



ARCS: 292- 30  
File: MOE-2014-00027

May 1, 2014

Sent via email: NDP.FOI@leg.bc.ca

Lindsay Walton  
New Democrat Caucus  
Victoria BC V8V 1X4

Dear Lindsay Walton:

**Re: Request for Access to Records**  
***Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (FOIPPA)***

I am writing further to your request received by the Ministry of Environment. Your request is for:

*The following specific records relating to Revelstoke's loss of its only Conservation Officer, currently the region's only Conservation Officer, to Golden: The review of the deployment of officers in the Columbia Kootenay region mentioned by Environment Minister Mary Polak in her letter to the editor in the Revelstoke Times Review on January 9, 2014; Letters from stakeholders including members of the public, organizations, elected officials or other levels of government expressing concern about the loss of the Conservation Officer position in Revelstoke and/or asking for the Ministry to restore a Conservation Officer placement in Revelstoke and/or to increase the number of Conservation Officers in the region; All other records which address the region's Conservation Officer position moving from Revelstoke to Golden. Date range is July 1, 2013 to [January 14, 2014].*

Please find enclosed a copy of the records located in response to your request. Some information has been withheld pursuant to sections 13 (Policy advice or recommendations), 15 (Disclosure harmful to law enforcement), 17 (Disclosure harmful to the financial or economic interests of a public body), and 22 (Disclosure harmful to personal privacy) of FOIPPA. A complete copy of FOIPPA is available online at:

[http://www.bclaws.ca/civix/document/id/complete/statreg/96165\\_00](http://www.bclaws.ca/civix/document/id/complete/statreg/96165_00)

.../2

Please note some information in the records is marked 'not responsive' as it does not respond to the wording and/or the date range of your request. Your file is now closed.

The Ministry has determined that these records will not be published on the BC Government's Open Information website. To find out more about Open Information, please access the Open Information website at: <http://www.openinfo.gov.bc.ca/ibc/index.page>

If you have any questions regarding your request, please contact Marion Ashton, the analyst assigned to your request, at 250 356-5847. This number can be reached toll-free by calling from Vancouver, 604-660-2421, or from elsewhere in BC, 1-800-663-7867 and asking to be transferred to 250 356-5847.

You have the right to ask the Information and Privacy Commissioner to review this decision. I have enclosed information on the review and complaint process.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Kris Ghag', is positioned above the typed name.

Kris Ghag, Manager  
Resource Team  
Information Access Operations

Enclosures

How to Request a Review with the  
Office of the Information and Privacy Commissioner

If you have any questions regarding your request please contact the analyst assigned to your file. The analyst's name and telephone number are listed in the attached letter.

Pursuant to section 52 of the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act* (FOIPPA), you may ask the Office of the Information and Privacy Commissioner to review any decision, act, or failure to act with regard to your request under FOIPPA.

**Please note that you have 30 business days to file your review with the Office of the Information and Privacy Commissioner. In order to request a review please write to:**

Information and Privacy Commissioner  
PO Box 9038 Stn Prov Govt  
4th Floor, 947 Fort Street  
Victoria BC V8W 9A4  
Telephone 250-387-5629      Fax 250-387-1696

If you request a review, please provide the Commissioner's Office with:

1. A copy of your original request;
2. A copy of our response; and
3. The reasons or grounds upon which you are requesting the review.



Revelstoke Bear Aware Society

P.O. Box 674  
Revelstoke, BC V0E 2S0  
(250) 837-8624  
beaware@telus.net

www.revelstokebearaware.org

*Cos HQ*

**MINISTER'S OFFICE – RECEIVED**  
**MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT**

JAN 02 2014

Min Reply    Reply Direct    DM Reply    Info/File

Send Interim    Redirect to \_\_\_\_\_

cc. \_\_\_\_\_

CLIFF# \_\_\_\_\_

Ministry of Environment  
Correspondence Unit

JAN 13 2014

Minister M. Polak  
PO Box 9047  
Stn. Prov. Govt.  
Victoria, BC  
V8W 9E2

December 18, 2013

Dear Ms. Polak,

The Conservation Officer for Revelstoke s.22 has formally notified Bear Aware of his impending retirement s.22, and we understand that a decision as to whether he will be replaced has not yet been made. Revelstoke Bear Aware has worked closely with s.22 who has sat as an agency member on the Revelstoke Bear Aware board for many years and has provided invaluable help and support to the program. We urge your Ministry and the Conservation Officer Service to replace s.22 with two Conservation Officers stationed in Revelstoke.

Revelstoke is situated in prime black bear and grizzly bear habitat and we regularly have bears of both species coming into town. The purpose of Revelstoke Bear Aware Society is to prevent conflict between humans and bears through education and the management of bear attractants. Our community works hard to prevent conflict with the local bear population, but inevitably some conflict does occur. In these cases a Conservation Officer must make critical decisions to ensure both human safety and the best option for the bear. Over the last few years Revelstoke has had an average of around 150 (and some years up to 220) bear sightings reported per season, many of which result in a call out for the Conservation Officer. An average of 7 bears are destroyed here every year. In a town with as many bears as Revelstoke, Conservation Officers who are trained specifically in dealing with wildlife conflicts are an essential part of our community.

Over the past few years our Conservation Officer has also had duties as a Zone Supervisor and has had to travel out of town on a regular basis, leaving Revelstoke with no Conservation Officer at all on many days. In these situations an out of town officer may be called and due to our distance from other towns this can lead to a delay of several hours. On several occasions the Conservation Officer has been out of town or off duty when urgent action is required. This has put added pressure on the busy local RCMP who have had to step in.

The recent and very public destruction of a black bear by the RCMP is a case in point. This bear had not begun its hibernation, probably due to lack of body fat reserves, and was becoming habituated and conditioned to human food. The Conservation Officer was out of town and the RCMP, whose officers have little or no wildlife conflict training, had to respond to a very difficult situation in which the destruction of the bear appeared to the public to be less humane than would have been the case had a Conservation Officer been in town that day.

Revelstoke Bear Aware would also like to suggest that our remoteness from other towns with Conservation Officers (1.5 hours drive) means that the single officer here has had little backup when needed, and that having two officers stationed here in Revelstoke would likely contribute to officer safety.

Revelstoke Bear Aware urges your Ministry and the Conservation Officer Service to assign two Conservation Officers to Revelstoke in the future.

Kind Regards,



Sue Davies

**Community Coordinator  
Revelstoke Bear Aware**



# Revelstoke Rod & Gun Club

P.O. BOX 653, REVELSTOKE, BRITISH COLUMBIA V0E 2S0



Honourable Mary Polack  
Minister of Environment  
PO Box 9047 Stn Prov Govt  
Rm 247, Parliament Buildings  
Victoria BC  
V8W9E2  
CANADA  
[ENV.Minister@gov.bc.ca](mailto:ENV.Minister@gov.bc.ca)

COS-HLL

**MINISTER'S OFFICE – RECEIVED**  
**MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT**

**DEC 30 2013**

Min Reply    Reply Direct    Div Reply    Info/Fir

Send Interim    Redirect to \_\_\_\_\_

cc. \_\_\_\_\_

CLIFF# \_\_\_\_\_

Xref 172194

10 December 2013

Re: Conservation Officer for Revelstoke

Dear Minister:

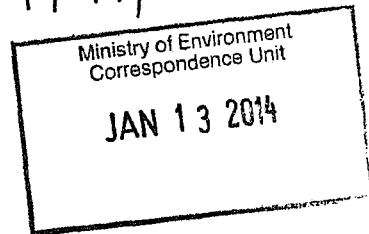
The community of Revelstoke requests that a permanent field operational C.O. be assigned to this area to ensure compliance and enforcement of the environmental laws of BC. We are aware that the incumbent CO will be retiring soon.

Two years ago the local C.O. was assigned to supervisory duties and spent the vast majority of time travelling and dealing with administrative needs of staff in a number of other communities. Within this time period Revelstoke no longer has timely, effective enforcement as complaints are now dealt with by staff from Golden.

