

Thank you for stepping up to meet with your elected official. In-person meetings hold some serious weight in the political game, and we thank you for this dedication. The aim of the GEC is to get 87 different MLAs raising our, and your- concerns in the Legislature.

Below are some talking points that you can use to craft your messaging with your MLA.

Remember you do not have to be an expert in wildlife management- they are not biologists. If you can speak confidently, and with passion- you will have their attention.

They will take notes (or their assistant) and will listen to your concerns. It is up to you to follow up to make sure that they not only listened but have heard you.

The key with politicians is to continue to stay on them. Most concerns brought to them are by people with a one-time meeting, and then it goes by the wayside.

If you stay on them, they will listen and bring your concerns forward into the Legislature and possibly into Question period.

We can change policy. We have done it before.

*A meeting with an elected official should encompass a few points that are key.*

Intro "I am a constituent and a voter in your riding"

Body " I am here because \_\_\_\_\_"

Solution " I feel you need to \_\_\_\_\_"

Close and follow up "Thank you for listening to my concerns- when can I expect to hear back?"

You might get 30 minutes at best to raise these points below, so please be concise- and you can and should take notes to bring to the Government Engagement Committee to ensure follow up.

*These first two are keys. Please make sure to mention them.*

I am a constituent of your riding.

I am a voter in your riding.

*Body*

I believe in these points- and they are my own (please ad lib a bit on these points within)

I am a member of the Wild Sheep Society of BC.

I am passionate about wildlife, habitat and all that encompasses it.

Hunters contribute over \$320 million a year into the economy in BC.

Hunters donate tens of thousands of volunteer time into conservation projects in BC every year.

We are concerned that hunting will be closed due to emotional pressure and social management.

The priority for hunters is conservation- no one would argue if science dictated a closure. We would fully support sound scientific decisions. We do not want extinction or extirpation of any species.

Harvesting across all species is proven by science to be the best thing for wildlife to allow it to thrive.

If this ban on hunting is allowed to pass, Guide Outfitters, taxidermists, meat processors and countless other communities will again face catastrophic loss as with the grizzly bear hunt closure.

Wildlife and habitat is woefully underfunded in BC- it has not seen a meaningful increase in over 45+ years.

Offer a solution

Science and evidence need to dictate wildlife policy in BC.

Wildlife and habitat needs more funding.

Close

Thank them for their time.

Give them a timeline for follow up and offer to meet them again.

“Thanks for your time, I appreciate you listening to my concerns. Is two weeks enough time to expect a follow up from you? I will be in contact around then”

Then follow up on these timelines.

Keep in mind that an elected official works for you, and you can question them (politely) and expect responses in a timely manner.