



Pender Harbour and District Wildlife Society
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January 22nd, 2026

The Honourable Randene Neill
Minister of Water, Land and Resources
Parliament Buildings
Victoria, BC V8V 1X4

Dear Minister Neill,

I am writing in my capacity as President of the Pender Harbour and District Wildlife Society (PHDWS). Founded in 1979, the Society is dedicated to promoting wildlife stewardship in the Pender Harbour area and beyond, and to initiating and supporting projects that benefit local flora and fauna.

While we fully support the proposal to ban lead shot for hunting, we believe it does not go far enough. Our primary concern is that the proposal continues to permit the use of lead shot for “target practice, skeet shooting, etc.” In addition, the proposed ban does not include lead bullets — single projectiles fired from rifles or handguns. These activities typically take place outdoors and inevitably result in lead being deposited into the environment, where it can persist for decades and cause serious harm to wildlife and ecosystems.

The impacts of lead ammunition extend well beyond waterfowl. Golden Eagles, Bald Eagles, Turkey Vultures, and other scavenging species die each year after ingesting lead fragments from carcasses. In Pender Harbour, several Golden Eagles nearly died after being poisoned by lead at a local landfill site. Fortunately, they were found while still alive, rescued, and successfully treated at a wildlife rehabilitation centre. They were the lucky ones—many others likely perish unseen.

The proposal itself acknowledges that “most manufacturers have developed non-toxic ammunition that can be used safely in all modern shotguns.” This raises an obvious question: if safe and effective alternatives are readily available, why not prohibit lead ammunition altogether?

Given the availability and proven performance of non-toxic alternatives, PHDWS strongly advocates for a complete ban on lead in all ammunition in British Columbia—including both shotgun shot and bullets used in rifles and handguns—without exemptions. To our knowledge,

California remains the only jurisdiction to have implemented a comprehensive ban on lead ammunition, and in doing so has already addressed the full range of arguments raised by the firearms lobby.

Now is the time for British Columbia to follow California's example. A comprehensive ban on all lead ammunition would significantly reduce toxic contamination, better protect wildlife, and contribute to a healthier environment for all species, including humans.

Respectfully,

Carole Logtenberg
President
Pender Harbour and District Wildlife Society