

Old-Growth Funding Request

From: Endangered Ecosystems Alliance
<endangerecosystemsalliance@gmail.com>

To: premier@gov.bc.ca, john.horgan.mla@leg.bc.ca,
selina.robinson.mla@leg.bc.ca, katrine.conroy.mla@leg.bc.ca,
nathan.cullen.mla@leg.bc.ca, josie.osborne.mla@leg.bc.ca,
george.heyman.mla@leg.bc.ca, murray.rankin.mla@leg.bc.ca,
FLNR.Minister@gov.bc.ca, ENV.minister@gov.bc.ca, David FLNR:EX
<David.Muter@gov.bc.ca>, Brian.Bawtinheimer@gov.bc.ca,
Alec.Dale@gov.bc.ca, DM.ENV@gov.bc.ca, James.Mack@gov.bc.ca,
Desmond.pollard@gov.bc.ca, Edena.Brown@gov.bc.ca,
Danielle.Monroe@gov.bc.ca, Kelly.Sather@gov.bc.ca,
tim.renneberg@gov.bc.ca, Minister, FLNR FLNR:EX
<FLNR.Minister@gov.bc.ca>, Brown, Edena FLNR:EX
<Edena.Brown@gov.bc.ca>, Sather, Kelly ENV:EX
<Kelly.Sather@gov.bc.ca>, Renneberg, Tim FLNR:EX
<Tim.Renneberg@gov.bc.ca>, Monroe, Danielle FLNR:EX
<Danielle.Monroe@gov.bc.ca>, Dale, Alec R AFF:EX <Alec.Dale@gov.bc.ca>,
Mack, James ENV:EX <James.Mack@gov.bc.ca>, Pollard, Desmond ENV:EX
<Desmond.Pollard@gov.bc.ca>, Deputy Minister ENV:EX
<DM.ENV@gov.bc.ca>, Muter, David FLNR:EX <David.Muter@gov.bc.ca>,
Bawtinheimer, Brian FLNR:EX <Brian.Bawtinheimer@gov.bc.ca>, Minister,
ENV ENV:EX <ENV.Minister@gov.bc.ca>, OfficeofthePremier, Office
PREM:EX <Premier@gov.bc.ca>, Cullen, Nathan LASS:EX
<Nathan.Cullen.MLA@leg.bc.ca>, Heyman.MLA, George LASS:EX
<George.Heyman.MLA@leg.bc.ca>, Rankin, Murray LASS:EX
<Murray.Rankin.MLA@leg.bc.ca>, Osborne, Josie LASS:EX
<Josie.Osborne.MLA@leg.bc.ca>, Robinson.MLA, Selina LASS:EX
<Selina.Robinson.MLA@leg.bc.ca>, Conroy.MLA, Katrine LASS:EX
<Katrine.Conroy.MLA@leg.bc.ca>, Horgan.MLA, John LASS:EX
<John.Horgan.MLA@leg.bc.ca>

Cc: hannah@sierraclub.bc.ca, tegan@stand.earth,
torrance@wildernesscommittee.org, TJ Watt <tj@ancientforestalliance.org>,
morris@ubcic.bc.ca, natasha@ubcic.bc.ca, andrea@ubcic.bc.ca, Andrea
Inness <andrea@ancientforestalliance.org>

Sent: February 25, 2021 10:45:30 AM PST

Attachments: Old-Growth Funding UBCIC and ENGOS .docx

[EXTERNAL] This email came from an external source. Only open attachments or links that you are expecting from a known sender.

To the Honourable:

Premier John Horgan

Murray Rankin, Minister of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation

Selina Robinson, Minister of Finance

Katrine Conroy, Minister of Forests

George Heyman, Minister of Environment and Climate Change Strategy

Josie Osborne, Minister of Municipal Affairs

Nathan Cullen, Minister of State for Lands and Natural Resource Operations

Please find attached a request from our respective organizations cc'ed here (Union of BC Indian Chiefs, Endangered Ecosystems Alliance, Ancient Forest Alliance, Sierra Club of BC, Wilderness Committee, and Stand.earth) for provincial funding of First Nations old-growth protection initiatives - funding which we consider vital if the province is to make good on its commitment to implement all 14 recommendations of its Old-Growth Strategic Review panel.

Sincerely,

Ken Wu

ENDANGERED
ECOSYSTEMS
ALLIANCE



February 24, 2021

Request for Provincial Funding in Developing a Provincial Old-Growth Strategy

To the Honourable:

Premier John Horgan

Minister of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation Murray Rankin

Minister of Finance Selina Robinson

Minister of Forests Katrine Conroy

Minister of Environment and Climate Change Strategy George Heyman

Minister of State for Lands and Natural Resource Operations Nathan Cullen

Minister of Municipal Affairs Josie Osborne

We, the undersigned First Nations and conservation organizations, are calling on your government to provide the critical funding needed to fulfill your obligations to Indigenous peoples and incur the necessary changes to BC's system of forest management as you develop a new policy framework in consultation with First Nations to manage and protect old-growth forests in BC.

We are pleased that the BC government has committed to implementing all 14 recommendations of the Old-Growth Strategic Review Panel. However, the province has not yet committed to a critical component that would enable this to happen – the requisite funding.

The implementation across the province of the Panel's immediate-term recommendations for logging deferrals in the most endangered, productive (ie. grandest), oldest, and most intact old-growth forest types, and for the longer-term protection of these and other old-growth forests, cannot be achieved without sufficient funding in a number of areas.

Financial resources for First Nations, including hereditary Title and Rights holders, are needed to implement these deferrals in their territories to forgo the associated revenues to their communities, and to fund Indigenous land use planning, community engagement, management, and stewardship (through initiatives like Indigenous Guardians programs) that are vital to the establishment of Indigenous Protected and Conserved Areas to protect old-growth forests for future generations.

In addition, conservation financing is vital to support and advance sustainable economic self-determination in First Nations communities to ensure that an equivalent economic alternative to old-growth logging is available for these communities. The financing is needed to assist the development of First Nations businesses in cultural and eco-tourism, clean energy, value-added second-growth forestry, sustainable seafood, and non-timber forest products congruent with old-growth forest protection.

The current landscape of old-growth logging has been exacerbated over years by successive BC governments working to commercialize all old growth timber and foster an economic dependence on old-growth logging in First Nations communities. They have achieved this by arranging agreements for revenue-sharing, employment, joint ventures, and tenures for old growth timber in contentious areas for First Nations, who face limited economic opportunities as a result of years of colonialism and racism.

With a lack of critical and accessible funding, combined with the government's overwhelming influence resulting in Indigenous dependency on old-growth logging jobs and revenues, First Nations communities are unable to exercise their Title and Rights to freely pursue other economic options consistent with the protection of old-growth forests and Indigenous self-determination. Therefore, consultations conducted by the provincial government without the requisite funding for sustainable economic alternatives maintains the status quo of old-growth logging while removing Indigenous self-determination, decision making and well-being in conservation and stewardship.

For private lands, an annual, dedicated land acquisition fund is needed to earmark and purchase old-growth forests and endangered ecosystems on private lands as new protected

areas, including Indigenous Protected Areas. This must be done in consultation with the First Nations whose territory the land is on.

Provincial funding to protect old-growth forests can be augmented by funding from the federal government and conservation organizations. We urge the Province to turn to examples like the Great Bear Rainforest Initiative where \$120 million in funding - \$60 million from conservation organizations, \$30 million from the federal government, and \$30 million from the province - helped Indigenous communities develop new businesses and undertake stewardship and restoration programs associated with protecting a third of the Central and North Coasts of BC.

Carbon offsets from the province, businesses and other governments could be a key mechanism to help finance Indigenous protection of old-growth forests, as has been done in the Great Bear Rainforest and the Cheakamus Community Forest of the Lil'Wat and Squamish Nations.

Old-growth forests in British Columbia are keystone ecosystems that support wildlife and endangered species; clean water for communities and wild salmon; the cultural practices, spirituality, livelihoods, and local economies of First Nations; tourism and recreation industries for thousands of British Columbians; and regional and global climate regulation.

First Nations hold Inherent Rights and Title to the unceded lands we occupy. Since time immemorial, First Nations have harvested and been in relationship with the plants and animals of the land and waters for food, medicines, utensils, trade, cultural and ceremonial purposes, including with the wild salmon that spawn in the clean waters provided by old-growth forests and the monumental old-growth red and yellow cedars harvested for dugout canoes, totem poles, long-houses, clothing and regalia. Thus, old-growth forests possess incalculable cultural value and significance for First Nations, the original keepers and stewards of the Land.

Over a century of industrial logging has decimated the vast majority of productive old-growth forests in BC. A recent scientific study found that across BC only 2.7% of the original high productivity old-growth forests with the largest trees and "classic" forest giants still remain.

Today, the large-scale industrial clearcutting of old-growth forests continues, with over 50,000 hectares of old-growth forests being logged every year in BC.

Second-growth forests now constitute the vast majority of productive forest lands in the province, and a sustainable, value-added forest industry can be readily sustained by these second-growth stands.

BC can sustain and even expand forestry employment levels while protecting old-growth forests if the province pro-actively works to increase the jobs to harvest volume ratio in the second-growth forest industry. This shift can be achieved by implementing key incentives (rebates and tax-relief for new investments, education and skills training, R&D, marketing) and regulations (greater restrictions on raw log exports, development of regional log sorts) with a focus on lower volume but more labour-intensive, higher-end products.