A single investigation requires over three hours of highway travel, sometimes overnight stays, and associated costs of travel. A recent incident in our community resulted in the RCMP having to deal with and dispatch a black bear as the CO was not available to attend. With all due respect to the RCMP, while we believe their action was appropriate given the situation that arose, this type of encounter is not their responsibility and they have not been trained in wildlife management.

We believe this ineffective system of management has caused the escalation of complaints and lack of successful resolve over the past fishing and hunting seasons.

We are aware of flagrant disregard for hunting regulations, poaching, and trapping infractions that are occurring with minimal success in investigations or convictions. We are aware of flagrant infractions such as: fishing immediately below the Mica Dam, fishing above the Bigmouth River cut-off zone line, fishing in the Columbia above the



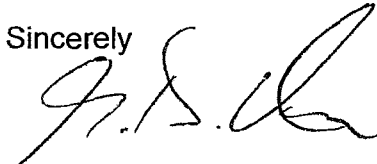
Trans-Canada Bridge in Revelstoke, as well as other fishing/hunting regulation infractions. In canvassing our Rod & Gun Club members and the public, there is no effective presence in the field by COs for deterrence or investigation of incidents on our local lakes or in the forest.

We again request that a field Conservation Officer be assigned to Revelstoke on a permanent basis to put an end to these ongoing and intentional infractions. We need a full time CO that is able to provide a presence in the field, in the forest and on the water; for enforcement and compliance of the Regulations as well as to deal with emergency situations as described in the black bear encounter noted above.

We would like to suggest the following options to alleviate the current situations: The supervisory duties of the Conservation Officers should be located in an office that has two conservation officers so that one is always available to address complaints. Also, that the supervisory office be located in Revelstoke because of its remoteness to other offices, and the inability to call upon these other offices in a timely manner when two officers are required.

Thank you for addressing this serious deficiency in the enforcement of the Wildlife Act and Regulations.

Sincerely



Gary Krestinsky  
President  
Revelstoke Rod & Gun Club

Cc – Norm MacDonald- MLA

- Mayor and Council – Revelstoke
- Regional Director – CSRD Area B
- Bear Aware
- C.O. Service – Revelstoke
- WKO
- BC Hydro Mica Creek Attention: Ms. Judy Bennett Town-site Manager
- BC Hydro Revelstoke
- Mr. John Krebs
- Mr. Paul Rasmussen



## Revelstoke Rod & Gun Club

PO. BOX 653, REVELSTOKE, BRITISH COLUMBIA V0E 2S0



Honourable Mary Polak  
Minister of Environment  
PO Box 9047  
Stn Prov Govt  
Victoria BC  
V8W 9E2  
[env.minister@gov.bc.ca](mailto:env.minister@gov.bc.ca)

10 December 2013

Dear Minister Polak,

RE – Conservation Officer Service in Revelstoke

It has been brought to our attention that our local Conservation Officer will be retiring soon and that a decision has yet to be made on the replacement of this position.

Revelstoke is remote to other locations where Conservation Officers are located and providing this environmental function in a timely manner is important to the enforcement needs of this area. Officers from other communities are required to travel over 2 hours to respond. This response time typically limits the ability of the officers to be effective in their enforcement role.

Of particular concern for us is the rapidly escalating poaching of both fish and wildlife in this area. Without a local officer these activities will become more common and could create the loss of some important populations of fish and wildlife.

We ask that you assign a field based Conservation Officer to Revelstoke after the retirement of the existing supervisory officer.

Thank you for your continued support for conservation.

Yours Truly

Matt Angus  
Chair – Land and Wildlife Committee.

cc. Norm MacDonald – MLA – [norm.macdonald.mla@leg.bc.ca](mailto:norm.macdonald.mla@leg.bc.ca)  
Loni Parker – Director - CSRD [lparker@csrd.bc.ca](mailto:lparker@csrd.bc.ca)  
Dave Raven – Mayor – Revelstoke [david.raven@revelstoke.ca](mailto:david.raven@revelstoke.ca)



## Jonker, Jennifer B ENV:EX

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**From:** Minister, ENV ENV:EX  
**Sent:** Monday, December 30, 2013 2:48 PM  
**To:** Correspondence Unit ENV:EX  
**Subject:** FW: Letter from the MLA Norm Macdonald  
**Attachments:** 20131220115311.pdf

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

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**From:** Orr, Joy [<mailto:Joy.Orr@leg.bc.ca>]  
**Sent:** Friday, December 20, 2013 12:02 PM  
**To:** Minister, ENV ENV:EX  
**Cc:** [lparker@csrd.bc.ca](mailto:lparker@csrd.bc.ca); [david.raven@revelstoke.ca](mailto:david.raven@revelstoke.ca)  
**Subject:** Letter from the MLA Norm Macdonald

Attached please find a letter from MLA Norm Macdonald.

Best of the season,

Joy Orr  
Constituency Assistant to  
Norm Macdonald MLA  
Columbia River – Revelstoke  
1 866 870 4188

December 20, 2013

Hon. Mary Polak  
Minister of Environment  
PO Box 9047 STN PROV GOVT  
Victoria BC V8W 9E2

By email: [ENV.minister@gov.bc.ca](mailto:ENV.minister@gov.bc.ca)

### **RE: Conservation Officer Services in Revelstoke**

Dear Minister Polak:

I am deeply concerned to learn that with the retirement of Revelstoke's conservation officer no commitment has yet been made to replace him. I believe that it is imperative that a conservation officer be stationed in Revelstoke.

The remote location of Revelstoke and the difficulty travelling to Revelstoke from other communities eliminates the possibility of this area being served from a neighbouring location.

Golden's conservation officers were removed for a period of time and we were promised that we would be served by a conservation officer in Invermere, 90 minutes south. It soon became clear that this was not possible. The workload on the staff, and the distance to travel, made enforcement in the Golden area extremely difficult.

I also note the specific concerns raised by the Revelstoke Rod & Gun Club concerning escalating incidents of poaching in the area. I have attached a copy of a letter from the Revelstoke Rod & Gun Club dated December 10, 2013 for your convenience.

The ministry must meet its responsibility to manage fish, wildlife and public lands by committing to replace Revelstoke's conservation officer.

Yours sincerely,



Norm Macdonald MLA  
Columbia River – Revelstoke

Encl:

Distribution List:

Matt Angus, Chair, Land and Wildlife Committee, Revelstoke Rod & Gun Club  
Mayor Dave Raven and Council, City of Revelstoke  
Loni Parker, Director, Columbia Shuswap Regional District



Province of  
British Columbia  
Legislative Assembly

**Constituency Office:**  
104 - 806 - 9th Street North  
Box 2052  
Golden, BC V0A 1H0

**Norm Macdonald, MLA**  
Columbia River - Revelstoke

Telephone: 250 344-4816  
Facsimile: 250 344-4815  
Toll-Free: 1 866 870-4188

December 20, 2013

Hon. Mary Polak  
Minister of Environment  
PO Box 9047 STN PROV GOVT  
Victoria BC V8W 9E2

By email: [ENV.minister@gov.bc.ca](mailto:ENV.minister@gov.bc.ca)

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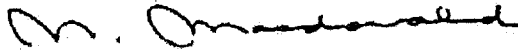
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Yours sincerely,



