

## **How to write a BC Nature Resolution**

*By the Resolution Committee*

BC Nature establishes its conservation policies by means of resolutions from the membership. Resolutions pass through a formal process before being brought forward at an Annual General Meeting (AGM) for voting by those in attendance. Resolutions are written in a particular style, explained below, and are always addressed to a relevant federal, provincial, regional or municipal government politician or representative. Previous resolutions cover a wide range of conservation topics and are all listed on the website [www.bcnature.ca](http://www.bcnature.ca). When a resolution has received approval by the membership, a letter stating its passage is sent to the relevant politician, requesting a response on the issue. Resolutions are therefore an important activity of the BC Nature membership and all clubs and members are encouraged to consider submitting one to an AGM.

If you have a conservation issue you are concerned about in your area of B.C. or one of wider relevance to all Canadian citizens, here is some information on preparing a BC Nature resolution.

### **Who can submit a resolution?**

Any BC Nature member or BC Nature club. The name of the person or club proposing the resolution must be written under the title. That person, or a representative of the club, should be in attendance at the AGM to move the resolution and be prepared to speak briefly to its content and answer any questions from the audience. The Resolutions Chair conducts the Resolution part of the meeting and the voting procedures.

### **Timing:**

Resolutions need to be submitted to the BC Nature Resolutions Committee well ahead of the AGM. Three months is typical, to allow for the resolution to be reviewed, circulated to the membership, and printed in the AGM Report.

### **Planning a resolution:**

If a conservation issue is a concern to you or your club, and you think a resolution is needed, please check on the website whether there is already a resolution covering that topic. This would guide you as to whether a new resolution is needed or an update to an existing one. If no resolution already exists, feel free to contact the Resolutions Committee or members of the BC Nature Executive to ask whether your topic is a suitable one for a resolution, or whether it can be dealt with as an ordinary motion at a Directors' meeting or the AGM. Resolutions are intended for conservation topics, while governance policies are the responsibility of Directors. If you are a club member, draft the resolution and ensure that the club votes in approval before submitting it to the BC Nature Resolutions Committee.

### **Writing the resolution: Step 1.**

Resolutions are written in a very particular, conventional way. Since they become official policy for BC Nature, due care and consideration must be given to their wording. The standard form for the construction of all resolutions should be followed. The Resolutions

Committee can help with this if necessary, but it is worth looking at previous resolutions to see what the format should be. Do not try and rush through writing a resolution, as the extra time spent getting the wording correct will help ensure its passage by the membership. If something is ambiguous, unclear, or lacking in facts, it is less likely for the resolution to be passed.

### **Writing the resolution: Step 2.**

A resolution needs the following: A title showing the subject matter; the name of the member or club proposing the resolution; a series of five or six (typically) “Whereas” statements that explain the reason for the core resolution, giving background justifications for the concern, scientific information, and so on; and one or more “Be it resolved” statements that holds the core resolution. This last statement or statements should be addressed to a government decision maker. For example: “Be it moved that BC Nature urge the Prime Minister of Canada to.....”.

### **Writing the resolution: Step 3**

Once the resolution is drafted and approved by your club membership (if coming from a club) it should be submitted to the Resolutions Committee. The sponsoring member or club should also research the names and contact information (address, email and phone number) of the government decision maker(s) to whom the resolution is addressed and enclose them with the resolution. This allows for a quick turnaround after the AGM in sending out letters to the relevant people. The Committee ensures that the resolution is correctly formatted, has the necessary information, and that there are no hindrances to sending it to the membership for voting. The resolution is then sent out from the BC Nature office to the membership, so that everyone can review it. Clubs may choose to have their members do a preliminary vote on the resolution at a club meeting, so as to give guidance to any of their representatives attending the AGM.

### **Final step: voting**

At the AGM, resolutions are announced in order by the Resolutions Chair and each mover is invited to read and move their resolution. A seconder to the motion is requested by the Chair. Discussion follows, moderated by the Chair. A vote is then called, with numbers for, against and abstaining counted if necessary. A motion is passed when a majority vote of 67% or greater is received. A motion may also be tabled, if for example, discussion is proving that there are problems coming to a conclusive vote. The vote is documented in the minutes. Following the AGM, the BC Nature President and Office Manager organize the sending of letters including the resolution to the relevant addressees.

Here is an example of a resolution from 2010 in the correct format:

#### **Resolution 2010-02: Nechako White Sturgeon**

Submitted by June Wood BC Nature representative for Community Working Group, Nechako White Sturgeon Recovery Initiative

WHEREAS the Nechako white sturgeon is unique from all other sturgeon in British Columbia; and

WHEREAS sturgeon are listed as endangered under the federal Species at Risk Act (SARA); and  
WHEREAS the Nechako white sturgeon has the lowest SARA-listed population of all white sturgeon; and

WHEREAS the population of Nechako white sturgeon is estimated to be fewer than 350 mature adults, of which only 150 are females; and

WHEREAS a critical component of the Recovery Plan for the Nechako white sturgeon, due to the critically low gene pool, is the construction of a conservation aquaculture facility (hatchery);

**BE IT RESOLVED** that BC Nature urge the Ministry of Environment to provide the required financing for the timely implementation of the Nechako White Sturgeon Recovery Initiative's Recovery Plan, which includes, but is not limited to, a conservation aquaculture facility; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that BC Nature urge the federal Department of Fisheries and Oceans to provide funding to ensure the implementation of the National Recovery Strategy for white sturgeon, which includes Nechako white sturgeon.

Writing a resolution is a very worthwhile way of participating in the democratic organization of BC Nature and contributing to our society's conservation efforts. While a little complicated, it is not difficult and there are experienced people available to help. Why not consider writing a conservation resolution for our AGM 2014?

Also, we are looking for new members on the Resolutions Committee so please contact me if you would like to help.

Rick Gee - email: [rdgee@shaw.ca](mailto:rdgee@shaw.ca)

BC Nature, Resolutions Chair, 2018