



**Association of Professional Biology**  
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Mr. George Heyman  
BC Minister of Environment and Climate Change Strategy  
642 W Broadway, Vancouver, V5Z 1G1  
[env.minister@gov.bc.ca](mailto:env.minister@gov.bc.ca)

2 October 2017

Dear Mr. Heyman

Thank you for your letter and invitation to work together! This is an exciting opportunity for the APB and we look forward to working toward implementing your priorities. In particular, a climate action strategy, professional reliance, and provincial species at risk legislation are topics very much in the interests of our membership. It is within our mandate to advocate for sound science in management of natural resources to facilitate professional biology practice.

The APB has been working these past months to enter a joint venture with other professional associations at producing a proposal on climate change adaptation. Using an expertise-based or sectoral working group approach (e.g. forestry, oil and gas) the main objective is to develop guidelines that will support and empower professionals to deal with the challenges of climate change adaptation and mitigation.

Professional reliance is critical to transparency in management practices and is necessary for accountability in all sectors of natural resource management. Whereas the College of Applied Biology is mandated to hold members accountable for their practices of resource management to the public, the Association of Professional Biology is mandated to support professional membership with the tools for best management practices.

The federal Species At Risk Act is currently the only piece of legislation in place directing critical habitat for individual species on crown land. Provincial legislation would facilitate local enforcement of critical habitat management and retention, as well as clarify and prioritize best management practices pertaining to critical habitat in a timely manner. With only federal legislation protecting individual species with reliance through indirect provincial legislation, practicing biologists often do not have clear guidelines to direct management and mitigation at a local project level.

On behalf of our members, the APB is looking forward to becoming involved with government to develop legislation and guidelines that directly affect our professional practice. We look forward to hearing from you and begin working together toward improved professional practices in British Columbia.

Sincerely,

Astrid M. van Woudenberg, MSc, RPBio  
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