In summary, we are asking that the British Columbian government create and fund a Provincial Old-Growth Strategy that will align with the *Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act*, fulfill the government's obligation to the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP), and uphold a strong framework of First Nations and stakeholder consultations.

Adequate funding must be provided by the province to this end, including funding for the creation of First Nations Indigenous Protected and Conserved Areas (IPCAs) and land use plans; for the management and stewardship of IPCAs; for the development of conservation-based businesses and economies as an alternative to logging endangered old-growth forests; and for the purchasing and protection of old-growth forests on private lands.

An estimation of costs will be forthcoming regarding the funding needed from the province and other sources to fully implement the 14 recommendations of the Old-Growth Strategic Review Panel through a valuation analysis of the key components needed to support and enable Indigenous old-growth forest protection.

Alongside the development of a new Provincial Old-growth Strategy, it is vital that the province implement a comprehensive system of incentives and regulations to ensure the transition to a value-added, sustainable second-growth forest industry that supports and enhances the employment prospects for the thousands of BC forest industry workers.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,


On behalf of the Union of BC Indian Chiefs



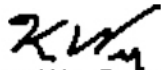
Grand Chief Stewart Phillip
President



Chief Don Tom
Vice-President



Kukpi7 Judy Wilson
Secretary-Treasurer



Ken Wu, Executive Director, Endangered Ecosystems Alliance



TJ Watt, Executive Team, Ancient Forest Alliance



Hannah Askew, Executive Director, Sierra Club BC



Torrance Coste, National Campaign Director, Wilderness Committee



Tegan Hansen, Forest Campaigner, Stand.earth

RE: Update on progress in Great Bear Rainforest for Customer Briefing

From: Meggs, Geoff PREM:EX <Geoff.Meggs@gov.bc.ca>
To: Conroy, Katrine FLNR:EX <Katrine.Conroy@gov.bc.ca>
Cc: Wanamaker, Lori PREM:EX <Lori.Wanamaker@gov.bc.ca>, Manwaring, Richard G FLNR:EX <Rick.G.Manwaring@gov.bc.ca>, Renneberg, Tim FLNR:EX <Tim.Renneberg@gov.bc.ca>, Howlett, Tim GCPE:EX <Tim.Howlett@gov.bc.ca>, Bernard, Tabitha PREM:EX <Tabitha.Bernard@gov.bc.ca>, Kristianson, Eric PREM:EX <Eric.Kristianson@gov.bc.ca>, Heyman, George ENV:EX <George.Heyman@gov.bc.ca>, Sather, Kelly ENV:EX <Kelly.Sather@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: May 21, 2021 2:43:23 PM PDT

Good afternoon, Minister,

I spoke briefly to Philip Crawley, publisher of the Globe, this afternoon and gave him a very high-level summary of what I had learned from the briefing notes provided by the ministry, specifically regarding the lack of consensus on land use decisions that has slowed agreement. I assume G2G consensus is also part of the agreement, which we would breach if we acted in a unilateral fashion. I noted that Nicole Rycroft's letter made no mention of indigenous concerns, which are key to achieving progress.

That said, I said I was sure your office is preparing a comprehensive reply to come as quickly as possible. Since Nicole Rycroft has stated there is a deadline of May 31, unless we require additional time, I recommend we convene a meeting next week to plan a response to the increasing tensions around old growth, including this issue. It may be useful to invite Minister Heyman.

Mr. Crawley made it clear that the Globe, which is a member of Canopy, will be very active shining a light on this issue with op-eds from stakeholders and possibly full page ads. An op-ed from you might be a good idea.

Let me know if you would like my office to organize a meeting.

Geoff

GEOFF MEGGS

Chief of Staff, Premier's Office
West Annex, Parliament Buildings
Victoria, BC, V8V 1K7
250 387-1715

From: Conroy, Katrine FLNR:EX <Katrine.Conroy@gov.bc.ca>

Sent: May 20, 2021 5:15 PM

To: Meggs, Geoff PREM:EX <Geoff.Meggs@gov.bc.ca>

Cc: Wanamaker, Lori PREM:EX <Lori.Wanamaker@gov.bc.ca>; Manwaring, Richard G FLNR:EX <Rick.G.Manwaring@gov.bc.ca>; Renneberg, Tim FLNR:EX <Tim.Renneberg@gov.bc.ca>; Howlett, Tim GCPE:EX <Tim.Howlett@gov.bc.ca>; Bernard, Tabitha PREM:EX <Tabitha.Bernard@gov.bc.ca>

Subject: Re: Update on progress in Great Bear Rainforest for Customer Briefing

Yes thanks Geoff, we are working on this and will update you with our response.

Kat

Sent from my iPad

On May 20, 2021, at 2:20 PM, Meggs, Geoff PREM:EX <Geoff.Meggs@gov.bc.ca> wrote:

Minister, I was contacted last week on this matter by Philip Crawley, publisher of the Globe and Mail. I had promised to check into the issue and have two recent briefing notes from your office. I am supposed to speak to him tomorrow. I will simply tell him, based on what I now know, that progress on the negotiations has been impacted by a number of factors, including the consensus-based approach required with First Nations, and that you will be replying to this new letter from Ms Rycroft directly. I'd appreciate being kept up to date on how the response unfolds.

Geoff

From: Nicole Rycroft <nicole@canopyplanet.org>
Sent: May 20, 2021 2:11 PM
To: Conroy, Katrine FLNR:EX <Katrine.Conroy@gov.bc.ca>
Cc: Sheldrake, Jeff FLNR:EX <Jeff.Sheldrake@gov.bc.ca>; Meggs, Geoff PREM:EX <Geoff.Meggs@gov.bc.ca>; Renneberg, Tim FLNR:EX <Tim.Renneberg@gov.bc.ca>; FLNR Deputy Minister's Office FLNR:EX <FLNR.DMO@gov.bc.ca>; OfficeofthePremier, Office PREM:EX <Premier@gov.bc.ca>; Monroe, Danielle FLNR:EX <Danielle.Monroe@gov.bc.ca>; Tamara Stark <tamara.stark@canopyplanet.org>; Lee-Ann Unger <leeann@canopyplanet.org>
Subject: Update on progress in Great Bear Rainforest for Customer Briefing

[EXTERNAL] This email came from an external source. Only open attachments or links that you are expecting from a known sender.

Dear Minister Conroy

I trust this finds you well.

Please find the attached letter requesting an update on progress that has been made in advancing key milestones in the Great Bear Rainforest since the March 4th Customer and Investor GBR Roundtable cohosted by Canopy and the Globe and Mail. Your update will inform our briefing to 110 brand representatives that registered and attended the Roundtable.

To hit publication deadlines, we need your feedback no later than EOD May 31st.

Thank you for your attention to this matter - and, of course, do not hesitate to be in touch with any questions.

Best wishes,

Nicole

Nicole Rycroft

Founder and Executive Director, Canopy

c: +1-778-987-9099

t: nicolerycroft1

canopyplanet.org

Transforming Business for our Planet

Species in decline, climate unstable, forests under threat... Watch our video [SURVIVAL: A Pulp Thriller](#) and be part of the solution.

<MinisterConroy_GBRRoundtable_May2021.pdf>

RE: 34 soccer fields per day ?????

From: Minister, ENV ENV:EX s.15
: s.15
To: s.22
Cc: Minister, FLNR FLNR:EX <FLNR.Minister@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: June 25, 2020 8:25:31 AM PDT
Reference: 358037

June 25, 2020

s.22

Dear s.22

Thank you for your email of May 28, 2020, regarding old growth forests.

Thank you for taking the time to share your concern regarding the management and preservation of old growth forests in British Columbia. This is a critically important issue that resonates strongly on many levels throughout our entire province. We welcome and appreciate your questions, concerns and feedback on this matter. First, let me clarify that the Minister of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development is responsible for overseeing forestry and logging policy in B.C.

As you know our government commissioned a review of old growth and old forests policy and practice in B.C. I think we all owe huge thanks to Al Gorley and Garry Merkel for their diligent and thorough work leading the Old Growth Strategic Review panel, and also to the thousands of B.C. residents who took a strong interest and participated in the engagement process. From October 2019 to February 2020, the panel conducted over 200 meetings in 36 communities and met approximately 800 participants. The panel received and reviewed over 300 written submissions as well as more than 18,000 online surveys. These formal written submissions remain available and can be reviewed on the [Old Growth](#) website, if you want to review the full range.

The Old Growth Strategic Review panel's report represents an important first step and launch point towards developing a thorough understanding of potential challenges and opportunities, from as many viewpoints as possible, in relation to the current and future management of and policies related to old forests and their multiple values. My colleague Honourable Minister Doug Donaldson, and his staff in the Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development, is currently reviewing the strategic panel's report.

This includes:

1. A summary of what the panel heard (more than 200 pages). This includes a summary of the more than 18,000 online surveys and is cross-linked back to the more than 300 written submissions which are also posted on the website.
2. Mr. Gorley and Mr. Merkel's observations and recommendations (a little less than 100 pages).
3. A condensed summary of Old Growth Strategic recommendations (about 30 pages).

Like you, I am keenly interested in the strategic findings and recommendations of this report. As outlined in the report's terms of reference, Minister Donaldson has committed to publicly releasing the Old Growth Strategic Report findings and recommendations public within six months, but the goal is by late summer. With respect to the importance and urgency expressed in submissions the panel, the ministry is taking this time to fully review the panel's report and recommendations before continuing potential interim measures, further public consultation, and determining the way ahead. Minister Donaldson has invited me to discuss the material with him and ministry staff. I have also joined him in a number of consultations with

environmental advocates concerned about old growth, as there are obvious environmental concerns with respect to ecosystem health, biodiversity and climate.