Norm Macdonald MLA  
Columbia River – Revelstoke

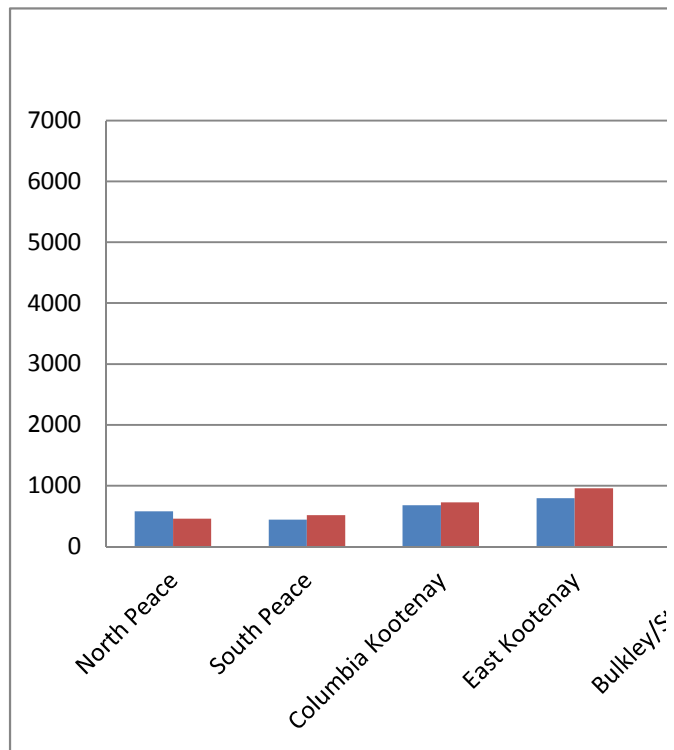
Encl:

Distribution List:

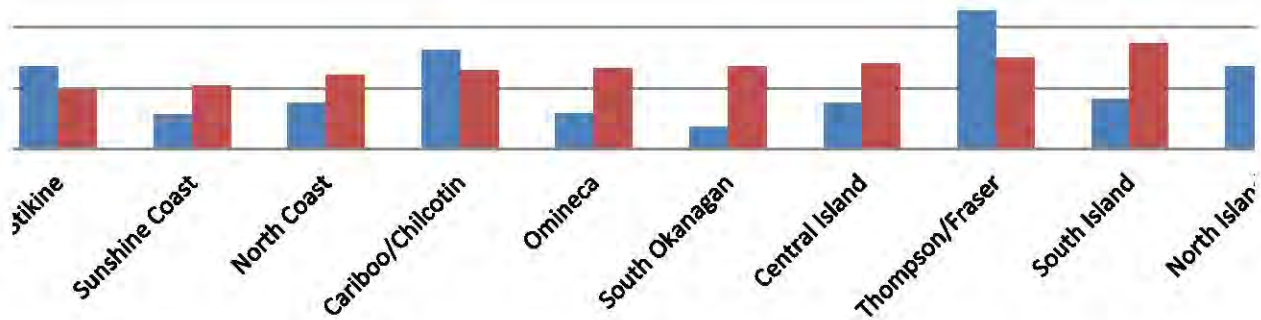
Matt Angus, Chair, Land and Wildlife Committee, Revelstoke Rod & Gun Club  
Mayor Dave Raven and Council, City of Revelstoke  
Loni Parker, Director, Columbia Shuswap Regional District

2011-2012 (see Conflict Stats 2011-12) - from outcome report (officer time spent 1 + Officer time spent 2)

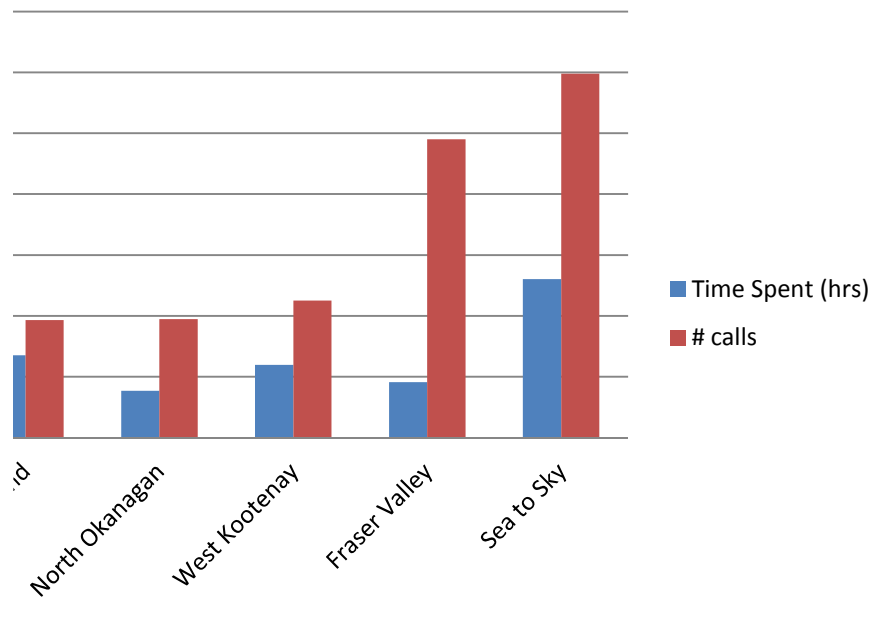
Zone	Time Spent	# calls
North Peace	581.75	457
South Peace	443	518
Columbia Kootenay	680.675	727
East Kootenay	797.3	957
Bulkley/Stikine	1352.55	960
Sunshine Coast	561.17	1037
North Coast	759.89	1208
Cariboo/Chilcotin	1624.65	1292
Omineca	584.225	1331
South Okanagan	370.13	1365
Central Island	754.04	1397
Thompson/Fraser	2268.84	1499
South Island	825.35	1730
North Island	1352.67	1931
North Okanagan	770.1	1944
West Kootenay	1195.561	2252
Fraser Valley	911.25	4902
Sea to Sky	2604.7	5979



## Number of Wildlife Conflict Calls and Time Spent per Zone (



## 2011-12)



**From:** [Leslie, Barb ENV:EX](#)  
**To:** [Jmieff, Danielle ENV:EX](#); [Forsdick, Doug O ENV:EX](#);  
**Subject:** columbia-Kootenay zone stats  
**Date:** Monday, January 13, 2014 1:41:29 PM  
**Attachments:** [Doc1.docx](#)

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Calls for service based on ECC stats taken today Jan 13, 2014 for the Columbia-Kootenay zone and broken down by office location.



Pages 14 through 17 redacted for the following reasons:



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s.13

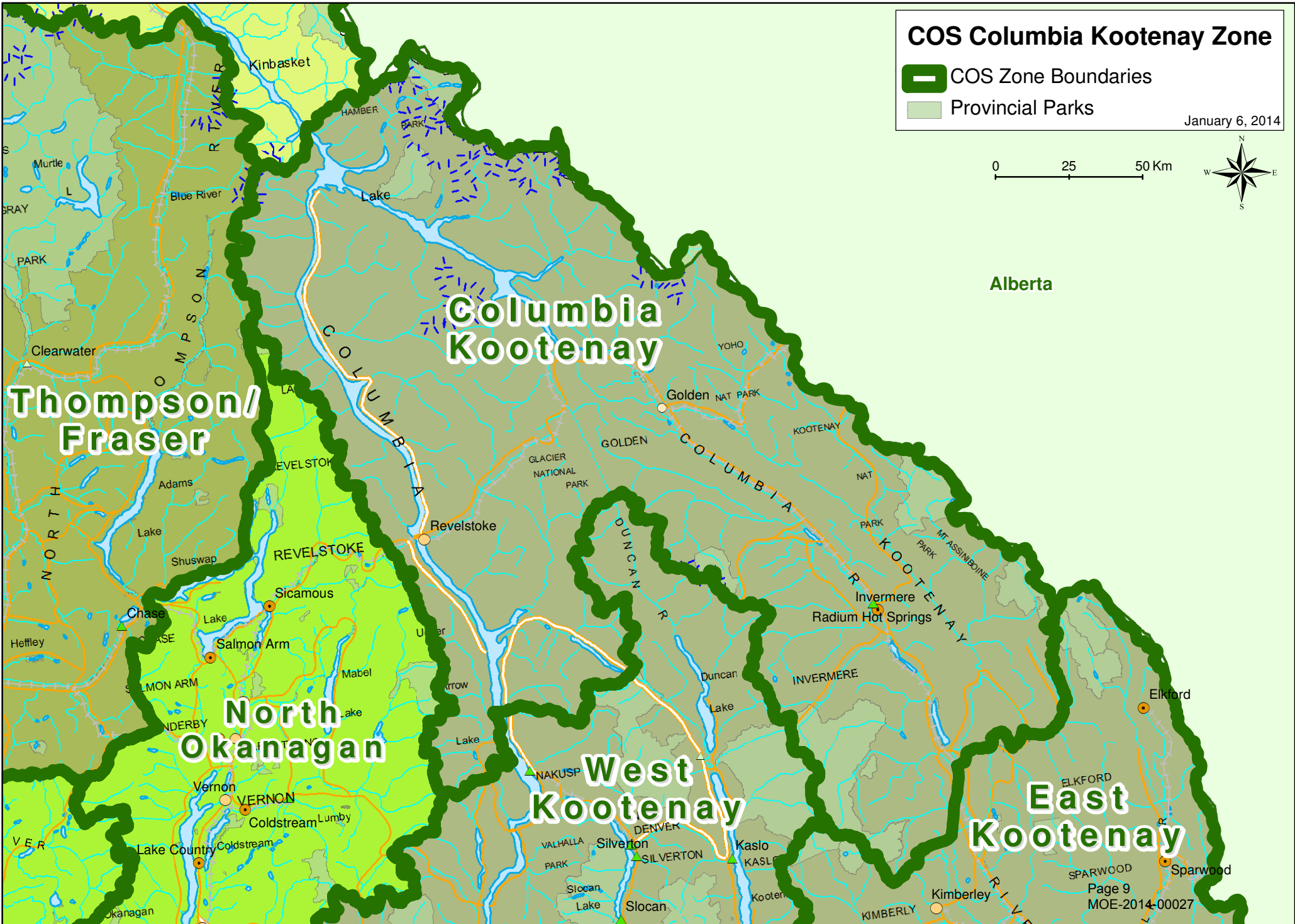
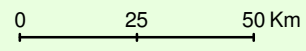
s.13, s.15, s.17

