# **Species at Risk**

# **Letters to the Editors**

# **Guideline and Template**

Dear Nature Canada Members:

Letters to Editors are an excellent way to encourage and promote discussion of nature topics you are passionate about. A Letter to the Editor can help create awareness about an important issue and help to influence public opinion.

Publishing a Letter to the Editor is not a simple process. Most editors of publications receive up to 300- 500 letter submissions daily.

You can significantly improve your chances of having your letter published by following these guidelines.

**Letters to the Editor Guidelines**

* A timely letter will be more likely to be chosen for publication. It is best to respond within seven days to a particular article or news event that was published by the newspaper.
* Try to make the letter concrete if you are commenting on a national issue, highlight the national significance and try to link it to a recent event or article that discusses the issue.
* Include a call to action, asking readers to follow up with some activity, such as joining in calling on policymakers to address the issue.
* If you are responding to a community event or issue, your local (community) newspaper is the best publication to submit your letter to.
* Be concise, try to keep letters to fewer than 150 words. Letters may be edited for length and clarity.
* End with a strong, positive statement in support of your case
* Send letters by e-mail and include the contents of the letter in the body of the e-mail message as plain text only. Do not use Microsoft Word format or rich text format (RTF).
* Do not send letters as an attachment.
* Ensure you include your name, address and daytime phone number.

***Species at Risk Protection***

**Letters to the Editor**

**Template:**

*Insert the Name of Media Outlet or Publication*

*Attention: Editor*

*Address*

*City, Postal Code*

Dear Editor:

Re: [*State your reason for writing your letter right at the beginning*. *If you are responding to articles or editorials by the media, use the first sentence to reference the title or topic (such as declining monarch butterflies) of the article, name of the author or source (e.g., Globe and Mail), and the date it was published*. *Example response to articles or editorial introduction.]*

* In your Aug. 14 article [insert article title], columnist [insert name of reporter/columnist] states [insert main point of article].
* It is time for the Trudeau government to deliver on its promises to better protect Canada’s species at risk.
* There is now a backlog of up to five years of 100 of species scientifically declared to be at risk that haven’t yet been legally listed under the *Species at Risk Act*. Here are some of the species that await legal listing and action to protect them

**National:**

* + Barn Swallow
  + Wolverine
  + Nine-spotted Lady Beetle

**British Columbia:**

* + American Badger
  + Grizzly Bear
  + Mountain Caribou

**Prairies:**

* + Plains Bison
  + Western Grebe
  + Prairie Rattlesnake
  + Bobolink

**Ontario and Quebec:**

* + Loggerhead Shrike
  + Tree Swallow
  + Massasauga Rattlesnake

**Atlantic:**

* + Atlantic Cod
  + Beluga
  + Loggerhead Sea turtle
* The government also needs to get caught up in preparing recovery strategies for listed endangered and threatened species—including identification of local critical habitat. The recovery strategies need to be objective and scientifically developed to identify broad strategies to ensure species’ survival and recovery.
* Third, the government needs to better support the work of the Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada (COSEWIC), the scientific advisory committee on species at risk.
* For Canada’s 150th birthday, let’s ask our federal government clear up the backlog of scientifically assessed species at risk not yet declared to be legally at risk.
* Please go to [Nature Canada’s website](http://naturecanada.ca/) to find out more about protecting our precious species at risk and how you can help.

Sincerely,

Signature

Name of Writer