I know that British Columbians have diverse views on how old growth should be treated and that building a consensus on old growth forests has been a challenge for more than 30 years. Today, as we move forward, we need a science-based approach, that presents solutions that respect and understand the benefits of old growth to biodiversity, and include First Nations, forest communities, forest workers, industry as well as the views of all people concerned about ecosystem health. This is a challenge many years in the making, that requires careful attention as we move forward on the Old Growth Strategic Review recommendations.

Many constituents have alerted my office to a recent report, authored by a trio of independent researchers, that echoes your advocacy and concern for old growth and the preservation of their biodiversity. The Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development indicates that this independent report was included as a submission to the BC Old Growth panel. Minister Donaldson and I have both read the report and take it seriously. We agree there is a clear need for policy solutions that reflect greater engagement with First Nations at a government to government level, as well as with environmental organizations, workers, forest-dependent communities, the forestry industry and other groups in a transparent process to find solutions. By working together, we can and will find a path forward for modern and better old forest policies.

Thank you again for writing.

Sincerely,

George Heyman
Minister

cc: Honourable Doug Donaldson, Minister of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development

From: **s.22**

Sent: Thursday, May 28, 2020 11:36 AM

To: Heyman.MLA, George <George.Heyman.MLA@leg.bc.ca>; Donaldson.MLA, Doug <Doug.Donaldson.MLA@leg.bc.ca>; OfficeofthePremier, Office PREM:EX <Premier@gov.bc.ca>

Subject: 34 soccer fields per day ?????

Mr. Heyman

Is it true that you:

- once headed the BCGSEU?
- were a director of the Sierra Club at some point
- are now overseeing the logging of the equivalent of **34 (thirty four) soccer fields PER DAY of original rainforest on Vancouver Island alone??????**

Please could you explain:

- why you're doing this
- what benefit does this bring to the people of BC
- what obstacles does it present to the tourism sector which could otherwise handily promote the enjoyment of what's left of our original rainforest by British Columbians eager to see them.

Finally, we'd love to know **how it is that your values seem to have changed drastically** from when you wanted to serve constituents working in government and actively tried to promote the environmental health of our forests/province — to currently appearing to **succumb to the will of those shareholders whose primary interest is profit, profit and more profit no matter the result???**

Will y/our grandchildren be able to admire only a very small number of old growth trees, such as Big Doug over there in his shamefully barren surroundings?

s.22

RE: Put an emergency moratorium on logging of endangered old growth

From: Minister, ENV ENV:EX s.15
: s.15
To: s.22
Cc: Minister, FLNR FLNR:EX <FLNR.Minister@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: June 25, 2020 12:18:25 PM PDT
Reference: 358218

June 25, 2020

s.22

Dear s.22

Thank you for your email of June 4, 2020, regarding old-growth logging.

Thank you for taking the time to share your concern regarding the management and preservation of old growth forests in British Columbia. This is a critically important issue that resonates strongly on many levels throughout our entire province. We welcome and appreciate your questions, concerns and feedback on this matter. First, let me clarify that the Minister of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development is responsible for overseeing forestry and logging policy in B.C.

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we need a science-based approach, that presents solutions that respect and understand the benefits of old growth to biodiversity, and include First Nations, forest communities, forest workers, industry as well as the views of all people concerned about ecosystem health. This is a challenge many years in the making, that requires careful attention as we move forward on the Old Growth Strategic Review recommendations.

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Thank you again for writing.

Sincerely,

George Heyman
Minister

cc: Honourable Doug Donaldson, Minister of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development

-----Original Message-----

From: s.22

Sent: June 4, 2020 12:51 PM

To: Minister, ENV ENV:EX <ENV.Minister@gov.bc.ca>

Subject: Put an emergency moratorium on logging of endangered old growth

Dear Ministers Donaldson and Heyman,

This must be the fourth or fifth time I have written and I dare say I am not alone.

Old-growth forests are at a tipping point in British Columbia. These forests are vital to our communities and yet, under your government, they continue to be destroyed.

We are already facing multiple health crises including the pandemic, as well as the ongoing threats of flood and wildfire made worse by climate change and old-growth logging. Protecting old-growth forests is vital for the resilience of our communities.

With so little productive old-growth forest remaining in B.C., I am calling for your government to:

- Immediately stop logging endangered old-growth.
- Approve, fund, and support proposed Indigenous protected areas. Invest in capacity for First Nations to implement land use visions, Guardian programs, language and cultural initiatives, and other associated efforts on their territories.
- Invest in a just transition to second growth forestry that is sustainable in the long-term, with a focus on decision-making at the community level and the protection of non-timber values like drinking water, flood and fire mitigation, and biodiversity.

- Put communities and workers first by investing in Indigenous and community-driven forestry models, rather than subsidizing large companies.

- Be transparent about the state of old-growth forests in British Columbia. Make forest and forestry data publicly accessible, including cutblock and road mapping.

Old-growth forests are non-renewable and irreplaceable. I am calling on you and your government to act now, before it is too late.

How many letters will you have to get before action is taken to stop this damaging practice? The time for action is fading quickly, soon nothing will be left. Please act now!!

Signed,

s.22

Advice: MGH/MDD mtg w/ ENGOs re: Old Growth (358495)

From: Morgan, Carly ENV:EX <Carly.Morgan@gov.bc.ca>
To: Jardine, Kevin ENV:EX <Kevin.Jardine@gov.bc.ca>, Mack, James ENV:EX <James.Mack@gov.bc.ca>
Cc: Llewellyn-Thomas, Marnie ENV:EX <Marnie.LlewellynThomas@gov.bc.ca>, Scott, Melissa ENV:EX <Melissa.Scott@gov.bc.ca>, Jackson, Brittany ENV:EX <Brittany.Jackson@gov.bc.ca>, Gooderham, Coleen E ENV:EX <Coleen.Gooderham@gov.bc.ca>, Meadows, Jennifer L ENV:EX <Jennifer.Meadows@gov.bc.ca>, Gooderham, Coleen E FLNR:EX <Coleen.Gooderham@gov.bc.ca>, Jackson, Brittany CITZ:EX <Brittany.Jackson@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: July 20, 2020 11:25:03 AM PDT
Attachments: image001.png, Sustainable Forestry Jobs Policy Brief - June 2020.pdf
Hi Kevin/James,

MGH and MDD met with the Ancient Forest Alliance, Sierra Club, and Wilderness Committee on June 11th regarding Old Growth Forests. James Mack attended this meeting, though FLNRO was the lead and drafted materials. These ENGOs are requesting a follow-up meeting to discuss Old Growth Strategy. Would ESSP presence be appropriate at this follow-up meeting, with FLNRO once again leading the meeting and materials?

Thank you,



Carly Morgan

Issues and Administrative Coordinator

Deputy Minister's Office

Ministry of Environment & Climate Change Strategy

P: 250-704-3050 • Carly.Morgan@gov.bc.ca

From: Sather, Kelly ENV:EX <Kelly.Sather@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: June 23, 2020 5:38 PM
To: Minister, ENV ENV:EX <ENV.Minister@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: FW: Call with Ministers Donaldson and Heyman/ Ancient Forest Alliance, Sierra Club BC, Wilderness Committee, June 11, 2020

Forwarding to ensure this gets logged

From: Jens Wieting <jens@sierraclub.bc.ca>
Sent: June 23, 2020 2:46 PM
To: McLaren, Kenn FLNR:EX <Kenn.McLaren@gov.bc.ca>; Sather, Kelly ENV:EX <Kelly.Sather@gov.bc.ca>
Cc: andrea@ancientforestalliance.org; torrance@wildernesscommittee.org; Caitlyn Vernon <caitlyn@sierraclub.bc.ca>; Mark Worthing <mark@sierraclub.bc.ca>; TJ Watt <tj@ancientforestalliance.org>
Subject: Call with Ministers Donaldson and Heyman/ Ancient Forest Alliance, Sierra Club BC, Wilderness Committee, June 11, 2020

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Ministers Donaldson and Heyman,

Thank you for taking the time to meet with us on June 11th.

Ancient Forest Alliance, Sierra Club BC and Wilderness Committee welcome the news that the BC government will release the Old Growth Strategic Review panel's report and recommendations on old-growth management to the

public in mid-August, along with the provincial response including interim measures. We look forward to working with you to develop these interim measures as well as longer-term old-growth solutions

At the same time, it is deeply concerning to see steps taken in the opposite direction. We believe crucial opportunities are being missed that would support a robust, effective old-growth protection strategy and the needed transition of BC's forest sector to one that supports resilient communities, complements rather than undermines the BC government's climate and emissions reduction goals, and supports workers into the future.

For example, we were disappointed to learn that much needed regulatory reforms to raw log export regulations have been delayed for a second time, as this is an urgently needed step toward transitioning from a volume-based industry to a value-based one that is critical to allowing conservation of endangered old-growth.

We have similar concerns with regard to last week's announcement about the BC government's commitment to supporting the use of mass timber in public and private building projects as a climate-friendly solution. Using timber without protecting carbon-rich old-growth ecosystems and improving forestry practices is not a climate solution.

