

Dear NDP Government,

I am very disappointed with the recent decision to ban grizzly bear hunting within the Great Bear Rainforest and the proposed regulation that would result in leaving the skull, hide and paws to rot in the forest or be destroyed. I believe in a land ethic whereby harvesting all usable portions of an animal should be implemented.

The Government document titled *Policy Discussion Intent Paper Stopping All Hunting of Grizzly Bear in the Great Bear Rainforest* states that “The current management system for grizzly bear hunting in the Great Bear Rainforest is considered sustainable and the proposed closure is not a response to a conservation concern”. This closure is not grounded in science or logic, and politics and emotions have no place in wildlife management.

The proposed changes to the grizzly bear hunting regulations moves away from scientific wildlife management and the use of science as a decision-making tool. I strongly oppose wasting usable portions of any animal. The portions of grizzly bears that have scientific value should be submitted to regional Biologist and any usable portion of the animal should be utilized, not wasted in to forest or destroyed. Collecting data necessary to monitor the health of wildlife species and hunter harvest in BC is an essential part of science based management.

The NDP Government has not defined what trophy hunting is, however they have established portions of an animal that are ‘trophy parts’. If a hunter retains all edible portions of an animal along with horns, antlers or the hide, is that defined as trophy hunting? The fact is trophy hunting does not exist for grizzly bears because Wildlife Biologists establish how many bears should be harvested in any given area based on science. These harvest quotas are established to create healthy ecosystems and benefit all species and habitats.

These changes were made without consulting stakeholders, and your only background research into this decision seems to be a misguided poll where the NDP Government used emotionally charged rhetoric to bias the results. I would hope the Government puts more thought into how they manage complex ecosystem interactions than that. Wildlife management is not a political issue, nor should decisions revolving around wildlife management be determined by emotions, or your proposed compassionate wildlife management policies.

I demand that the development of policies and regulations pertaining to wildlife management are established through scientific-based decision-making. This process must include stakeholder consultation, scientific management of wildlife and sustainable policies.

Sincerely,