounder.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you require further information.

Yours truly,

David Marlor  
Corporate Secretary

Attachment:

Resolution and Backgrounder: New Legislation for Protection of Biodiversity, Ecosystem Health and Species at Risk

***Preserving and protecting over 450 islands and surrounding waters in the Salish Sea***

Bowen Denman Hornby Gabriola Galiano Gambier Lasqueti Mayne North Pender Salt Spring Saturna South Pender Thetis



## 2023 RESOLUTION SUBMISSION TO UBCM

**NEW LEGISLATION FOR PROTECTION OF BIODIVERSITY,  
ECOSYSTEM HEALTH AND SPECIES AT RISK**

**ISLANDS TRUST**

**RESOLUTION:**

WHEREAS in 2022 UBCM endorsed resolutions calling on the Province of BC to work in cooperation with First Nations to enact species at risk legislation and to work towards new legislation to protect and restore biological diversity and ecosystem health;

AND WHEREAS in November 2022 the Canadian Endangered Species Conservation Council released the Wild Species 2020: The General Status of Species in Canada Report which documents an increased risk of extinction for 700 species in British Columbia in the last five years;

AND WHEREAS in December 2022, Canada joined 195 countries in the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework which aims to halt and reverse global biodiversity loss by 2030;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that UBCM call upon the Province of British Columbia to urgently proceed with legislation, informed by new agreements and reports, co-developed with First Nations, that enables legal and financial mechanisms for the protection of biodiversity, ecosystem health, and species at risk in British Columbia.

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## **BACKGROUNDER:**

Legislated legal and financial mechanisms for the protection of biodiversity, ecosystem health, and species at risk in British Columbia are urgently needed.

In 2022, UBCM endorsed resolutions NR 38, NR 39, NR40 and NR41 which are consistent with the proposed resolution.

According to the 2020 Wild Species Report<sup>1</sup>, British Columbia is home to more than 24,540 species, the second most biologically diverse province in Canada. Conversely, B.C. has the highest number of species under threat of extinction. More than 3,000 species were identified in the report as being at risk in B.C. and the report documented an increased risk of extinction for 700 species in British Columbia in the last five years.

B.C. current laws do not require species recovery planning and implementation. The continued push for legislation comes as scientists around the world warn we are witnessing the sixth mass extinction event in the planet's four-billion-year history. Scientists estimate as many as half of all species may be headed toward extinction in the next 30 years, in large part due to habitat destruction.

In 2020, an Old Growth Strategic Review report commissioned by the Province of British Columbia identified several actions needed to foster a paradigm shift in the way forests are managed in B.C. One of the report's key recommendations was to declare conservation of ecosystem health and biodiversity in British Columbia as an overarching priority and enact legislation that legally established this priority for all sectors. In September 2021, the Union of B.C. Indian Chiefs-in-Assembly (UBCIC) called on the Province to explicitly and publicly commit to the enactment of new, overarching legislation for the protection of biodiversity and ecosystem health, to be developed in cooperation with Indigenous Peoples, aligning with the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, and upholding Title and Rights to strengthen biodiversity conservation and management.

In the face of a climate emergency, the ecosystems that Indigenous Peoples and B.C. communities depend on for their spiritual, cultural, economic, and health needs are increasingly under threat. It is urgently important for the Province of B.C. to enact legislation to better protect ecosystem health, biodiversity and species at risk without further delay. Doing so in collaboration with First Nations and Indigenous people will be critical to the Province's reconciliation commitments and to the creation of inclusive and effective legislation. It will also be critical for the Province to involve local governments, civil society groups, Indigenous Knowledge Holders, scientists, and members of the public in the development of this legislation, to ensure that their unique vulnerabilities, perspectives, and interests are considered.

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<sup>1</sup> [https://wildlife-species.canada.ca/species-risk-registry/virtual\\_sara/files/reports/Wild%20Species%202020.pdf](https://wildlife-species.canada.ca/species-risk-registry/virtual_sara/files/reports/Wild%20Species%202020.pdf)