s.13, s.15, s17

# COS Columbia Kootenay Zone

-  COS Zone Boundaries
-  Provincial Parks

January 6, 2014



**Thompson/  
Fraser**

**Columbia  
Kootenay**

**North  
Okanagan**

**West  
Kootenay**

**East  
Kootenay**

Alberta

Columbia-Kootenay Zone

PWOR	April 1 2013 to Jan 13, 2014	2012/2013	2011/2012
Zone	600	579	633
Revelstoke (Sgt)	43	75	155
Golden (one field officer)	173	182	146
Invermere (two field officers)	384	325	332
ERS			
Zone	98	123	113
Revelstoke (Sgt)	28	26	35
Golden (one field officer)	25	44	35
Invermere (two field officers)	50	53	43

**From:** [Forsdick, Doug O ENV:EX](#)  
**To:** [Jmieff, Danielle ENV:EX](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Comms plans etc, for Revelstoke and Princeton  
**Date:** Tuesday, November 19, 2013 3:33:09 PM  
**Attachments:**

s.13

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Sorry Danielle

I thought you received these, my mistake

D

**C. Supt. Doug Forsdick**  
Provincial Operations  
BC Conservation Officer Service  
Phone: 1-250-567-8929

---

**From:** Larkin, Kelly ENV:EX  
**Sent:** Wednesday, November 6, 2013 2:22 PM  
**To:** Halls, Lori D ENV:EX  
**Cc:** Forsdick, Doug O ENV:EX; Airey, David ENV:EX; Anctil, Tim ENV:EX; Leslie, Barb ENV:EX  
**Subject:** Comms plans etc, for Revelstoke and Princeton  
**Importance:** High

Lori,

Comm Plans, IN and draft letters attached for both Revelstoke and Princeton.

Kelly

**Kelly Larkin, Chief Conservation Officer**  
BC Ministry of Environment  
PO Box 9376, Stn Govt, Victoria, BC V8W 9M5  
250.356.9234 | [kelly.larkin@gov.bc.ca](mailto:kelly.larkin@gov.bc.ca) | [www.env.gov.bc.ca/cos/](http://www.env.gov.bc.ca/cos/)

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**From:** Jmieff, Danielle ENV:EX  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 7, 2014 2:46 PM  
**To:** Forsdick, Doug O ENV:EX  
**Subject:** FW: FOR APPROVAL: IN COS staffing Revelstoke  
**Importance:** High

GCPE has decided to do up an Issues Note on moving the position from Revelstoke. They've used pre-approved messaging so it should be a quick read. Thanks!

**Deadline: 4:30 TODAY** (so I can get it to Kelly and Lori before tomorrow's 9am deadline)

**Danielle Jmieff, Division Issues Manager**

BC Parks and Conservation Officer Service | Ministry of Environment  
M (250) 818-4877 | O (250) 387-3979

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**From:** Franklin, Kimberley GCPE:EX  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 7, 2014 2:36 PM  
**To:** Jmieff, Danielle ENV:EX  
**Cc:** Murphy, Bernadette GCPE:EX  
**Subject:** FOR APPROVAL: IN COS staffing Revelstoke

Hi Danielle,

Please find attached an IN on COS staffing in the Columbia Kootenay zone. Messaging has come from the pre-approved LTE and media responses. Sorry for the tight turn around but looking to get this back by 9am tomorrow morning.

Thanks!  
Kim

**Kim Franklin**

Government Communications & Public Engagement  
Ministry of Environment  
**Tel:** 250 953.3698 | **Mobile:** 250 886.0830

**From:** [Karn, David GCPE:EX](#)  
**To:** [Jmieff, Danielle ENV:EX](#);  
**cc:** [Franklin, Kimberley GCPE:EX](#); [Murphy, Bernadette GCPE:EX](#);  
**Subject:** FW: Letter to the Editor  
**Date:** Monday, January 6, 2014 8:43:46 AM

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Danielle, this remains outstanding.

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**From:** Revelstoke Times Review Editor [mailto:editor@revelstoketimesreview.com]  
**Sent:** January-03-14 3:29 PM  
**To:** Karn, David GCPE:EX  
**Subject:** Re: Letter to the Editor

David

Any word on this request?

Aaron Orlando  
Editor, [Revelstoke Times Review](#)  
mobile phone/text: 250-814-8710  
office: 250-837-4667  
email: [editor@revelstoketimesreview.com](mailto:editor@revelstoketimesreview.com)  
Twitter: [@Aaron\\_\\_Orlando](#)

On 2013-12-23, at 3:21 PM, Karn, David GCPE:EX wrote:

Aaron, with a number of people away I won't be able get you a fulsome answer until after the holidays – Jan 6<sup>th</sup>. I will endeavor in the interim to provide some response. Thanks

dkarn

---

**From:** Revelstoke Times Review Editor [<mailto:editor@revelstoketimesreview.com>]  
**Sent:** December-23-13 1:00 PM  
**To:** Karn, David GCPE:EX  
**Subject:** Re: Letter to the Editor

David

I have some follow up questions:

- To confirm, there will be no COS staff based in Revelstoke?
- Has local and regional government been informed of this change? When were they informed?
- Have the RCMP been informed of this change? When were they informed?
- This change shifts the duty of dealing with urgent bear calls to the RCMP. Does the COS plan to work with the RCMP on plans and procedures for dealing with problem bears?
- Have stakeholders such as Revelstoke Bear Aware and the Revelstoke Rod & Gun Club been informed? When were they informed?
- Please provide a map of the area covered by the regional conservation service. I am interested in finding out the geographic boundaries of the services.
- What is the total number of conservation staff covering this area?
- Stakeholders such as the Revelstoke Rod & Gun Club have complained of ongoing poaching in the Revelstoke area due to lack of adequate COS service here, due partially to the current CO's managerial duties requiring him to be out of town. How does the ministry plan to deal with this poaching situation? How will the staffing alignment improve the situation?
- Will the COS service maintain an office in Revelstoke?
- Has the MLA for the region been informed? When was he made aware?

David, it's likely you won't have these answers before Christmas. Can you provide an estimated timeline? Also, can you provide any answers you can now up front?

