



## PORT COQUITLAM & DISTRICT HUNTING & FISHING CLUB

PO BOX 78051

PORT COQUITLAM BC V3B 7H5

Tel. 604.942.9772

www.pcdhfc.com

# Letter from the President to Members on the AGM 2021

Dear Members, it's with great relief that I am able to write to you all on the occasion of the long awaited Annual General Meeting for the years 2020-2021. Given the extreme stress COVID has placed upon the club, staff, executives and on you and your families, we are happy to once again see so many of you in person at the **AGM on June 5th** so that we can discuss the state of the club and what changes might come in the future.

## COVID

I wish to acknowledge the hard work of our staff and volunteers in navigating the threat of the coronavirus and the various regulations and protocols placed upon our operation that at various times resulted in closures, restrictions and multiple measures that may have impacted your enjoyment of the club. With every new health advisory, the executive convened and considered how to keep our members safe balanced with our need to serve you.

In my opinion, we held the line and stayed the middle path between paranoia and sound medical wisdom. Each of us have had some impact from the pandemic whether it is to our actual health, our jobs or to our social welfare. I acknowledge also that many of you have lost friends and family in these last two years and I hope you will join me in recognizing that loss.

I acknowledge also that our executives - including myself - have had to serve for a longer period than necessary due to the cancellation of our previous AGMs. I am grateful for their efforts and the stress that may have added to their participation. We have come through it and become stronger.

## Challenge to our traditions

Unfortunately, the same cannot be said for our continued traditions of legal gun ownership. In the past two years we have seen a continued degrading of ownership rights. The federal government has used the tragic mass shooting in Nova Scotia to make sweeping prohibitions on firearms we have safely and legally used - counting on the ignorance of the public and disregarding the fact that the perpetrator was not licensed.

It has also become clear that despite the increased bans affecting only licensees, gang-related gun violence continues unabated while mental illness continues to be a scourge on our society. It is clear the government has no answer and efforts by your club leadership - which included [a presentation to the Parliamentary Public Safety Committee earlier this spring](#) - and your own individual efforts at reaching out to our representatives - are having little effect.

On the Provincial level, however, calls to express concern to the BC government over a new bill that ostensibly aimed new restrictions on firearms use by gangsters did appear to gain traction in both the Legislature and [in later statements by the government](#). If you were one of the letter



## PORT COQUITLAM & DISTRICT HUNTING & FISHING CLUB

writers who questioned Bill 4 and its apparent disregard of range shooters and hunters, I thank you for making yourself heard.

On the hunting, fishing and environmental front, we continue to note that our access to the wilderness for hunting continues to be challenged by a multitude of factors, including development, industrial projects, reconciliation with First Nations and outright anti-hunting lobbying. Recreational fishing in various areas continues to be impacted by closures and the long term decline of sport species. Finally, economics is surely making a dent in our ability to enjoy our pastimes which we can see each time we gas up.

### Renewal and club future

In 2019 we reported that we had been given approval by the City of Coquitlam to continue with our lease of the Burke Mountain property. However, at that time we noted pressures of development were likely to increase pressure on the club to cease or at least drastically alter our operations in the future. At this time, we are about to begin another campaign to gain approval by the City which hopefully will buy us some more years. In the meantime, we must look to the question of what happens when the club must completely transform. It will be the task of the next board to push this forward.

### Members-Only status

For the last two years PCDHFC has been a Members and guests only club, allowing non-members to attend when accompanied by a member or when attending a sub-committee event such as Trap & Skeet or matches. Daily we are asked by non-members if we will allow drop-ins. If there is a groundswell of support for returning back to allowing drop-in shooters it is up to the membership to propose a change at the AGM otherwise the new executive may assume the lack of lineups and business at the main range continues to be welcomed.

### Staffing changes

In this last year we welcomed the hiring of a new Office Manager and Range Master. In the office, Wanda Chambers has smoothly taken over from Terry (who retired to the interior) and has, among other reforms, been able to freshen up our T-shirt and hat offerings. You will likely have met Aaron Junglas, our Range Master who joined us late last year who has been responsible for remaking our safety regime and training. If you have not already, please introduce yourselves. Aaron and Wanda were ably supported by Claude Skerry who never fails to continue to amaze us at his resiliency and memory for club operations. We also thank those of you who reached out to Bonnie after her car accident and are thankful she is on the mend.

As always, I give thanks to our Range Officers and Instructors who monitor our range. If you are interested in adding to our safety regime by becoming a Range Officer, we are always welcoming applicants. Please inquire at the office or to the Range Master in person.



## PORT COQUITLAM & DISTRICT HUNTING & FISHING CLUB

### Our AGM

I encourage all of you who wish to influence the next phase of the club to attend our **AGM on June 5th at 10am at the club house**. As I noted above, many of our executives have served beyond their scheduled terms and will be vacating their chairs. As well, our entire table officer slate will be giving up their spots to newcomers. Should you be interested in serving your club on the board, I encourage you to read [this page](#) that may answer some of your questions.

It has been an honor to serve the club for the past five years and to know many people so committed to improving our society. I look forward to supporting the new board as past-president in the coming years.

Sincerely,

Keith Loh  
President  
PCDHFC  
May 2022