



## RELEASE OF LIABILITY, WAIVER OF CLAIMS, ASSUMPTION OF RISKS & INDEMNITY AGREEMENT

(hereinafter referred to as the "Release of Liability")

Prior to participating in this Overnight/Backpacking Trip, all persons must sign this Release of Liability. BY SIGNING THIS DOCUMENT YOU WILL WAIVE CERTAIN LEGAL RIGHTS, INCLUDING THE RIGHT TO SUE OR CLAIM COMPENSATION FOLLOWING AN ACCIDENT

**PLEASE READ CAREFULLY!**

**TO: Vancouver Natural History Society (Nature Vancouver), Federation of British Columbia Naturalists (BC Nature)** and their directors, officers, volunteers, trip leaders and organizers, employees, agents, representatives, instructors, guides, contractors, sponsors, successors and assigns (hereinafter collectively referred to as the "**Organizers**").

**Note:** In this Release of Liability, the term "**Overnight Trip**" or "**Backpacking Trip**" shall refer to all activities, events or services provided or organized by the Organizers for trips including, but not limited to: nature walks; birding; hiking; backpacking; climbing; mountaineering; backcountry travel; orientation and instruction sessions; and all other related activities.

### ASSUMPTION OF RISKS

**I AM AWARE THAT AN OVERNIGHT OR BACKPACKING TRIP INVOLVES MANY RISKS, DANGERS AND HAZARDS.** These include but are not limited to: travel in areas where fallen timber, branches, rocks, roots or other obstacles or hazards, steep slopes or unstable ground, may cause slips, trips and falls; travel on, through or beside snowfields, streams, creeks, rivers, ponds and lakes; encounters with wildlife including bears and cougars; interaction with vehicle traffic; travel on public transport including ferries; health problems related to over-exposure to the sun, insect bites, fatigue, stress, dehydration, exertion and high altitude; becoming lost or separated from the trip leader or party; negligence of other persons and negligence on the part of the organizers. **I UNDERSTAND THAT NEGLIGENCE INCLUDES FAILURE ON THE PART OF THE ORGANIZERS TO TAKE REASONABLE STEPS TO SAFEGUARD OR PROTECT ME FROM THE RISKS, DANGERS AND HAZARDS OF AN OVERNIGHT OR BACKPACKING TRIP.** In the event of an accident communication may be difficult and rescue, evacuation and medical treatment may not be immediately available. Weather conditions may be extreme and change rapidly.

### RELEASE OF LIABILITY, WAIVER OF CLAIMS AND INDEMNITY AGREEMENT

**IN CONSIDERATION OF THE ORGANIZERS ALLOWING ME TO PARTICIPATE IN THE OVERNIGHT/BACKPACKING TRIP TO \_\_\_\_\_ BEGINNING ON \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_\_\_, I HEREBY AGREE AS FOLLOWS:**

- 1. TO WAIVE ANY AND ALL CLAIMS THAT I HAVE OR MAY IN THE FUTURE HAVE AGAINST THE ORGANIZERS,** and to release the organizers from any and all liability for any loss, damage, expense or injury including death that I may suffer, or that my next of kin may suffer as a result of my participation in an Overnight Trip or Backpacking Trip due to any cause whatsoever, including negligence, breach of contract, or breach of any statutory or other duty of care, including any duty of care owed under the **Occupiers Liability Act**, R.S.B.C 1996, c. 337, on the part of the organizers. I understand that negligence includes failure on the part of the organizers to take reasonable steps to safeguard or protect me from the risks, dangers and hazards of participating in Field Trips;
- 2. TO HOLD HARMLESS AND INDEMNIFY THE ORGANIZERS** from any and all liability for any property damage or personal injury to any third party resulting from my participation in an Overnight or Backpacking Trip;
- This Release of Liability shall be effective and binding upon my heirs, next of kin, executors, administrators, and representatives, in the event of my death or incapacity; and
- Any rights, duties and obligations as between the parties to this Release of Liability shall be governed by and interpreted solely in accordance with the laws of the Province of British Columbia and no other jurisdiction.

In agreeing to this Release of Liability I am not relying on any oral or written representations or statements made by the Organizers with respect to the safety of an Overnight or Backpacking Trip, other than what is set forth in this document.

Signature	Witness Signature
Name (please print)	Witness Name (please print)
Phone Number	Person to Contact in Emergency
Date of Signing	Phone Number of Emergency Contact