According to the US Forest Service website, "Harvesting old-growth forests for their forest products is not an effective carbon conservation strategy because the carbon remaining in the wood products plus the regrowth are not enough to compensate for the loss of large carbon stocks in the intact forests". (Click on 'synthesis': <https://www.fs.usda.gov/ccrc/topics/forests-carbon>)

We appreciated Minister Donaldson's comments about a much needed shift in focus away from volume and toward getting more value from BC logs. We also recognize the complex economic and political environment within which this work is happening.

To support these efforts, please find attached a policy brief developed by AFA and the Public and Private Workers of Canada (PPWC) forestry union that outlines a number of policy recommendations on how to facilitate the necessary shift to sustainable, second-growth forestry in BC, along with increased wood processing and value-added manufacturing.

Regarding the FRPA round II amendments that were delayed due to COVID-19, will they be tabled in the legislative session commencing this week?

We acknowledge that your government has some challenging decisions to make, faced with climate, extinction, public health, and economic crises. Several past governments have failed to take action for endangered old-growth forests before your government got elected.

The evidence is clear, however, that your government may very well be the last one with a chance to safeguard these endangered ecosystems, which support a diverse economy with long-term jobs and the environmental benefits we need for our survival, before it's too late.

As we have learned from COVID-19, ignoring evidence and delaying action can quickly make matters worse until they become unmanageable. We hope for the same leadership we have seen from the province in response to COVID-19 in the context of safeguarding the natural life support systems of the province.

We look forward to the follow-up meeting with representatives from both ministries, to further discuss interim and longer-term measures as part of an Old Growth Strategy.

Sincerely,

Jens, Caitlyn, Sierra Club BC
Andrea, Ancient Forest Alliance
Torrance, Wilderness Committee

Please find attached a policy brief prepared by the Ancient Forest Alliance (AFA) and the Public and Private Workers of Canada (PPWC),
Policy recommendations to support sustainable, value-added, second-growth forestry jobs in BC.



BRIEFING NOTE

DATE: June 23, 2020

PREPARED FOR: Minister Donaldson and Minister Heyman

BY: the Ancient Forest Alliance (AFA) and the Public and Private Workers of Canada (PPWC), March 19, 2018. Updated June, 2020.

ISSUE: Policy recommendations to support sustainable, value-added, second-growth forestry jobs in BC

PURPOSE

The following policy recommendations aim to support and foster the development of a value-added forest industry to maximize sustainable jobs in BC. This objective would occur concurrently with another objective of our organizations: an expedited transition from the current model of old-growth forest liquidation towards a sustainable second-growth forest industry, as recommended by the Private and Public Workers of Canada (PPWC) and the Ancient Forest Alliance (AFA). Such a transition will ensure long-term BC jobs and increased economic certainty with diminished potential for environmental market conflicts.

BACKGROUND

While the vast majority of industrialized nations, including the USA, Europe, Japan, and the rest of Canada, are logging 50- to 100-year-old stands, including second and third-growth forests, the status quo of old-growth liquidation is still underway across large parts of British Columbia. BC must also complete the transition to a second-growth forest industry for environmental and economic reasons. If the BC government were to promote policies that support greater processing and value-added manufacturing of second-growth logs in the province, the total number of forestry jobs could be sustained and even increased while old-growth logging is quickly phased out.

Over the past century, the overcutting of the biggest, best, and most accessible stands of old-growth redcedars, Douglas-firs, and Sitka spruce in the lowlands that historically built the wealth of the forest industry – and for which coastal sawmills were originally built to process – has resulted in diminishing returns as the trees get smaller, lower in value, different in species profile, and harder to reach higher up the mountainsides and in the valley headwaters. Today, according to BC Forest Service data, 75% of the productive old-growth forests on BC's southern coast have been logged, including well over 90% of the most productive old-growth stands in the valley bottoms where the largest trees grow.

In the last two decades, more than 100 major BC mills have closed and employment levels in BC's forestry sector have declined dramatically, from 99,000 jobs in 2000 to 65,000 in 2015, constituting a loss of one-third of all forestry jobs in that time.¹ As old-growth stands are depleted and harvesting shifts to the second-growth stands which now dominate most of the province, B.C.'s coastal forestry jobs are being exported as raw logs to foreign mills due to a lack of government incentives and regulations to ensure the retooling of old-growth mills to handle the smaller second-growth logs and to facilitate new investments in related manufacturing facilities.

At a critical juncture in 2003, the BC Liberal government removed the local milling requirements (through the misnamed "Forestry Revitalization Act"), known as appurtenancy, thus allowing tenured logging companies to shut down their old-growth mills instead of being forced to retool them to handle the changing forest profile of second-growth trees (and smaller old-growth species, such as hemlock and

¹ Statistics Canada, <https://cfs.nrcan.gc.ca/statsprofile/employment/bc>

amabilis fir). At the same time, the BC Liberal government failed to enact any major incentives or regulations in lieu of appurtenancy to attract new manufacturing investments. With the closure of many BC mills, most logs became surplus to the domestic milling capacity, thus paving the path for BC's logging companies to undertake the mass export of raw logs to foreign mills in nations willing to pay higher prices for BC logs.

That being said, in many cases, existing BC mills continue to need domestic logs that are intended for export. Unfortunately, independent mills are typically hesitant to bid on the logs for fear of being excluded from future, long-term direct sales agreements with the same logging companies that have tenure or land, as most mills require a secure log supply through direct sales contracts. Bidding on raw logs (or "blocking") is therefore a secondary source of logs in relation to direct sales contracts and is potentially risky, as it could jeopardize their relationship with one of the few major companies with logging rights. The resulting inaccessibility and uncertainty of wood fibre for many mills helps to continue the marginalization and decline of BC's coastal wood manufacturing sector.

Forestry unions and conservationists are calling on the BC government to enact the needed regulations and incentives to instead bolster the secondary, second-growth wood manufacturing sector. The Private and Public Workers of Canada (PPWC) and Unifor, two major forestry unions representing thousands of BC forestry workers, have been working closely with environmental groups to upgrade environmental standards and forestry employment. In 2017, the PPWC passed a resolution calling on the BC government to end the logging of Vancouver Island's old-growth forests, while ensuring a sustainable, value-added second-growth forest industry, an end to raw log exports, and support for First Nations sustainable economic development.

In its 2017 election platform, the BC New Democratic Party promised to "work with industry, local governments and First Nations to expand wood manufacturing capacity and create new jobs" and to "find fair and lasting solutions that keep more logs in BC for processing." The 2017 Confidence and Supply Agreement between the BC Green and the BC NDP caucuses states that the government will "reinvigorate our forest sector to improve both environmental standards and jobs for local communities."

The following set of policy recommendations is designed to help the provincial government fulfill these commitments. They involve applying a system of incentives and regulations to support a vibrant forest industry, ensuring good paying jobs for working families through the sustainable harvesting and value-added manufacturing of second-growth stands.

Note: As our agenda calls for an industry-wide shift to second-growth forestry before the province's old-growth resource is completely depleted, an important first step is to create a distinction between old-growth and second-growth forests in the province's Annual Allowable Cut. This will ensure the following second-growth forestry and value-added manufacturing policies are geared toward the right wood source and will allow the BC government to more effectively manage the rate of old-growth logging.

The set of policy recommendations is as follows:

- 1) **Provide fiscal incentives**, such as eliminating the PST for new second-growth milling equipment, reducing property taxes on private managed forest lands and reducing tenure licencing fees on Crown lands for companies that invest in second-growth manufacturing. Conversely, increasing stumpage fees or the fee in lieu (log exports tax) can generate a pool of funds that can be used to offset new manufacturing investment costs.
- 2) **Curb raw log exports** through **regulations** and by **increasing the fee in lieu** (log exports tax).

- 3) **Expand the geographic scope of log export regulations and the fee in lieu** (log exports tax) to include **private managed forest lands** that were previously encompassed within Tree Farm Licences managed by the province.
- 4) **Help market** sustainable, value-added second-growth forest products using proceeds from stumpage fees or other sources.
- 5) **Support First Nations** to engage in sustainable, second-growth forestry through **conservation financing and skills training**.
- 6) **Support high-end, value-added wood working training** in post-secondary institutions, including apprenticeships.
- 7) **Undertake structural changes**, such as **tenure diversification** (Community Forests and First Nations tenures) and establishing **regional log sorts**.

POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

1) Facilitate Value-Added Manufacturing through Fiscal Incentives

The province should implement financial instruments as powerful incentives for companies to retool old-growth mills to process second-growth logs and to develop new value-added facilities. Such incentives could include allowing companies to forgo the PST on new second-growth milling equipment (which is part of the Green Party platform), reducing property taxes on private managed forest lands, or reducing stumpage fees and/or tenure licencing fees (e.g. for TFLs and FLs) on Crown lands for companies that invest in second-growth mills and value-added facilities.

As stumpage fees are tied to BC Timber Sales prices and reductions in stumpage fees may result in further challenges by the US softwood lumber industry, conversely, an increase in stumpage fees could instead be implemented, with the surplus fees collected from the increase to be used as a funding source to offset the cost for companies investing in second-growth manufacturing facilities.

Similarly, an increase in the “fee in lieu of manufacture” or log exports tax will not only dissuade log exports, but the funds collected from the increase can also be redirected to help offset the cost for companies investing in second-growth manufacturing facilities.

We recommend the BC government also incentivize the development of second-growth engineered wood products, including laminated veneer and gluelam products and thermally treated second-growth, through 1) similar fee incentives as mentioned above, 2) increased financing for R&D, and 3) increased markets development for engineered second-growth wood products, which match old-growth wood products in strength, stability, durability, and aesthetics and are largely at a lower price point today.