Aaron Orlando  
Editor, [Revelstoke Times Review](#)



mobile phone/text: 250-814-8710  
office: 250-837-4667  
email: [editor@revelstoketimesreview.com](mailto:editor@revelstoketimesreview.com)  
Twitter: [@Aaron\\_\\_Orlando](https://twitter.com/Aaron__Orlando)

On 2013-12-23, at 10:05 AM, Karn, David GCPE:EX wrote:

Please indicate receipt of this attached letter to the Editor. Thank you.

<LE\_RevelstokeTimesReview\_COS\_Dec23\_10am.pdf>

**From:** [Forsdick, Doug O ENV:EX](#)  
**To:** [Leslie, Barb ENV:EX;](#)  
**cc:** [Olsen, Rod ENV:EX; Jmieff, Danielle ENV:EX;](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Numbers for Revelstoke CO  
**Date:** Monday, January 13, 2014 12:34:41 PM

---

Barb

Would you be able to work on this for Danielle. I know this is Rod's half of the Kootenays but he is over taxed this week.

Thanks

D

---

**From:** Jmieff, Danielle ENV:EX  
**Sent:** Monday, January 13, 2014 11:12 AM  
**To:** Forsdick, Doug O ENV:EX  
**Subject:** Numbers for Revelstoke CO

s.13

Call if this needs further clarification. Thanks.

**Danielle Jmieff, Division Issues Manager**  
BC Parks and Conservation Officer Service | Ministry of Environment  
M (250) 818-4877 | O (250) 387-3979

Page 27 redacted for the following reason:

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s.13

**Poaching, wildlife conflicts result when Conservation Officer staffing inadequate**

Revelstoke Times Review

Tuesday, December 17, 2013

Page 1

Editor,

An open letter to Hon. **Mary Polak**, B.C. Minister of Environment

The community of Revelstoke requests that a permanent field operational Conservation Officer (CO) be assigned to this area to ensure compliance and enforcement of the environmental laws of B.C. We are aware that the incumbent C.O. will be retiring soon. This is the third written request that our club has made to the ministry in two years, with no action by the ministry.

Two years ago the local C.O. was assigned to supervisory duties and spent the vast majority of time travelling and dealing with administrative needs of staff in a number of other communities. Within this time period Revelstoke no longer has timely, effective enforcement as complaints are now dealt with by staff from Golden.

A single investigation requires over three hours of highway travel, sometimes overnight stays, and associated costs of travel. A recent incident in our community resulted in the RCMP having to deal with and dispatch a black bear as the C.O. was not available to attend. With all due respect to the RCMP, while we believe their action was appropriate given the situation that arose, this type of encounter is not their responsibility and they have not been trained in wildlife management.

We believe this ineffective system of management has caused the escalation of complaints and lack of successful resolve over the past fishing and hunting seasons.

We are aware of flagrant disregard for hunting regulations, poaching, and trapping infractions that are occurring with minimal success in investigations or convictions.

We are aware of flagrant infractions such as: fishing immediately below the Mica Dam, fishing above the Bigmouth River cut-off zone line, fishing in the Columbia above the Trans-Canada Bridge in Revelstoke, as well as other fishing regulation infractions. In canvassing our Rod & Gun Club members and the public, there is no effective presence in the field by C.O.s for

deterrence or investigation of incidents on our local lakes or in the forest.

We again request that a field Conservation Officer be assigned to Revelstoke on a permanent basis to put an end to these ongoing and intentional infractions. We need a full time C.O. that is able to provide a presence in the field, in the forest and on the water; for enforcement and compliance of the regulations as well as to deal with emergency situations as described in the black bear encounter noted above.

We would like to suggest the following options to alleviate the current situations:

The supervisory duties of the Conservation Officers should be located in an office that has two conservation officers so that one is always available to address complaints. Also, that the supervisory office be located in Revelstoke because of its remoteness to other offices, and the inability to call upon these other offices in a timely manner when two officers are required.

Thank you for addressing this serious deficiency in the enforcement of the Wildlife Act and Regulations.

Gary Krestinsky

President,

Revelstoke Rod & Gun Club

Lori Halls

Assistant Deputy Minister

BC Parks and Conservation Officer Service

5<sup>th</sup> Floor, 2975 Jutland Road, Victoria

Phone (250)387-6177

Fax (250)953-3414

Email: [lori.d.halls@gov.bc.ca](mailto:lori.d.halls@gov.bc.ca)

Pages 30 through 32 redacted for the following reasons:

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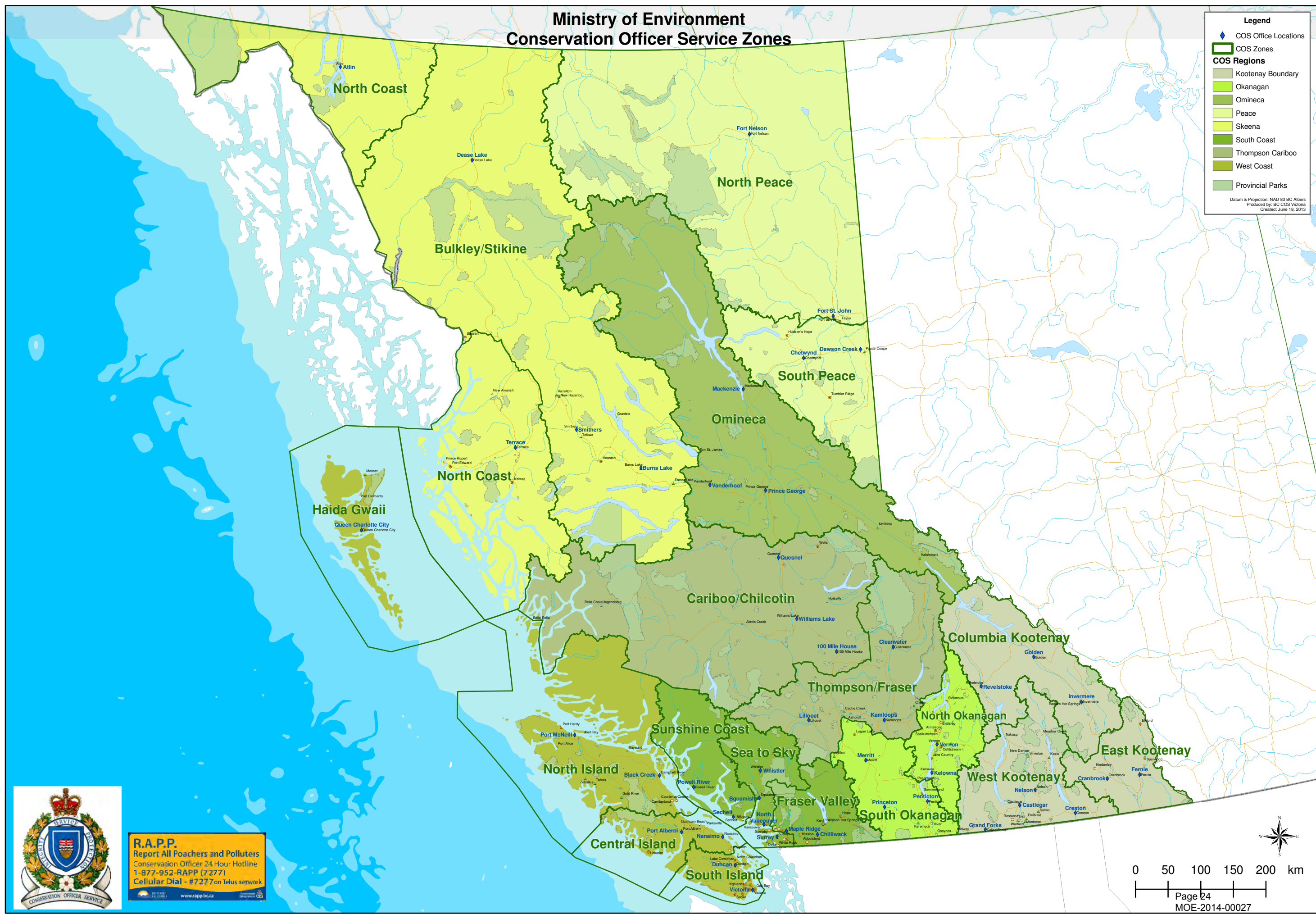
s.13

