



Outdoor CAUCUS

The BC Outdoor Caucus is pleased to welcome a new member, Ron Cantelon, MLA for Nanaimo-Parksville. An enthusiastic supporter of the outdoors, Ron sees the value in working with his local hunting, angling, trapping and outdoor recreation community. The Nanaimo and District Fish and Game Protective Association is particularly active in Vancouver Island's vast outdoors and Ron recently had a good discussion with them that led to his decision to join forces with his Outdoor Caucus colleagues.

Consistent with its non-partisan principles, the Outdoor Caucus now includes the following members and continues to be open to both sides of the Legislature:

Chair Bill Bennett (BC Liberal MLA, East Kootenay and Chair of the Legislature's Finance Committee)
www.billbennettmla.bc.ca

Ron Cantelon, (BC Liberal MLA, Nanaimo-Parksville and Chair of the Legislature's Children & Youth Committee)
www.roncantonmla.bc.ca

Al Horning (BC Liberal MLA, Kelowna Lake Country)
www.alhorningmla.bc.ca

Blair Lekstrom (BC Liberal MLA, Peace River South and Parliamentary Secretary for Rural Development)
www.blairlekstrommla.bc.ca

Dennis MacKay (BC Liberal MLA, Bulkley Valley-Stikine-the largest riding in BC-and Government Deputy Whip)
www.dennismackaymla.bc.ca

John Rustad (BC Liberal MLA, Prince George-Omineca, and Chair of the Government Northern Caucus)
www.johnrustadmla.bc.ca

Ralph Sultan (BC Liberal MLA, West Vancouver-Capilano and Chair of the Steelhead Caucus and Chair of the Legislature's Health Committee) www.ralphsultan.com

As part of our Winter 2008 Update, the Outdoor Caucus is currently working on the following issues:

Aboriginal rights as they impact fish and wildlife. We have arranged for the BC Wildlife Federation, the BC Trappers and the BC Guide Outfitters to come to Victoria for a technical briefing from the ministries of Environment and Aboriginal Relations, and for subsequent face to face meetings with the two ministers. We want to ensure that the bottom line in treaty making, and in other aspects of fish and wildlife management, is conservation. And, we believe that we will all be better off if we understand just what the legal rights of BC Aboriginal peoples are with regard to harvesting fish and wildlife.

Access to lakes on Vancouver Island private land. The BCWF has asked us to help maintain public access to lakes that have been stocked with public resources over the years. Darlene Clark, President, BCWF Vancouver Island Region, has been very helpful in assisting us with attempting to find out just what is possible, given the site's private land status.

Hunting changes in the Atlin area. BC hunters are very upset by proposed changes to regulations governing moose, caribou, and sheep in the Atlin area. We are in touch with the Minister of Environment on this challenging file and MLA Dennis MacKay, whose constituency includes Atlin, is leading our work.