

SLED DOG TASK FORCE TERMS OF REFERENCE Province of British Columbia

Approvals

TOR Sponsor

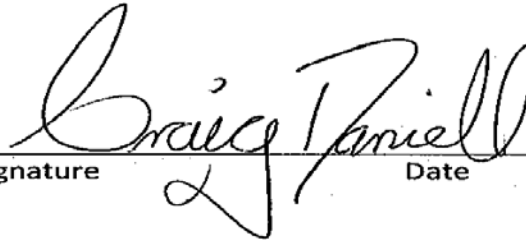
MLA Dr. Terry Lake
*Kamloops-North
Thompson*



Signature

February 2, 2011

Craig Daniell
*Chief Executive
Officer
BC Society for the
Prevention of Cruelty
to Animals*



Signature

Date

2/8/2011

Barbara Steele
*President
BC Union of
Municipalities*



Signature

February 2, 2011

Terms of Reference

Purpose

The Sled Dog Industry Task Force's review will examine the reported mass killing of 100 dogs on April 21st and 23rd, 2010.

The review will encompass the circumstances leading to the killing of the dogs, as well as the chain of events following any initial reports of the killing to WorkSafeBC or any other agencies and why the information was not communicated to appropriate authorities.

The Task Force will also examine the regulation and oversight of the dog sledding industry. The review will establish the circumstances surrounding this incident and provide appropriate recommendations. This review is in addition to the ongoing investigation by the BCSPCA and the RCMP.

In particular, and in the interest of preventing future incidents, the review will include:

- A review of responsibilities, regulation and policy governing the dog sledding industry.
- A review of the response by all agencies involved, upon being made aware of the dog killings.
- Any further issues that arise during the course of the review.

Scope

- In Scope
 - A review of the circumstances, chain of events and exchange of information related to the reported mass killing of 100 dogs on April 21st and 23rd, 2010. Also to be included are the contributing factors as well as individual and organizational responses to the event;
 - A review of existing legislation, organizational mandates, policies, procedures related to the dog sledding industry;
 - Determination of recommendations to prevent any future occurrence including mechanisms to monitor implementation and compliance; and
 - Any further issues that arise during the course of the review.
- Out of Scope
 - Activities which would compromise any BCSPCA or the RCMP investigations.

Major Deliverables

Development of a detailed report addressing all of the elements identified in the above Purpose and Scope. Report elements should include but are not limited to:

- Investigation Methodology and Timeline;
- Incident Summary;
- Event Timeline;
- Observations and Conclusions; and,
- Findings and Recommendations.

Approach

The approach may include:

- Gathering documentary evidence;
- Surveying legislation, regulation, policy and practices;
- Meetings and interviews with stakeholders; and,
- Other research practices as required.

Operation

The Sled Dog Industry Task Force will be lead by Dr. Terry Lake, MLA for Kamloops-North Thompson.

The Task Force will solicit input and ideas from across the animal health and welfare sector, the adventure tourism industry and interested individuals.

Secretariat Support

The Ministry of Agriculture (AGRI) will provide secretariat support to the Task Force and will coordinate the working group of relevant Ministries and agencies tasked to undertake the regulatory work, and associated research.

Wes Shoemaker, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Agriculture; David Curtis, Executive Director, Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General; Pam Shatzko, Project Manager, Ministry of Agriculture; Linda Bates, Manager, Legislation, Ministry of Agriculture; Terri Giacomazzi, Strategic Policy Analyst, Ministry of Agriculture; Dr. Jane Pritchard, Public Health Veterinarian, Ministry of Agriculture.

Task Force Membership

- Chair: Dr. Terry Lake, MLA for Kamloops-North Thompson
Member: Craig Daniell, British Columbia Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (BCSPCA)
Member: Barbara Steele, President, Union of B.C. Municipalities

Key Stakeholders

Individuals and entities identified below may be engaged in the Task Force's review and report development:

- Sled Dog Industry
- British Columbia Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals
- College of Veterinarians of British Columbia
- Ministry of Agriculture
- Ministry of Attorney General
- Ministry of Community, Sport and Cultural Development
- Ministry of Labour
- Ministry of Natural Resource Operations
- Ministry of Tourism, Trade and Investment
- MLA Joan McIntyre, West Vancouver Sea to Sky
- Squamish-Lillooet Regional District
- Royal Canadian Mounted Police
- Union of British Columbia Municipalities
- WorkSafeBC
- Involved Parties
- Others as appropriate

Reporting

The Task Force will provide a report including all available findings and recommendations to the Minister of Agriculture within 45 days of the Task Force's first meeting. The Task Force will continue to evaluate and develop further materials as warranted. Following the Minister's review and approval, the Task Force's report will be made available to the public.