# Ministry of Environment Conservation Officer Service Zones

**Legend**

- ◆ COS Office Locations
- COS Zones
- COS Regions**
- Kootenay Boundary
- Okanagan
- Omineca
- Peace
- Skeena
- South Coast
- Thompson Cariboo
- West Coast
- Provincial Parks

Datum & Projection: NAD 83 BC Albers  
Produced by: BC COS Victoria  
Created: June 18, 2013



**R.A.P.P.**  
Report All Poachers and Polluters  
Conservation Officer 24 Hour Hotline  
1-877-952-RAPP (7277)  
Cellular Dial - #7277 on Telus network  
[www.rapp.bc.ca](http://www.rapp.bc.ca)

0 50 100 150 200 km

Page 24  
MOE-2014-00027

Page 34 redacted for the following reason:

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Today's calls

Not Responsive

Not Responsive

Not Responsive

Pages 38 through 39 redacted for the following reasons:

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Not Responsive

Pages 41 through 42 redacted for the following reasons:

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Not Responsive  
s.13

s.13

Not Responsive

Pages 44 through 49 redacted for the following reasons:

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Not Responsive



**From:** [Karn, David GCPE:EX](#)  
**To:** [Abbott, Rob ENV:EX](#); [Brouwer, Shauna CSNR:EX](#); [Caul, Doug D EAO:EX](#); [Cotton, Brian GCPE:EX](#); [Crebo, David GCPE:EX](#); [Dalal, Suntanu GCPE:EX](#); [Dale, Alec R ENV:EX](#); [Danks, Anthony ENV:EX](#); [Day, Kristin ENV:EX](#); [Doyle, Chris J ENV:EX](#); [Forsdick, Doug O ENV:EX](#); [Franklin, Kimberley GCPE:EX](#); [Ginter, Jeff ENV:EX](#); [Glover, Hannah GCPE:EX](#); [Halls, Lori D ENV:EX](#); [Hancock, Tom ENV:EX](#); [Hitchcock, Gord ENV:EX](#); [Jackson, Vickie ENV:EX](#); [Jmieff, Danielle ENV:EX](#); [Kapac de Frias, Martina E ENV:EX](#); [Karn, David GCPE:EX](#); [Kennedy, Karla EAO:EX](#); [Kriwoken, Lynn ENV:EX](#); [Larkin, Kelly ENV:EX](#); [Leake, Greg EAO:EX](#); [Lesiuk, Tim ENV:EX](#); [Leslie, Barb ENV:EX](#); [Lilly, Liz ENV:EX](#); [Lord, Michael CSNR:EX](#); [Lowe, Sonia GCPE:EX](#); [Mack, James ENV:EX](#); [McGuire, Jennifer ENV:EX](#); [Melderis, Martin W ENV:EX](#); [Mentzelopoulos, Athana GCPE:EX](#); [Mitschke, Matt ENV:EX](#); [Moreau, Denise ENV:EX](#); [Murphy, Bernadette GCPE:EX](#); [Nicoll, Sara ENV:EX](#); [Olsen, Rod ENV:EX](#); [Polak, Mary ENV:EX](#); [Poss, Angie ENV:EX](#); [Ranson, David ENV:EX](#); [Shepherd, Michael L FIN:EX](#); [Shoemaker, Wes ENV:EX](#); [Speed, Brittney EAO:EX](#); [Tsang, Diana CSNR:EX](#); [van Marum, Karen GCPE:EX](#); [Zacharias, Mark ENV:EX](#)  
**Subject:** Media Report for Tuesday, January 14, 2014  
**Date:** Tuesday, January 14, 2014 4:50:49 PM

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## Media Report for Tuesday, January 14, 2014

Not Responsive

Not Responsive

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Not Responsive

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Pages 55 through 87 redacted for the following reasons:

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Not Responsive  
s.13

s.13

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**From:** Revelstoke Times Review Editor [<mailto:editor@revelstoketimesreview.com>]  
**Sent:** December-11-13 1:33 PM  
**To:** Karn, David GCPE:EX  
**Subject:** Re: Ministry of Environment

David,

OK, but my deadline is tomorrow at noon. I've collected input from stakeholders here on their views on CO service levels and will proceed with

the story.

Aaron Orlando  
Editor, [Revelstoke Times Review](#)  
mobile phone/text: 250-814-8710  
office: 250-837-4667  
email: [editor@revelstoketimesreview.com](mailto:editor@revelstoketimesreview.com)  
Twitter: [@Aaron\\_Orlando](#)

On 2013-12-11, at 1:30 PM, Karn, David GCPE:EX wrote:

Aaron, I cannot provide a definitive time. Your patience is appreciated.

dkarn

---

**From:** Revelstoke Times Review Editor [<mailto:editor@revelstoketimesreview.com>]  
**Sent:** December-11-13 1:26 PM  
**To:** Karn, David GCPE:EX  
**Subject:** Re: Ministry of Environment

David

When are you able to respond to this request?

Aaron Orlando  
Editor, [Revelstoke Times Review](#)  
mobile phone/text: 250-814-8710  
office: 250-837-4667  
email: [editor@revelstoketimesreview.com](mailto:editor@revelstoketimesreview.com)  
Twitter: [@Aaron\\_Orlando](#)



On 2013-12-10, at 12:20 PM, Karn, David GCPE:EX wrote:

Aaron, this request is still underway but may not meet your deadline. Thanks for your patience.

David Karn  
Media Relations  
Ministry of Environment  
250-953-3834 M 250-213-3760

**From:** [Dalal, Suntanu GCPE:EX](#)  
**To:** [Karn, David GCPE:EX](#); [Jmieff, Danielle ENV:EX](#);  
**Subject:** RE: Revelstoke Times  
**Date:** Tuesday, December 10, 2013 10:00:47 AM

---

But the comments are interesting.

---

**From:** Karn, David GCPE:EX  
**Sent:** December-10-13 9:53 AM  
**To:** Jmieff, Danielle ENV:EX  
**Cc:** GCPE Communications - Environment  
**Subject:** RE: Revelstoke Times

On second look it is in today's clips.

---

**From:** Jmieff, Danielle ENV:EX  
**Sent:** December-10-13 9:47 AM  
**To:** Karn, David GCPE:EX  
**Subject:** Revelstoke Times

<http://www.revelstoketimesreview.com/news/235093691.html>

**Danielle Jmieff, Division Issues Manager**  
BC Parks and Conservation Officer Service | Ministry of Environment  
M (250) 818-4877 | O (250) 387-3979

Page 92 redacted for the following reason:

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s.13



**From:** [Forsdick, Doug O ENV:EX](#)  
**To:** [Jmieff, Danielle ENV:EX](#)  
**cc:** [Larkin, Kelly ENV:EX](#); [Airey, David ENV:EX](#)  
**Subject:** RE: UPDATE: Revelstoke Position  
**Date:** Friday, December 13, 2013 1:44:41 PM

---

Just on a conf call

Left two messages but see a missed call from Revelstoke that I will call back right after this call

D

**C. Supt. Doug Forsdick**

Provincial Operations  
BC Conservation Officer Service  
Phone: 1-250-567-8929

---

**From:** Jmieff, Danielle ENV:EX  
**Sent:** Friday, December 13, 2013 1:41 PM  
**To:** Forsdick, Doug O ENV:EX  
**Cc:** Larkin, Kelly ENV:EX; Airey, David ENV:EX  
**Subject:** RE: UPDATE: Revelstoke Position  
**Importance:** High

Doug – Do you have an update on where the comms plan is at with Revelstoke stakeholders. I need to be able to give GCPE a timeframe of when the Ministry will be able to comment on this. The reporter is still asking – even though his initial deadline has passed.

