

To: Honourable Doug Donaldson, Minister of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development; Honourable George Heyman, Minister of Environment and Climate Change Strategy; and Mayor Linda Hepner, Surrey, BC
cc Scott Barrett, Director, Resource Management; Ian Blackburn, Resource Manager; Joshua Malt, Section Head, Terrestrial Wildlife Resources; Brent Gurd, Senior Wildlife Biologist; Jack Evans, Wildlife Biologist; Joel Gillis, Ecosystem Specialist; BC Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development, Surrey, BC

Statement of Support for Bald Eagle Nests in the Lower Mainland

August 17 2018

The Croydon Drive Bald Eagle Nest in Surrey, illegally destroyed in July 2018, must be the last Bald Eagle nest tree ever again cut down in B.C. without adequate mitigation plans.

As citizens with a deep concern for British Columbia's wildlife, we wish to register our strong support for the full protection of Bald Eagles in our province. These magnificent birds have rebounded from near extinction in North America within the last few decades, and are now flourishing in the Lower Mainland. We support their protection at all stages of their life cycle. There are currently 79 nesting territories in Delta, the highest number of any city in the world, and 43 in Surrey. We support their presence in our communities and are opposed to their nest trees being destroyed, a protection measure outlined within the BC Wildlife Act.

We furthermore wish to state our support for the proactive mitigation proposal by the B.C. Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations and the City of Surrey following the loss of the active Bald Eagle nest at Croydon Drive, Surrey. This proposal includes (a) the immediate preservation of the lands and trees surrounding the old Bald Eagle nest (under City of Surrey Bylaws), and (b) the erection of a pole and nest to be in place by September 10 so that the eagles returning from their northern migration see an alternative nesting site ready and waiting.

We are also in support of the enforcement of the BC Provincial Wildlife Act to the full extent of the law, which states that Bald Eagle nests are protected for all 12 months of the year, including the imposition of maximum financial penalties on offenders.

Yours sincerely,

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Nature Canada: Ted Cheskey, Naturalist Director, tcheskey@naturecanada.ca

BC Nature: Alan Burger, President www.bcnature.ca

Nature Vancouver: Bev Ramey www.naturevancouver.ca

Delta Naturalists Society: Tom Bearss <https://dnclb.wordpress.com>

White Rock and Surrey Naturalists: Liz Walker swalker3@shaw.ca

Friends of Semiahmoo Bay Society: Margaret Cuthbert www.birdsonthebay.ca

Semiahmoo Fish and Game Club/Little Campbell Hatchery: Bob Donnelly, President,
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Langley Field Naturalists: Bob Puls, Conservation Chair, www.langleyfieldnaturalists@shaw.ca

Langley Environmental Partners Society: Tracy Stobbe, Chair www.leps.bc.ca

Little Campbell Watershed Society: David Riley www.littlecampbellriver.org

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