2) Curb Raw Log Exports through Regulations and by Increasing the Fee in Lieu of Manufacture (i.e. log exports tax)

Between 2013 and 2016, nearly 26 million cubic metres of raw logs valued at more than \$3 billion were shipped from B.C. to foreign mills in China, the USA, Japan, Korea, and other nations. The nearly 6.3 million cubic metres exported from B.C. in 2016 is enough wood to build 134,000 houses - roughly half of Vancouver’s standing detached housing stock.² Using a conservative estimate, more than 3,600 B.C. workers could have been employed processing that wood. The massive export of raw logs has been driven by a combination of the BC government’s deregulation of the forest industry and by the industry’s

² Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives, 2017, https://www.policyalternatives.ca/sites/default/files/uploads/publications/BC%20Office/2017/03/ccpa-bc_BCSolutionsNewsletter_March2017.pdf

unsustainable depletion of the biggest, best old-growth trees at lower elevations. The depletion has caused a shift in the profile of the forest, which increasingly features smaller second-growth trees and old-growth “hem-bal” (hemlock and amabilis fir) stands that coastal mills generally have not been retooled to handle.

The previous BC Liberal government facilitated log exports via numerous policies, including the removal of the local milling requirements in 2003, which allowed tenured logging companies to shut down their mills and export raw logs. They also issued vast numbers of log export permits throughout the coast, provided a general exemption from log export restrictions for companies on the North Coast, and removed Tree Farm Licences from vast areas of coastal private managed forest lands (which removed the Crown restrictions on log exports from them). These destructive policies must be remedied with corrective policies by the NDP government.

In 2018, a group of environmental organizations and unions, including the Ancient Forest Alliance, Wilderness Committee, Sierra Club of BC, Public and Private Workers of Canada, and Unifor, together with the Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives, proposed a ban on all old-growth raw log exports and an increase in the fee in lieu of manufacture (i.e. the log export tax) for second-growth raw logs to curb their export and to encourage domestic processing. It is therefore recommended the BC government phase in an increase in the fee in lieu to match the price differential for international log sales to dissuade log exports, and as mentioned in point #1, redirect the extra funds to help offset the expenses for companies investing in new second-growth manufacturing equipment.

3) Expand Log Exports Regulations and the Fee in Lieu to Include Private Managed Forest Lands previously within TFLs

In 1998 the NDP government allowed TimberWest to remove over 300,000 hectares of private managed forest lands from their Tree Farm Licences, while the BC Liberal government did the same in 2004 for over 90,000 hectares of Weyerhaeuser’s lands (now owned by Mosaic) and in 2006 for 28,000 hectares of Western Forest Products’ private lands. All told, this massive deregulation, which removed both the general prohibition against log exports that existed in the former TFL lands and the application of the fee in lieu (log exports tax), has resulted in the greatest exodus of raw logs from the province from these private managed forest lands. Given the province has had a long history of regulating these private lands – and continues to do so through property taxation and by regulating the lands under the Private Managed Forest Lands Act – it is well within the legal right of the province to re-extend other regulations to these lands to restrict raw log exports. This is particularly true for the Island Timberlands (now Mosaic) and Western Forest Products lands, as those companies weren’t required to compensate the province despite receiving a windfall increase in the financial value of their lands through the removal of the environmental regulations and log export restrictions via the TFL removal.

4) Help Market Sustainable, Value-Added Second-Growth Forest Products

Just as the BC government has spent major funds from stumpage fees on repeated, high-profile trade missions since 2008 to establish markets in China for BC old-growth lumber and raw logs, the NDP government could instead use stumpage fees to expand markets for sustainable, value-added, credibly certified (i.e. Forest Stewardship Council) second-growth forest products in various international jurisdictions, such as the US, Japan, Western Europe, and other parts of Canada, while discontinuing the marketing of old-growth and raw logs.

5) Support First Nations to Develop Sustainable, Second-Growth Forestry

Almost all of BC's forests are located in the unceded territories of BC's First Nations peoples. In the last several years, logging rights to old-growth forests across the province were allocated to numerous First Nations communities, who had been largely excluded from reaping the economic benefits of BC's forest industry previously. As a result, today most First Nations communities now generate significant employment and revenues from old-growth logging - either directly through their own forestry operations or through employment and revenue sharing agreements with forestry companies operating within their territories. Many of these communities lack a range of alternative sustainable development opportunities that would support their local economies into the future and allow them to transition away from old-growth logging, should they wish to. Therefore, as part of the transition to a sustainable, value-added second-growth forest sector in BC, the provincial government should commit adequate funds to help support sustainable economic opportunities of First Nations communities, a model known as "conservation financing".

Conservation financing includes a variety of innovative financing mechanisms designed to protect ecosystem values for the long term, while also providing a financial return. This might include financing for ecologically sustainable business ventures (including value-added second-growth forestry, sustainable seafood harvesting, non-timber forest products, and tourism), ecosystem services (for example, carbon storage), funding for environmental research projects, or a combination of initiatives.

Funding for First Nations conservation financing solutions in BC (not including the Great Bear Rainforest and Haida Gwaii, where such solutions are already being implemented) could be made available through carbon related revenues, funding recently set aside for the Forest Enhancement Society by the previous government, increasing/redirecting stumpage fees, or through other resource taxes.

The BC government should also support First Nations to acquire training for high-end, value-added wood manufacturing at post-secondary educational institutes and associated apprenticeships in order for their communities to reap the full benefits of their logging tenures by creating jobs and commanding higher prices via value-added forest products.

6) Increase support for High-End Wood Working in Post-Secondary Institutions and for Apprenticeships

In many northern European economies, governments play a more active role in matching and supporting post-secondary skills training in educational institutions to the economic sectors that require a skilled work force. If the BC government wants to develop a high-end, value-added wood manufacturing sector, it can also play a more active role in providing financial support for the development of value-added wood products technical training and foster subsequent apprenticeships through post-secondary institutions. Combined with the aforementioned policies to help develop a value-added wood manufacturing sector, support for post-secondary skills training and apprenticeships for both Indigenous and non-Indigenous men and women will help build both the skilled labour force and a generation of entrepreneurs in BC to develop a higher-end, value-added wood manufacturing sector that can employ far more workers per volume of wood harvested.

7) Enact Structural Changes

These can include:

Establishing Regional Log Sorts

Many smaller mills and value-added facilities have complained about a lack of access to BC logs, as most logs are sold on a large scale to large mills, or as raw logs at a higher price in international markets.

Mandating that BC logging companies with tenures must sell a significant portion of their logs on the open market through regional log sorts (where logs are sorted by species, grade, and in different-sized bundles, from one log to thousands of logs) will help to make wood available to enhance the diversity of BC wood manufacturers, from small to large, from specialized artisans to conventional sawmills. The BC Forest Service ran a regional log sort in Lumby and Vernon in the 1990s, and the BC NDP government could establish similar log sorts across the province.

Diversifying Tenures to Include More Community Forests and First Nations Tenures

Community Forests are run partly to provide revenues for municipal services, such as libraries and community centres, but also to provide local jobs, and are not driven by a mandate to enrich shareholders, unlike most of the corporate logging in BC. Hence, there can be a greater emphasis on supporting local manufacturing jobs associated with the logs harvested from Community Forests.

Similarly, First Nations communities typically have a significant interest in expanding employment opportunities for band members, and therefore may also have an interest in developing wood manufacturing opportunities. Moving from corporate to greater community control over second-growth forestry resources, in general, can facilitate the expansion of a value-added industry due to community interests in maximizing local employment, and should be combined with old-growth forest protection and more sustainable forestry practices. It is recommended the BC Government expand the issuance of community forest licenses and various replaceable First Nations forest licenses.

RE: Take a stand for massive, old trees!

From: Minister, ENV ENV:EX <s.15 s.15>
To: s.22
Cc: Minister, FLNR FLNR:EX <FLNR.Minister@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: August 7, 2020 1:31:25 PM PDT
Attachments: image001.jpg
Reference: 359233

August 7, 2020

s.22

Email: s.22

Dear s.22

Thank you for your email of July 2, 2020, regarding old growth forests.

I appreciate that you took the time to share your concern regarding the management and preservation of old growth forests in British Columbia. This is a critically important issue that resonates strongly on many levels throughout our entire province. We welcome and appreciate your questions, concerns and feedback on this matter. First, let me clarify that the Minister of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development is responsible for overseeing forestry and logging policy in B.C.

You may be interested to know that our government commissioned a review of old growth and old forests policy and practice in B.C. I think we all owe huge thanks to Al Gorley and Garry Merkel for their diligent and thorough work leading the Old Growth Strategic Review panel, and also to the thousands of B.C. residents who took a strong interest and participated in the engagement process. From October 2019 to February 2020, the panel conducted over 200 meetings in 36 communities and met approximately 800 participants. The panel received and reviewed over 300 written submissions as well as more than 18,000 online surveys. These formal written submissions remain available and can be reviewed on the [Old Growth](#) website, if you want to review the full range.

The Old Growth Strategic Review panel's report represents an important first step and launch point towards developing a thorough understanding of potential challenges and opportunities, from as many viewpoints as possible, in relation to the current and future management of and policies related to old forests and their values. My colleague Minister Doug Donaldson, and his staff in the Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development, is currently reviewing the strategic panel's report and the implications of their recommendations prior to public release and initial response.

