



Guide Outfitters Association of British Columbia

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NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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GOABC'S PLAN TO CREATE JOBS AND PROTECT THE ENVIRONMENT

Vancouver, BC – The Guide Outfitters Association of BC (GOABC) offers the Province of BC a plan to jumpstart the BC economy and provide much needed support to the guide outfitting industry. The GOABC's \$5.6 million dollar *Range Stewardship Program* (RSP) proposes to create 250 short term jobs and protect 125 small rural tourism businesses.

The COVID-19 pandemic has dealt a massive blow to the guide outfitting industry. As a sector that relies primarily on international travelers, a full year of income and employment has been lost. Now, on December 2nd, Prime Minister Trudeau indicated that restrictions at the border will last well into 2021, threatening a second spring season.

As a part of BC's \$1.6 billion *Economic Recovery Plan*, our *Range Stewardship Program* undertakes to create 250 jobs in rural and Indigenous communities to protect and steward the backcountry of BC. Through this program, at least 125 small family businesses will receive much-needed financial support while providing employment and important benefits to the province as a whole – all while aligning with the *CleanBC* program.

The RSP leverages the skills, knowledge, and infrastructure of the guide outfitting industry to protect the backcountry, steward wildlife, and implement COVID-19 protocols. By contracting guide outfitters across the province to hire and supervise 250 employees, participants of the program will receive insured earnings and qualify for Employment Insurance benefits and programs.

“The GOABC applauds this government’s commitment to work with businesses and recognize good ideas coming from many sources,” says GOABC President Sean Olmstead. “The need is great, and the need is now.”

The GOABC *Range Stewardship Program* provides government an immediate turn-key program to put boots on the ground and money into people’s pockets. Working together, we can move through this crisis to a stronger BC and healthy economy.

For more information, contact Scott Ellis at (604) 541-6332 or visit www.goabc.org/plan-to-create-jobs/

About the GOABC

The GOABC is a nonprofit society that was established in 1966 to represent the guide outfitting industry to government, and advocate for science-based wildlife management. Currently, the industry directly employs approximately 2,500 people in rural communities and our industry generates over \$191 million annually.

Our vision is for a province with a strong and stable guide outfitting industry and abundant wildlife populations for all to enjoy, both today and in the future. As passionate advocates for wildlife, the GOABC is the recognized voice of the guide outfitting family. With integrity and professionalism, GOABC promotes conservation, stewardship, and sustainable use of wildlife. Learn more at www.goabc.org.

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