

## British Columbia Snowmobile Federation - BCSF

December 21, 2018 at 12:00 PM ·

The [British Columbia Snowmobile Federation - BCSF](#) continues to work with the Government of British Columbia towards planned consultation sessions relating to caribou recovery in the South Peace. As some of you know our first dates were cancelled due to circumstances outside our control. Since then the BCSF has been working hard with many levels of Government to ensure that these are rescheduled for early in the New Year. We received the following email today that shows we are being heard and the snowmobile sector is considered an important partner moving forward.

Donegal

I want you to know that we appreciate the support that the BC Snowmobile Federation has provided to the caribou file and your current commitment to discussion in the South Peace. As you are aware the Section 11 and Partnership Agreements have not been finalized. The ministry is committed to engaging with local government, the public and stakeholders, including the recreational snowmobile sector, prior to considering final approval of these plans.

I know that is not adequate commitment for some of your constituents. But as recently as yesterday with Tom Ethier, Russ Laroche and I, and this morning on the phone with staff in the Peace, Deputy Minister John Allen reiterated in no uncertain terms that we are not proceeding to sign off until government has met with local government and stakeholders, notably the snowmobile sector in a series of workshops/open houses.

As the agreements remain under negotiation, we are unable to commit to a firm date for the workshop proposed for the sector in the South Peace. This is a frustration to all involved. The Deputy Minister reiterated a commitment to sessions in the South Peace early in the new year. I hope this helps ease some of the frustration and anxiety felt by your group. I know they would like to hear this message from a higher authority like the DM.

Thank you again for the continued support of the BC Snowmobile Federation and the recreational snowmobile sector for caribou management. You have personally been a calming influence on this file, especially recently, at some personal cost. This effort is recognized and appreciated.

Sincerely

Chris Ritchie

a/Executive Director, Provincial Caribou Recovery Program

Resource Stewardship Division

9th Floor, 727 Fisgard Street, Victoria, BC

Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations & Rural Development