**Danielle Jmieff, Division Issues Manager**

BC Parks and Conservation Officer Service | Ministry of Environment  
M (250) 818-4877 | O (250) 387-3979

---

**From:** Forsdick, Doug O ENV:EX  
**Sent:** Thursday, December 12, 2013 8:10 AM  
**To:** Jmieff, Danielle ENV:EX  
**Cc:** Larkin, Kelly ENV:EX; Airey, David ENV:EX; Forsdick, Doug O ENV:EX; Halls, Lori D ENV:EX  
**Subject:** RE: UPDATE: Revelstoke Position

I will begin the communications with local government this morning and provide

an update once that is done.

Doug

**C. Supt. Doug Forsdick**

Provincial Operations  
BC Conservation Officer Service  
Phone: 1-250-567-8929

---

**From:** Jmieff, Danielle ENV:EX  
**Sent:** Wednesday, December 11, 2013 4:52 PM  
**To:** Forsdick, Doug O ENV:EX  
**Cc:** Larkin, Kelly ENV:EX; Airey, David ENV:EX  
**Subject:** UPDATE: Revelstoke Position  
**Importance:** High

Doug and COS Exec,

Lori just heard back from the Minister's office and Minister Bennett is supportive of moving the position in Revelstoke. Please implement the comms plan immediately as this is already being speculated in the media and we need stakeholders to hear it from us.

Let me know if I can support you in any way.

Thanks.

**Danielle Jmieff, Division Issues Manager**

BC Parks and Conservation Officer Service | Ministry of Environment  
M (250) 818-4877 | O (250) 387-3979

Pages 96 through 98 redacted for the following reasons:

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s.13

**From:** [Halls, Lori D ENV:EX](#)  
**To:** [Forsdick, Doug O ENV:EX](#);  
**cc:** [Larkin, Kelly ENV:EX](#); [Jmieff, Danielle ENV:EX](#);  
**Subject:** Rod and Gun Club letter  
**Date:** Wednesday, December 18, 2013 7:53:59 AM

---

Doug

s.13

## **Poaching, wildlife conflicts result when Conservation Officer staffing inadequate**

Revelstoke Times Review

Tuesday, December 17, 2013

Page 1

Editor,

An open letter to Hon. **Mary Polak**, B.C. Minister of Environment

The community of Revelstoke requests that a permanent field operational Conservation Officer (CO) be assigned to this area to ensure compliance and enforcement of the environmental laws of B.C. We are aware that the incumbent C.O. will be retiring soon. This is the third written request that our club has made to the ministry in two years, with no action by the ministry.

Two years ago the local C.O. was assigned to supervisory duties and spent the vast majority of time travelling and dealing with administrative needs of staff in a number of other communities. Within this time period Revelstoke no longer has timely, effective enforcement as complaints are now dealt with by staff from Golden.

A single investigation requires over three hours of highway travel, sometimes overnight stays, and associated costs of travel. A recent incident in our community resulted in the RCMP having to deal with and dispatch a black bear as the C.O. was not available to attend. With all due respect to the RCMP, while we believe their action was appropriate given the situation that arose, this type of encounter is not their responsibility and they have not been trained in wildlife management.



We believe this ineffective system of management has caused the escalation of complaints and lack of successful resolve over the past fishing and hunting seasons.

We are aware of flagrant disregard for hunting regulations, poaching, and trapping infractions that are occurring with minimal success in investigations or convictions.

We are aware of flagrant infractions such as: fishing immediately below the Mica Dam, fishing above the Bigmouth River cut-off zone line, fishing in the Columbia above the Trans-Canada Bridge in Revelstoke, as well as other fishing regulation infractions. In canvassing our Rod & Gun Club members and the public, there is no effective presence in the field by C.O.s for deterrence or investigation of incidents on our local lakes or in the forest.

We again request that a field Conservation Officer be assigned to Revelstoke on a permanent basis to put an end to these ongoing and intentional infractions. We need a full time C.O. that is able to provide a presence in the field, in the forest and on the water; for enforcement and compliance of the regulations as well as to deal with emergency situations as described in the black bear encounter noted above.

We would like to suggest the following options to alleviate the current situations:

The supervisory duties of the Conservation Officers should be located in an office that has two conservation officers so that one is always available to address complaints. Also, that the supervisory office be located in Revelstoke because of its remoteness to other offices, and the inability to call upon these other offices in a timely manner when two officers are required.

Thank you for addressing this serious deficiency in the enforcement of the Wildlife Act and Regulations.

Gary Krestinsky

President,

Revelstoke Rod & Gun Club

Lori Halls

Assistant Deputy Minister

BC Parks and Conservation Officer Service

5<sup>th</sup> Floor, 2975 Jutland Road, Victoria

Phone (250)387-6177

Email: lori.d.halls@gov.bc.ca

Pages 102 through 107 redacted for the following reasons:

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s.13, s.16

Page 109 redacted for the following reason:

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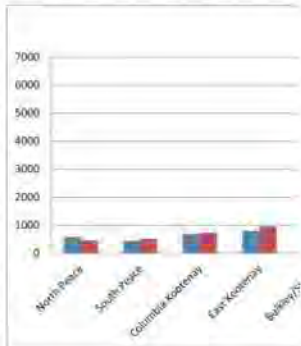


Pages 111 through 112 redacted for the following reasons:

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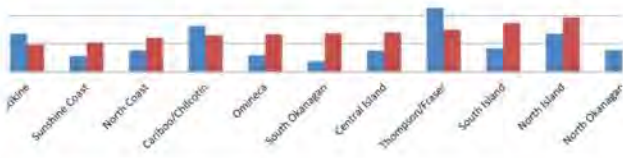
2011-2012 (see Conflict Stats 2011-12) - from outcome report (officer time spent 1 + Officer time spent 2)

Zone	Time Spent	# calls
North Peace	581.75	457
South Peace	443	518
Columbia Kootenay	680.675	727
East Kootenay	797.3	957
Bulkley/Stikine	1352.55	960
Sunshine Coast	561.17	1037
North Coast	759.89	1208
Cariboo/Chilcotin	1624.65	1292
Omineca	584.225	1331
South Okanagan	370.13	1365
Central Island	754.04	1397
Thompson/Fraser	2268.84	1499
South Island	825.35	1730
North Island	1352.67	1931
North Okanagan	770.1	1944
West Kootenay	1195.561	2252
Fraser Valley	911.25	4902
Sea to Sky	2604.7	5979

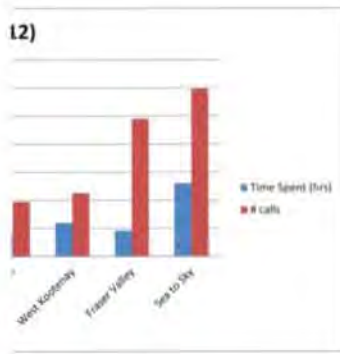




**Number of Wildlife Conflict Calls and Time Spent per Zone (2011-1**



12)



Page 116 redacted for the following reason:


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s.13

## FW: columbia-Kootenay zone stats

Friday, January 31, 2014

2:18 PM

Subject	<b>FW: columbia-Kootenay zone stats</b>
From	Leslie, Barb ENV:EX
To	Singer, Laura C ENV:EX
Sent	Monday, January 27, 2014 1:04 PM
Attachments	 Doc1

**From:** Leslie, Barb ENV:EX

**Sent:** Monday, January 13, 2014 1:41 PM

**To:** Jmieff, Danielle ENV:EX; Forsdick, Doug O ENV:EX

**Subject:** columbia-Kootenay zone stats

Calls for service based on ECC stats taken today Jan 13, 2014 for the Columbia-Kootenay zone and broken down by office location.