This includes:

1. A summary of what the panel heard (more than 200 pages). This includes a summary of the more than 18,000 online surveys and is cross-linked back to the more than 300 written submissions which are also posted on the website.
2. Mr. Gorley and Mr. Merkel's observations and recommendations (a little less than 100 pages).
3. A condensed summary of Old Growth Strategic recommendations (about 30 pages).

I am keenly interested in the strategic findings and recommendations of this report. As outlined in the report's terms of reference, Minister Donaldson has committed to publicly releasing the Old Growth Strategic Report findings and recommendations within six months, but the goal is in August. With respect to the importance and urgency expressed in submissions to the panel, the ministry is taking this time to fully review the panel's report and recommendations, including considering interim measures implementation, government-to-government engagement with Indigenous Peoples, discussion with workers and communities, and ultimately determining the way ahead. Minister Donaldson has invited me to discuss the material with him and ministry staff. I have also joined him in a number of consultations with environmental advocates concerned about old growth, as there are obvious environmental concerns with respect to ecosystem health, biodiversity and climate.

I know that British Columbians have diverse views on how old growth should be treated and that building a consensus on old growth forests has been a challenge for more than 30 years. Today, as we move forward, we need a science-based approach that presents solutions that respect and understand the benefits of old growth to biodiversity, and includes the views of First Nations, forest communities, forest workers, and industry, as well as the views of all people concerned about ecosystem health. This is a challenge many

years in the making, which requires careful attention as we move forward on the Old Growth Strategic Review recommendations.

Many people have alerted my office to a recent report, authored by a trio of independent researchers, that echoes your advocacy and concern for old growth and the preservation of their biodiversity. The Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development indicates that this independent report was included as a submission to the B.C. Old Growth panel. Minister Donaldson and I have both read the report and take it seriously. We agree there is a clear need for policy solutions that reflect the greater engagement we are seeking with First Nations at a government-to-government level, as well as with environmental organizations, workers, forest-dependent communities, the forestry industry and other groups in a transparent process to find solutions. By working together, we can and will find a path forward for modern and better old forest policies.

You may also be interested to know that we have been actuating the Great Bear Initiative in conjunction with Coastal First Nations.

The world and the economy are in the throes of an unprecedented change due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The government is focused on protecting the health and safety of British Columbians and ensuring we minimize the very real impact the crisis is having on many individuals, families and communities across the province. Nevertheless, I can assure you that climate action remains a core priority of this government, and we will look for opportunities to further our work on both our [CleanBC plan](#) and making our province resilient to climate change as part of longer-term economic recovery efforts. As Premier Horgan has stated publicly on a number of occasions, CleanBC and our climate commitments will be a central component of our economic recovery strategy. We are happy to note that this is increasingly becoming a consensus among many nations.

Thank you again for taking the time to write.

Sincerely,

George Heyman

Minister

cc: Honourable Doug Donaldson, Minister of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development

From: s.22

Sent: July 2, 2020 12:30 PM

To: Minister, ENV ENV:EX <ENV.Minister@gov.bc.ca>

Subject: Take a stand for massive, old trees!

Dear Minister Heyman,

I have written my own letter because I want you to hear from me exactly how I feel. I am not sending you a form letter.

Here is what I feel: VERY ANGRY AND SHOCKED AT THE ENVIRONMENTAL RECORD OF THIS GOVERNMENT THAT I HAD SUPPORTED.

Our environment gives us JOBS. It is financial lunacy to destroy trees that would bring in many times more jobs and dollars for tourism than they would by logging.

If you don't care about BC's jobs and revenue, then consider the immorality of you continuing authorize destruction of our childrens' ecosystems and further expose them to floods and climate crisis, including further wildfires.

Now that BC has been caught out with false claims of more old-growth than actually exists, you have NO EXCUSE for continuing this lunacy.

You do not personally own these forests. They belong to all and are critically needed for the future of all. So STOP authorizing the destruction of our last remaining vestiges of old-growth giants.

- Declare a moratorium on logging these endangered ecosystems with big, old trees and remaining intact old-growth areas

- Fund and support Indigenous-led protected areas and land use visions. Actuate the precedent-setting First Nations

conservation initiatives underway in the critical rainforest regions of Clayoquot Sound and Great Bear Rainforest

- Invest in a transition to sustainable second-growth forestry that FINALLY rates value over volume. That's the only way to restore forestry jobs while protecting biodiversity, drinking water, a liveable climate and community safety

- Ensure any post-pandemic economic stimulus puts people and ecosystem health first so we can build back better, by investing in Indigenous and community-led forestry and forest conservation initiatives. I am sick to death of my tax dollars being corruptly wasted on subsidizing large companies who don't create local jobs or do good in our communities.

Old-growth forests are non-renewable, given the impacts of climate change. STOP DESTROYING the last of BC's endangered forests.

Sincerely,

s.22



Reference: 359568

AUG 06 2020

s.22

Dear s.22

Thank you for your letter of July 2, 2020, regarding old growth forests. It is nice to hear from you again since we last spoke in my office.

I appreciate you taking the time to share your concern regarding the management and preservation of old growth forests in British Columbia. This is a critically important issue that resonates strongly on many levels throughout our entire province. We welcome and appreciate your questions, concerns and feedback on this matter. First, let me clarify that the Minister of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development is responsible for overseeing forestry and logging policy in B.C.

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The Old Growth Strategic Review panel's report represents an important first step and launch point towards developing a thorough understanding of potential challenges and opportunities, from as many viewpoints as possible, in relation to the current and future management of and policies related to old forests and their values. My colleague Minister Doug Donaldson, and his staff in the Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development, is currently reviewing the strategic panel's report and the implications of their recommendations prior to public release and initial response.

This includes:

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...2

Ministry of Environment and
Climate Change Strategy

Office of the
Minister

Mailing Address:
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Website: www.gov.bc.ca/cnv

I am keenly interested in the strategic findings and recommendations of this report. As outlined in the report's terms of reference, Minister Donaldson has committed to publicly releasing the Old Growth Strategic Report findings and recommendations within six months, but the goal is in August. With respect to the importance and urgency expressed in submissions to the panel, the ministry is taking this time to fully review the panel's report and recommendations, including considering interim measures implementation, government-to-government engagement with Indigenous Peoples, discussion with workers and communities, and ultimately determining the way ahead. Minister Donaldson has invited me to discuss the material with him and ministry staff. I have also joined him in a number of consultations with environmental advocates concerned about old growth, as there are obvious environmental concerns with respect to ecosystem health, biodiversity and climate.

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Thank you again for writing.

Sincerely,



George Heyman
Minister

cc: Honourable Doug Donaldson, Minister of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations
and Rural Development

RE: Old growth pull back

From: Minister, ENV ENV:EX s.15
To: s.15
Cc: Minister, FLNR FLNR:EX <FLNR.Minister@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: August 10, 2020 1:14:51 PM PDT

Reference: 359908

s.22

Email:s.22

Dear s.22

Thank you for your email of July 28, 2020, regarding old growth forests.

I appreciate you taking the time to share your concern regarding the management and preservation of old growth forests in British Columbia. This is a critically important issue that resonates strongly on many levels throughout our entire province. We welcome and appreciate your questions, concerns and feedback on this matter. First, let me clarify that the Minister of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development is responsible for overseeing forestry and logging policy in B.C.

You may be interested to know that our government commissioned a review of old growth and old forests policy and practice in B.C. I think we all owe huge thanks to Al Gorley and Garry Merkel for their diligent and thorough work leading the Old Growth Strategic Review panel, and also to the thousands of B.C. residents who took a strong interest and participated in the engagement process. From October 2019 to February 2020, the panel conducted over 200 meetings in 36 communities and met approximately 800 participants. The panel received and reviewed over 300 written submissions as well as more than 18,000 online surveys. These formal written submissions remain available and can be reviewed on the [Old Growth](#) website, if you want to review the full range.

The Old Growth Strategic Review panel's report represents an important first step and launch point towards developing a thorough understanding of potential challenges and opportunities, from as many viewpoints as possible, in relation to the current and future management of and policies related to old forests and their values. My colleague Minister Doug Donaldson, and his staff in the Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development, is currently reviewing the strategic panel's report and the implications of their recommendations prior to public release and initial response.

This includes:

1. A summary of what the panel heard (more than 200 pages). This includes a summary of the more than 18,000 online surveys and is cross-linked back to the more than 300 written submissions which are also posted on the website.
2. Mr. Gorley and Mr. Merkel's observations and recommendations (a little less than 100 pages).
3. A condensed summary of Old Growth Strategic recommendations (about 30 pages).

I am keenly interested in the strategic findings and recommendations of this report. As outlined in the report's terms of reference, Minister Donaldson has committed to publicly releasing the Old Growth Strategic Report findings and recommendations within six months, but the goal is in August. With respect to the importance and urgency expressed in submissions to the panel, the ministry is taking this time to fully review the panel's report and recommendations, including considering interim measures implementation, government-to-government engagement with Indigenous Peoples, discussion with workers and communities, and ultimately determining the way ahead. Minister Donaldson has invited me to discuss the material with him and ministry staff. I have also joined him in a number of consultations with environmental advocates concerned about old growth, as there are obvious environmental concerns with respect to ecosystem health, biodiversity and climate.

I know that British Columbians have diverse views on how old growth should be treated and that building a consensus on old growth forests has been a challenge for more than 30 years. Today, as we move forward, we need a science-based approach that presents solutions that respect and understand the benefits of old growth to biodiversity, and includes the views of First Nations, forest communities, forest workers, and industry, as well as the views of all people concerned about ecosystem health. This is a challenge many years in the making, which requires careful attention as we move forward on the Old Growth Strategic Review recommendations.

