

My thoughts about wildlife and habitat conservation throughout the province.

- Meaningful and lasting reconciliation with Indigenous peoples and the implementation of the UNDRIP should be central to government policies and programs.
- A broader range of stakeholders must be involved in wildlife management and habitat conservation decisions. To date this has largely taken place behind closed doors and with select parties, but moving forward it must be open, transparent and more inclusive.
- A new wildlife and habitat conservation strategy should move past the current model, which relies heavily on the outdated and hunter-centric North American Model of Wildlife Conservation. A renewed strategy should be science-based, as well as ecologically and ethically-informed.
- The government must work proactively to protect wildlife and habitat in order to prevent wildlife from becoming a species at risk. Proactive measures should include:
 - ending the practice of old-growth logging and open-net fish farming
 - deactivating and restoring unused forest service roads and addressing overall road density and habitat connectivity
 - transitioning away from unsustainable resource extraction projects and embracing more sustainable alternatives
 - implementing a compassionate conservation model of wildlife management and species at risk legislation
 - ending the practice of predator culling, which fails to address the root causes of species decline and is not supported by science or public sentiment.
- Wildlife and habitat protections must be a government priority, not an after-thought. Projects should be evaluated at the ecosystem level in order to truly see the cumulative impact of all projects in any given area.
- Priorities for reducing wildlife-human conflicts should include increased public education, stronger enforcement and increased fines for problematic behaviour.