



Chetwynd Chamber of Commerce  
 PO Box 870, Chetwynd, BC V0C 1J0  
 Tel: 250-788-3345 www.chetwyndchamber.ca  
 E-mail: manager@chetwyndchamber.ca

**Chetwynd Chamber of Commerce Meets with Minister Donaldson on Caribou Recovery Plan**  
*"We're optimistic that meaningful action will be taken," say attendees*

July 17, 2019, VICTORIA--Yesterday, the Chetwynd Chamber of Commerce, along with the BC Chamber and 10 chambers from the North, Okanagan, and Kootenays, met with BC Minister Doug Donaldson to discuss concerns related to the Federal Species at Risk Act's Section 11 Mountain Caribou Recovery Plan.

Executive Director Naomi Larsen from the Chetwynd Chamber attended to ensure the concerns and the voices of the Chetwynd Chamber membership and the community regarding this issue were heard.

"The ramifications of Section 11 and the Partnership Agreement on our community could be devastating," Larsen said. "We wanted the Minister to understand just how vital it was to make sure the government's next consultation plan will include a robust engagement process that will include local community, local governments and stakeholders. We also reminded Minister Donaldson to reach out to the BC Chamber Network as we could assist in finding a solution while growing the economy."

Per our BC Chamber adopted policies on the matter, our consortium addressed:

- The need for more fulsome (and broad) engagement moving forward with Indigenous nations, local governments, industry and communities
- The necessity of substantial and timely socio-economic impact assessments in areas that may be affected by any management measures intended to help the caribou recover

Our messages were received by the minister, and we are optimistic that meaningful action will be taken in the weeks and months ahead to address these above concerns.

The Minister stated he appreciates that chambers remain committed "support" organizations on the ground, when it comes to enabling deeper consultations moving forward.

"Our network will continue to focus on strategies that protect both our iconic caribou and thriving local economies and communities," says Val Litwin, CEO of the BC Chamber of Commerce. "The BC Chamber and our member chambers look forward to continuing to work with the Province on this important file."

Larsen also presented Donaldson with an envelope of letters from members of the Chetwynd Chamber of Commerce as well as community members outlining their concerns with Section 11 and the Partnership Agreement.

Chambers in attendance included: Dawson Creek, Revelstoke, Fort Nelson, Chetwynd, Sicamous, Prince George, Fort St. John, Tumbler Ridge. (Attending remotely were: Nakusp, Kelowna & Mackenzie)

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*The Chetwynd Chamber of Commerce is a network for entrepreneurial business and professional leaders to partner in representation, communication and education. We provide our members with: Advocacy, Networking, Group Benefits and affordable Marketing and Advertising opportunities and most importantly a Voice of Business, as a collective group. Come join our 130+ businesses in the Chetwynd area who recognize the value of the chamber network.*

For more information, please contact:

Naomi Larsen, Executive Director  
Chetwynd Chamber of Commerce  
250-788-3345  
manager@chetwyndchamber.ca