Many people have alerted my office to a recent report, authored by a trio of independent researchers, that echoes your advocacy and concern for old growth and the preservation of their biodiversity. The Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development indicates that this independent report was included as a submission to the B.C. Old Growth panel. Minister Donaldson and I have both read the report and take it seriously. We agree there is a clear need for policy solutions that reflect the greater engagement we are seeking with First Nations at a government-to-government level, as well as with environmental organizations, workers, forest-dependent communities, the forestry industry and other groups in a transparent process to find solutions. By working together, we can and will find a path forward for modern and better old forest policies.

Thank you again for writing.

Sincerely,

George Heyman

Minister

cc: Honourable Doug Donaldson, Minister of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development

-----Original Message-----

From: [s.22](#)

Sent: July 28, 2020 5:52 PM

To: Minister, ENV ENV:EX <ENV.Minister@gov.bc.ca>

Cc: [s.22](#)

Subject: Old growth pull back

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Sir ,

It's deplorable that your government is still allowing old growth forest to be clear cut . We are organizing against this in the Comox Valley and you will be hearing from us soon .

Is your Ministry doing anything at present to stop this ?

Please let us know ASAP .

Sincerely yours,

[s.22](#)

Sent from my iPhone

RE: Ban on old growth forests

From: Hundza, Kirsten ENV:EX <Kirsten.Hundza@gov.bc.ca>
To: boundaryforest@gmail.com
Cc: Minister, FLNR FLNR:EX <FLNR.Minister@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: August 12, 2020 10:07:21 AM PDT
Attachments: old growth ban letter.docx

Reference: 359920

August 12, 2020

Board of Directors

Boundary Forest Watershed Stewardship Society

Email: boundaryforest@gmail.com

Dear Board of Directors:

Thank you for your letter of July 30, 2020, regarding old growth forests in B.C.

I appreciate you taking the time to share your concern regarding the management and preservation of old growth forests in British Columbia. This is a critically important issue that resonates strongly on many levels throughout our entire province. We welcome and appreciate your questions, concerns and feedback on this matter. First, let me clarify that the Minister of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development is responsible for overseeing forestry and logging policy in B.C.

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The Old Growth Strategic Review panel's report represents an important first step and launch point towards developing a thorough understanding of potential challenges and opportunities, from as many viewpoints as possible, in relation to the current and future management of and policies related to old forests and their values. My colleague Minister Doug Donaldson, and his staff in the Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development, is currently reviewing the strategic panel's report and the implications of their recommendations prior to public release and initial response.

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Thank you again for writing.

Sincerely,

George Heyman

Minister

cc: Honourable Doug Donaldson, Minister of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development

From: Heyman.MLA, George <George.Heyman.MLA@leg.bc.ca>

Sent: July 30, 2020 4:50 PM

To: Minister, ENV ENV:EX <ENV.Minister@gov.bc.ca>

Subject: FW: Ban on old growth forests

From: Boundary Forest Watershed <boundaryforest@gmail.com>

Sent: Thursday, July 30, 2020 4:45 PM

To: Heyman.MLA, George <George.Heyman.MLA@leg.bc.ca>; Horgan.MLA, John <John.Horgan.MLA@leg.bc.ca>;

Donaldson.MLA, Doug <Doug.Donaldson.MLA@leg.bc.ca>; Malcolmson.MLA, Sheila

<Sheila.Malcolmson.mla@leg.bc.ca>; Routley.MLA, Douglas <Douglas.Routley.MLA@leg.bc.ca>;

inda.larson.MLA@leg.bc.ca; richard.cannings@parl.gc.ca

Subject: Ban on old growth forests

Boundary Forest Watershed Stewardship Society

PO Box 2926, Grand Forks, BC V0H 1H0

boundaryforest@gmail.com

www.boundaryforest.org

Premier John Horgan MLA, Minister Doug Donaldson MLA, Sheila Malcomson MLA, Doug Routley MLA, Linda Larson MLA, Minister George Heyman MLA, Richard Cannings MP

July 30, 2020

Dear Sirs and Madams,

We are writing to urge you **to immediately ban logging old growth forests** across British Columbia.

These trees and forests are the **best defence we have against a warming climate** that threatens all life on this planet, including and especially humankind. They are also the best managers of our water. The loss of old growth and mature trees in the Boundary watershed has already contributed to major flooding here with dire economic impacts. Across the world action is stirring, but it is irregular and weakened. **Canada needs to step up as a leader**, for our citizens and the entire world.

Mature trees better resist fires, retain water, and sequester carbon; losing them would eventually destroy our habitable world, however most of the old growth forests that once blanketed BC are now gone. Industrial logging continues unabated across the province, targeting the biggest trees and the oldest forests.

In this time when racism and racial inequalities are being reckoned with, many people say **"How could people have owned slaves?"** or **"If I lived at that time I would never have done that"**. **The critical environmental situation now will be reflected upon in the future with the same judgement and reckoning.** Can we as citizens say we are doing

anything to mitigate these extreme futures pronounced upon our children and grandchildren? Are we idle, or worse, complicit in these very last moments when change is possible? James Darling and Robert Fuller will not eat until the BC government bans the destruction of old growth forests.

Please quickly enact this ban, respect and protect the lives of these protestors, our citizens, and the world. **We are relying on you. Thank you for your service to us all.**

Yours truly,

Board of Directors,
Boundary Forest Watershed Stewardship Society



Boundary Forest Watershed Stewardship Society
PO Box 2926, Grand Forks, BC V0H 1H0
boundaryforest@gmail.com
www.boundaryforest.org

Premier John Horgan, Minister Doug Donaldson, Sheila Malcomson, Doug Routley, MLA Linda Larson, Minister George Heyman, MP Richard Cannings and all Members of the Legislative Assembly of British Columbia

July 30, 2020

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Please quickly enact this ban, respect and protect the lives of these protestors, our citizens, and the world. **We are relying on you.**

Yours truly,

Board of Directors,
Boundary Forest Watershed Stewardship Society

RE: B.C. needs a new forestry framework

From: Hundza, Kirsten ENV:EX <Kirsten.Hundza@gov.bc.ca>
To: s.22
Cc: Minister, FLNR FLNR:EX <FLNR.Minister@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: August 12, 2020 3:26:20 PM PDT

Reference: 359927

August 12, 2020

s.22

Email:s.22

Dear s.22

Thank you for your email of August 2, 2020, regarding old growth forests in B.C.

I appreciate you taking the time to share your concern regarding the management and preservation of old growth forests in British Columbia. This is a critically important issue that resonates strongly on many levels throughout our entire province. We welcome and appreciate your questions, concerns and feedback on this matter. First, let me clarify that the Minister of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development is responsible for overseeing forestry and logging policy in B.C.

You may be interested to know that our government commissioned a review of old growth and old forests policy and practice in B.C. I think we all owe huge thanks to Al Gorley and Garry Merkel for their diligent and thorough work leading the Old Growth Strategic Review panel, and also to the thousands of B.C. residents who took a strong interest and participated in the engagement process. From October 2019 to February 2020, the panel conducted over 200 meetings in 36 communities and met approximately 800 participants. The panel received and reviewed over 300 written submissions as well as more than 18,000 online surveys. These formal written submissions remain available and can be reviewed on the [Old Growth](#) website, if you want to review the full range.

The Old Growth Strategic Review panel's report represents an important first step and launch point towards developing a thorough understanding of potential challenges and opportunities, from as many viewpoints as possible, in relation to the current and future management of and policies related to old forests and their values. My colleague Minister Doug Donaldson, and his staff in the Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development, is currently reviewing the strategic panel's report and the implications of their recommendations prior to public release and initial response.

This includes:

1. A summary of what the panel heard (more than 200 pages). This includes a summary of the more than 18,000 online surveys and is cross-linked back to the more than 300 written submissions which are also posted on the website.
2. Mr. Gorley and Mr. Merkel's observations and recommendations (a little less than 100 pages).
3. A condensed summary of Old Growth Strategic recommendations (about 30 pages).

I am keenly interested in the strategic findings and recommendations of this report. As outlined in the report's terms of reference, Minister Donaldson has committed to publicly releasing the Old Growth Strategic Report findings and recommendations within six months, but the goal is in August. With respect to the importance and urgency expressed in submissions to the panel, the ministry is taking this time to fully review the panel's report and recommendations, including considering interim measures implementation, government-to-government engagement with Indigenous Peoples, discussion with workers and communities, and ultimately determining the way ahead. Minister Donaldson has invited me to discuss the material with him and ministry staff. I have also joined him in a number of consultations with environmental advocates concerned about old growth, as there are obvious environmental concerns with respect to ecosystem health, biodiversity and climate.

I know that British Columbians have diverse views on how old growth should be treated and that building a consensus on old growth forests has been a challenge for more than 30 years. Today, as we move forward, we need a science-based approach that presents solutions that respect and understand the benefits of old growth to biodiversity, and includes the views of First Nations, forest communities, forest workers, and industry, as well as the views of all people concerned about ecosystem health. This is a challenge many years in the making, which requires careful attention as we move forward on the Old Growth Strategic Review recommendations.

