



# ***North Peace Rod and Gun Club***

Phone: (250) 785-9686  
P.O. Box 6435, Fort St. John, BC V1J 4H8

## **Can You Rely On Your BC Government?**

### **Is the government giving away your right to hunt, fish, hike, snowmobile and otherwise recreate in the backcountry?**

The North Peace Rod and Gun Club is hosting a town hall meeting at the Pomeroy Hotel on Saturday, March 12, 2016 at 7 PM.

Information session and questions and answers from elected officials.

#### **Background**

The BC Government is failing to be transparent, to consult, to manage and conserve BC's wildlife. The BC Government will not guarantee to preserve existing access to the backcountry.

#### **Lack of Transparency**

The BC Government negotiates agreements with First Nations — land titles and wildlife management are part of these agreements. In our region, Treaty 8 has the right to negotiate these agreements. Compensation for Site C is a recent impetus for negotiations with First Nations.

Elected officials, for the most part, were unaware of parcels of land that have been identified by government and flagged as being of interest to First Nations. This looks like Government Without Representation — how can our elected officials look after our interests if they are not informed?

#### **First Nations Land Entitlement**

We have recently learned that the BC government has identified many parcels of land in the Peace Country as being of interest for possible allocation to First Nations. Transferring the title of some of these parcels of land could impact access to the backcountry should existing access roads and trails not be preserved. The BC government has not consulted the public in regards to the loss of public access to BC's backcountry.

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## **Moose Management Plan**

The BC Government, in conjunction with local First Nations, is developing a moose management plan for the Peace-Liard region. Other stakeholders have not been consulted at this time. In the Peace, and other parts of the province, the first step in moose management has been to take away opportunities for licenced hunters and to transfer them to First Nations.

What we need is a moose **recovery** plan — a plan to make more moose. Our idea of a moose recovery plan is not a divisive plan that takes from one group and allocates to another. We feel that a moose recovery plan is a plan that involves consultation with all stakeholders. The plan is properly funded. A moose recovery plan also includes comprehensive ongoing inventory work, goals and objectives for wildlife and habitat restoration, target numbers for moose and predator populations, access management, and remediation of the cumulative effects of high road density, resource extraction, and lack of burning.

The North Peace Rod and Gun Club and the BCWF have a long history of working with government and First Nations on wildlife and habitat management — we would like to see this continue.

## **Land Disturbance in the Muskwa-Kechika**

Two Komatsu dozers were taken in behind the privately owned ranch at Pink Mountain along the trail in the Upper Halfway Valley that leads to Robb Lake. The dozers were used to upgrade the trail, to clear access corridors and to prepare what look like multiple cabin sites. Much of this activity has occurred within the Muskwa-Kechika Management Area and has not been permitted by government. The Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations, and the Conservation Officer Service have been in the Halfway River Valley to document the land disturbance and there is an ongoing investigation.

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