



The Canadian Section **THE WILDLIFE SOCIETY**

5410 Grosvenor Lane • Bethesda, MD 20814-2144
Tel: (301) 897-9770 • Fax: (301) 530-2471
E-mail: tw@wildlife.org

17 July 2011

The Right Hon. Stephen J. Harper, P.C., M.P.
Prime Minister of Canada
Langevin Block
80 Wellington Street
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A2

Dear Prime Minister Harper,

The Wildlife Society applauds your recent plan (4 April 2011) to create a new hunting and wildlife advisory panel comprised of representatives from hunting, fishing, and conservation organizations in Canada. In your announcement, you expressed the desire for the panel to “be comprised of representatives from various hunting, angling, and conservation organizations, like Ducks Unlimited, to ensure government decisions regarding issues like endangered species, wetland protection and nature conservation are based on solid science and balanced advice.” We applaud this initiative and believe the Canadian Section of The Wildlife Society can provide you with expertise and advice to meet your goals.

The Wildlife Society (TWS) was founded in 1937 and is a non-profit scientific and educational association of over 10,000 professional wildlife biologists and managers dedicated to excellence in wildlife stewardship through science and education, including more than 500 members in five Provincial Chapters and six Student Chapters at colleges and universities across Canada. The mission of TWS is to represent and serve the professional community of scientists, managers, educators, technicians, planners, and others who work actively to study, manage, and conserve wildlife and its habitats worldwide.

Our members are employed by government organizations, non-government organizations, industry, professional consultants, and universities. We work to ensure that wildlife and their habitats are conserved through management actions that take into careful consideration relevant scientific information. Many of these professional biologists and managers are world-renowned experts in conservation and wildlife habitat management, including wetland conservation and endangered species, and actively work to maintain our strong hunting heritage through upholding the principles of the North American Model of Wildlife Conservation.

As you move ahead with your proposal, we strongly encourage you to consider representation of The Wildlife Society on your new hunting and wildlife advisory panel. Because of our broad, cross-sector membership, our professional members have the depth of scientific knowledge and management experience to work cooperatively with diverse hunting, angling, and conservation organizations. To gain a better perspective on our organization and our position on hunting and wildlife conservation, we have included copies of our official position statements on *The Use of Science in Policy and Management Decisions*, *The North American Model of Wildlife Conservation*, and *Conserving Biological Diversity*. Additional statements that may be of interest to you and the panel include our positions on watershed management, forest planning, threatened and endangered species, and a host of resources relating to wildlife conservation and management which can all be found on our website (<http://joomla.wildlife.org/>). In addition, we have included two of our most recent publications:

The mission of the Canadian Section of The Wildlife Society is to foster excellence in wildlife stewardship through science and education among wildlife professionals in Canada

1. A technical review of the Public Trust Doctrine (Fall 2010) which explores implications for wildlife management and conservation in the United States and Canada; and
2. The Fall 2010 issue of our member magazine, The Wildlife Professional, which takes a closer look at the fundamental role hunting plays in the success of the North American Model of Wildlife Conservation

You will find that we too share many of the values of Canadians and understand their way of life.

Like you, The Wildlife Society in concert with the Canadian Section of TWS is striving to better serve wildlife and Canadians. We would gladly welcome the opportunity to join you in this endeavour by contributing our expertise and advice as a representative on your proposed hunting and wildlife advisory panel.

Thank you for considering the views of wildlife professionals. If you need additional information, have any questions regarding our organization, or would like assistance in coordinating with the Canadian Section of TWS please contact Terra Rentz, Assistant Director of Government Affairs (terra@wildlife.org, 1-301-897-9770 x309).

Respectfully,

Arthur R. Rodgers, Ph.D.
President
Canadian Section of The Wildlife Society

Thomas J. Ryder, C.W.B.
President
The Wildlife Society

ENCLS: Position Statements: The Use of Science in Policy and Management Decisions, The North American Model of Wildlife Conservation, and Conserving Biological Diversity; The Public Trust Doctrine technical Review; The Wildlife Professional, Fall 2010

The mission of the Canadian Section of The Wildlife Society is to foster excellence in wildlife stewardship through science and education among wildlife professionals in Canada