



British Columbia Chapter
410 – 698 Seymour St
Vancouver, BC
V6B 3K6

Ph: (604) 685 7445
Fax: (604) 629-8532
info@cpawsbc.org
www.cpawsbc.org

News Release

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25 environmental organizations urge Premier Campbell to strike adaptation committee

Vancouver – CPAWS-BC, along with 24 other environmental organizations, sent Premier Gordon Campbell a letter today, urging him to establish a Premier’s Advisory Committee on Adaptation to Climate Change.

This new committee should focus on adaptation efforts to protect B.C. lands, freshwaters and ocean through the profound impacts of climate change. A new committee is needed because the premier’s existing Climate Action Secretariat only deals with emissions reduction.

“It’s not enough to reduce greenhouse gases,” says Chloe O’Loughlin, executive director of the Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society, B.C. chapter. “We need adaptation plans to help our creatures and plants survive as the province warms. Our species will shift habitats, spread up mountains and move north and south. We have to help them adapt or we will lose them. We must prevent this looming tragedy.”

The new Premier’s Advisory Committee on Adaptation to Climate Change should address both marine and terrestrial habitats in British Columbia.

“Gordon Campbell has taken a good first step towards climate change. Looking at ways to reduce emissions (mitigation) is important. But it’s only half the battle,” says O’Loughlin. “The other half of the battle is protecting our province’s biodiversity through these troubled times (adaptation). Premier Campbell needs to help the species that can’t help themselves. He needs to protect our functioning ecosystems. If he doesn’t, we will all pay the price.”

Contact:

Chloe O’Loughlin
Executive Director, CPAWS-BC
604-685-7445, ext. 23

Carrie West
Communications Coordinator, CPAWS-BC
604-685-7445, ext. 22