Columbia-Kootenay Zone

PWOR	April 2013 to Jan 13, 2014	2012/2013	2011/2012
Zone	600	579	633
Revelstoke (Sgt)	43	75	155
Golden (one field officer)	173	182	146
Invermere (two field officers)	384	325	332
ERS			
Zone	98	123	113
Revelstoke (Sgt)	28	26	35
Golden (one field officer)	25	44	35
Invermere (two field officers)	50	53	43

Pages 119 through 128 redacted for the following reasons:

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s.13

s.13

s.13, s.15

D

Sent from my iPhone

s.13

**From:** Halls, Lori D ENV:EX  
**Sent:** Wednesday, December 18, 2013 7:54 AM  
**To:** Forsdick, Doug O ENV:EX  
**Cc:** Larkin, Kelly ENV:EX; Jmieff, Danielle ENV:EX  
**Subject:** Rod and Gun Club letter

Doug

s.13

**Poaching, wildlife conflicts result when Conservation Officer staffing inadequate**

Revelstoke Times Review

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Page 1

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An open letter to Hon. **Mary Polak**, B.C. Minister of Environment

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Thank you for addressing this serious deficiency in the enforcement of the Wildlife Act and Regulations.

Gary Krestinsky

President,

Revelstoke Rod & Gun Club

Lori Halls

Assistant Deputy Minister

BC Parks and Conservation Officer Service

5<sup>th</sup> Floor, 2975 Jutland Road, Victoria

Phone (250)387-6177


Fax (250)953-3414

Email: [lori.d.halls@gov.bc.ca](mailto:lori.d.halls@gov.bc.ca)



cliff and incoming letter from s.22

Friday, January 31, 2014  
2:21 PM

Subject	<b>cliff and incoming letter from</b> s.22
From	<a href="mailto:Laura.C.Singer@gov.bc.ca">Laura.C.Singer@gov.bc.ca</a>
To	Singer, Laura C ENV:EX
Sent	Friday, January 31, 2014 1:38 PM
Attachments	 2014013113 3801

Pages 132 through 133 redacted for the following reasons:

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s.13  
s.13



Province of  
British Columbia  
Legislative Assembly

Constituency Office:  
101 - 806 - 8th Street North  
Box 2052  
Golden, BC V0A 1H0

Norm Macdonald, MLA  
Columbia River - Revelstoke

Telephone: 250-344-4810  
Facsimile: 250-344-4815  
Toll-Free: 1-800-870-4108

December 20, 2013

Hon. Mary Polak  
Minister of Environment  
PO Box 9047 STN PROV GOVT  
Victoria BC V8W 9E2

By email: [ENV.minister@gov.bc.ca](mailto:ENV.minister@gov.bc.ca)

**RE: Conservation Officer Services in Revelstoke**

Dear Minister Polak:

I am deeply concerned to learn that with the retirement of Revelstoke's conservation officer no commitment has yet been made to replace him. I believe that it is imperative that a conservation officer be stationed in Revelstoke.

The remote location of Revelstoke and the difficulty travelling to Revelstoke from other communities eliminates the possibility of this area being served from a neighbouring location.

Golden's conservation officers were removed for a period of time and we were promised that we would be served by a conservation officer in Invermere, 90 minutes south. It soon became clear that this was not possible. The workload on the staff, and the distance to travel, made enforcement in the Golden area extremely difficult.

I also note the specific concerns raised by the Revelstoke Rod & Gun Club concerning escalating incidents of poaching in the area. I have attached a copy of a letter from the Revelstoke Rod & Gun Club dated December 10, 2013 for your convenience.



The ministry must meet its responsibility to manage fish, wildlife and public lands by committing to replace Revelstoke's conservation officer.

Yours sincerely,



Norm Macdonald MLA  
Columbia River – Revelstoke


Encl:

Distribution List:

Matt Angus, Chair, Land and Wildlife Committee, Revelstoke Rod & Gun Club  
Mayor Dave Raven and Council, City of Revelstoke  
Loni Parker, Director, Columbia Shuswap Regional District

# Itr from Matt Angus Dec 10/13

Friday, January 31, 2014  
2:22 PM

Subject	<b>Itr from Matt Angus Dec 10/13</b>
From	<a href="mailto:Laura.C.Singer@gov.bc.ca">Laura.C.Singer@gov.bc.ca</a>
To	Singer, Laura C ENV:EX
Sent	Friday, January 31, 2014 1:36 PM
Attachments	 2014013113 3610



**Revelstoke Rod & Gun Club**  
P.O. BOX 653, REVELSTOKE, BRITISH COLUMBIA V0E 2S0



Honourable Mary Polak  
Minister of Environment  
PO Box 9047  
Stn Prov Govt  
Victoria BC  
V8W 9E2  
[env.minister@gov.bc.ca](mailto:env.minister@gov.bc.ca)

10 December 2013

Dear Minister Polak,

RE – Conservation Officer Service in Revelstoke

It has been brought to our attention that our local Conservation Officer will be retiring soon and that a decision has yet to be made on the replacement of this position.

Revelstoke is remote to other locations where Conservation Officers are located and providing this environmental function in a timely manner is important to the enforcement needs of this area. Officers from other communities are required to travel over 2 hours to respond. This response time typically limits the ability of the officers to be effective in their enforcement role.

Of particular concern for us is the rapidly escalating poaching of both fish and wildlife in this area. Without a local officer these activities will become more common and could create the loss of some important populations of fish and wildlife.

We ask that you assign a field based Conservation Officer to Revelstoke after the retirement of the existing supervisory officer.

Thank you for your continued support for conservation.

Yours Truly

Matt Angus  
Chair – Land and Wildlife Committee.

cc. Norm MacDonald – MLA – [norm.macdonald.mla@leg.bc.ca](mailto:norm.macdonald.mla@leg.bc.ca)  
Loni Parker – Director – CSRD [lparker@csrd.bc.ca](mailto:lparker@csrd.bc.ca)  
Dave Raven – Mayor – Revelstoke [david.raven@revelstoke.ca](mailto:david.raven@revelstoke.ca)

Pages 138 through 140 redacted for the following reasons:

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s.13

# letter of agreement

Friday, January 31, 2014

2:26 PM

Subject	<b>letter of agreement</b>
From	<a href="mailto:Laura.C.Singer@gov.bc.ca">Laura.C.Singer@gov.bc.ca</a>
To	Singer, Laura C ENV:EX
Sent	Friday, January 31, 2014 1:33 PM
Attachments	 2014013113 3253



**LETTER OF AGREEMENT**

**BETWEEN**

**HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN IN RIGHT OF THE  
PROVINCE OF BRITISH COLUMBIA AS  
REPRESENTED BY THE CHIEF CONSERVATION  
OFFICER OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT**



**AND**

**REGIONAL DISTRICT OF EAST KOOTENAY (RDEK)**

**RESPECTING**

**ACCESS MANAGEMENT COMPLIANCE AND  
ENFORCEMENT PROGRAM (AMCEP)**

## LETTER OF AGREEMENT

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Pages 144 through 152 redacted for the following reasons:

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S. 15, S.16

# 198888 in

Friday, January 31, 2014  
2:26 PM

Subject	<b>198888 in</b>
From	<a href="mailto:Laura.C.Singer@gov.bc.ca">Laura.C.Singer@gov.bc.ca</a>
To	Singer, Laura C ENV:EX
Sent	Friday, January 31, 2014 1:32 PM
Attachments	 2014013113 3225

Pages 154 through 168 redacted for the following reasons:

- 
- s.13
  - s.13
  - s.13, s.15
  - s.13, s.15, s.16
  - s.13, s.15, s.16

**From:** [Forsdick, Doug O ENV:EX](#)  
**To:** [Olsen, Rod ENV:EX; Leslie, Barb ENV:EX;](#)  
**Subject:** Revelstoke  
**Date:** Thursday, December 12, 2013 6:36:13 AM

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Rod / Barb

Lori has approved the notifications related to revelstoke

I know you have enough on your plate Rod so I can start on that today as per the communication plan

I will give you an update later today

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Sent from my iPhone

Pages 170 through 171 redacted for the following reasons:

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s.13