Many people have alerted my office to a recent report, authored by a trio of independent researchers, that echoes your advocacy and concern for old growth and the preservation of their biodiversity. The Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development indicates that this independent report was included as a submission to the B.C. Old Growth panel. Minister Donaldson and I have both read the report and take it seriously. We agree there is a clear need for policy solutions that reflect the greater engagement we are seeking with First Nations at a government-to-government level, as well as with environmental organizations, workers, forest-dependent communities, the forestry industry and other groups in a transparent process to find solutions. By working together, we can and will find a path forward for modern and better old forest policies.

Thank you again for writing.

Sincerely,

George Heyman

Minister

cc: Honourable Doug Donaldson, Minister of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development

From: s.22

Sent: August 2, 2020 6:16 AM

To: Minister, ENV ENV:EX <ENV.Minister@gov.bc.ca>; Minister, FLNR FLNR:EX <FLNR.Minister@gov.bc.ca>

Cc: seamus.oregan@parl.gc.ca; Minister, JEDC JEDC:EX <JEDC.Minister@gov.bc.ca>; Minister, IRR IRR:EX <IRR.Minister@gov.bc.ca>

Subject: B.C. needs a new forestry framework

Dear Ministers,

B.C.'s current track record shows the primary focus of government and the forest industry is to create tree plantations of commercially acceptable feedstock and fibre. Trees are treated a commodity instead of an ecosystem. Over the decades, communities have suffered boom and bust cycles as jobs decline due to technological changes and the export of raw logs. Our forests and our communities deserve better.

The forests of B.C. are its most extensive ecosystem, covering two-thirds of the land base. Thriving ecosystems provide a wide range of ecological services. They have the potential to provide significant and diverse employment and are critical to the culture of Indigenous peoples.

Ecoforestry offers an eco-centric approach to forests. Intact forests provide valuable ecological services, including the air we breathe and the water we drink, carbon storage, and critical habitat for a wide range of living beings from fungi to apex predators. They also offer climate change services that buffer pests, floods and drought -- services which will become much more valuable as the climate changes. Ecoforestry recognizes that we are a part of nature and that we must work with nature. To destroy nature is to destroy ourselves.

I want British Columbians to adopt a bold new forest framework based on an eco-centric approach that allows ecosystems and communities to thrive. The principles and practice of ecoforestry require that we live and work within ecological parameters and that we protect and restore natural ecosystem richness, complexity and resiliency, both for our enjoyment and to help us adapt to a rapidly changing climate.

This approach provides for an ecologically appropriate level of harvest resulting in greater job creation when the full range of economic values is realized. A rich diversity of direct and indirect jobs is created, from naturalist, restoration ecologist and healer positions to value-added wood crafters and community event planners. Local businesses and suppliers benefit from the uptake of local accommodations and eating establishments.

We can no longer support business as usual in the management of our forests. Our health and that of our communities is dependent on the health of the entire forest ecosystem. Reconciliation with Indigenous peoples cannot be fulfilled without healthy forests. We can and must do better.

Now is the time for transformation, as time is of the essence. We must start the shift to this ecosystem-centric approach to our forests now.

I look forward to your reply.

Sincerely,

s.22

May all paths lead to healing.

RE: A new forest framework, desperately needed

From: Hundza, Kirsten ENV:EX <Kirsten.Hundza@gov.bc.ca>
To: s.22
Cc: Minister, FLNR FLNR:EX <FLNR.Minister@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: August 13, 2020 2:45:55 PM PDT

Reference: 359876

August 13, 2020

s.22

Email: s.22

Dears.22

Thank you for your follow-up email of July 27, 2020, calling for a new forest framework in B.C. I am also in receipt of your letter of July 27, 2020, sent on behalf of the Outreach, Peace and Justice Committee with the Knox United Church in Terrace B.C.

I appreciate you taking the time to share your concern regarding the management and preservation of old growth forests in British Columbia. This is a critically important issue that resonates strongly on many levels throughout our entire province. We welcome and appreciate your questions, concerns and feedback on this matter. As mentioned in my previous email, the Minister of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development is responsible for overseeing forestry and logging policy in B.C.; however, I welcome to opportunity to outline the work our government is doing regarding old growth forests in B.C. Our government commissioned a review of old growth and old forests policy and practice in B.C. I think we all owe huge thanks to Al Gorley and Garry Merkel for their diligent and thorough work leading the Old Growth Strategic Review panel, and also to the thousands of B.C. residents who took a strong interest and participated in the engagement process. From October 2019 to February 2020, the panel conducted over 200 meetings in 36 communities and met approximately 800 participants. The panel received and reviewed over 300 written submissions as well as more than 18,000 online surveys. These formal written submissions remain available and can be reviewed on the [Old Growth](#) website, if you want to review the full range. The Old Growth Strategic Review panel's report represents an important first step and launch point towards developing a thorough understanding of potential challenges and opportunities, from as many viewpoints as possible, in relation to the current and future management of and policies related to old forests and their values. My colleague Minister Doug Donaldson, and his staff in the Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development, is currently reviewing the strategic panel's report and the implications of their recommendations prior to public release and initial response.

This includes:

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2. Mr. Gorley and Mr. Merkel's observations and recommendations (a little less than 100 pages).
3. A condensed summary of Old Growth Strategic recommendations (about 30 pages).

I am keenly interested in the strategic findings and recommendations of this report. As outlined in the report's terms of reference, Minister Donaldson has committed to publicly releasing the Old Growth Strategic Report findings and recommendations within six months, but the goal is by late summer. With respect to the importance and urgency expressed in submissions to the panel, the ministry is taking this time to fully review the panel's report and recommendations, including considering interim measures implementation, government-to-government engagement with Indigenous Peoples, discussion with workers and communities, and ultimately determining the way ahead. Minister Donaldson has invited me to discuss the material with him and ministry staff. I have also joined him in a number of consultations with environmental advocates concerned about old growth, as there are obvious environmental concerns with respect to ecosystem health, biodiversity and climate. I continue to work with Minister Donaldson to best coordinate and align policy that involves mandates for both our ministries.

I know that British Columbians have diverse views on how old growth should be treated and that building a consensus on old growth forests has been a challenge for more than 30 years. Today, as we move forward, we need a science-based approach that presents solutions that respect and understand the benefits of old growth to biodiversity, and includes the views of First Nations, forest communities, forest workers, and industry, as well as the views of all people concerned about ecosystem health. This is a challenge many

years in the making, which requires careful attention as we move forward on the Old Growth Strategic Review recommendations.

Many people have alerted my office to a recent report, authored by a trio of independent researchers, that echoes your advocacy and concern for old growth and the preservation of their biodiversity. The Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development indicates that this independent report was included as a submission to the B.C. Old Growth panel. Minister Donaldson and I have both read the report and take it seriously. We agree there is a clear need for policy solutions that reflect the greater engagement we are seeking with First Nations at a government-to-government level, as well as with environmental organizations, workers, forest-dependent communities, the forestry industry and other groups in a transparent process to find solutions. By working together, we can and will find a path forward for modern and better old forest policies.

Thank you again for writing.

Sincerely,

George Heyman

Minister

cc: Honourable Doug Donaldson, Minister of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development

From: s.22

Sent: July 27, 2020 11:07 AM

To: Minister, ENV ENV:EX

Cc: info@creativelyunited.org

Subject: Re: A new forest framework, desperately needed

Dear George Heyman,

With respect, I think you missed the point of the letter. While the need for a new policy framework for forests does, indeed, fall within the mandate of Minister Donaldson, it was also sent to you because it should also be solidly within your mandate. We are in desperate need of a forest policy that does more than address the needs of the forest industry and is based on what science is telling us about what forests need to operate as healthy ecosystems and that's where you come in, quite frankly. Working on a new forest framework requires the integrated and energetic work of a number of ministries.

My letter asks what your ministry will do. Can you speak to this question?

Thank you for your continuing attention to this.

s.22

On Jul 9, 2020, at 10:34 AM, Minister, ENV ENV:EX <ENV.Minister@gov.bc.ca> wrote:

Reference: 358493

July 9, 2020

s.22

Email: s.22

Dea s.22

Thank you for your email of June 22, 2020, calling for a new forest framework in B.C.

While I appreciate that you took the time to share your thoughts with me, this topic falls under the responsibility of the Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development. I have shared a copy of your enquiry with my colleague, Minister Doug Donaldson, for his review and consideration.

Thank you again for writing.

Sincerely,

George Heyman

Minister

cc: Honourable Doug Donaldson, Minister of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development

From: s.22

Sent: June 22, 2020 10:51 AM

To: Minister, ENV ENV:EX <ENV.Minister@gov.bc.ca>

Cc: info@creativelyunited.org

Subject: A new forest framework, desperately needed

Dear Minister,

Re: A call for a New Forest Framework in British Columbia

We are joining other organizations and communities in calling for a new forest framework in BC. Forests have covered two-thirds of our land base. Thriving ecosystems have provided a wide range of ecological services and still have the potential to provide more and diverse employment than we now have. Healthy forests are critical to us and especially to the culture of Indigenous peoples and therefore to our journey of reconciliation. But we do not have healthy forests, nor a healthy forest economy in BC

The forest industry and ministry do not believe in forests. They focus first on trees as a commodity and so convert ecosystems into tree farms to grow that product. We profoundly disagree. The capacity of biodiversity to create and maintain ecosystems that are the richest possible expression of life, and the richest possible forests, has been tested for health and resilience for millions of years and is capable of producing some of the finest wood on the planet in 400 to 800 year old trees. But industrial forestry, aided by government, is intent on converting that evolution into a monoculture be harvested every 40 to 80 years. Over the decades, industry and government have taken an incredibly rich gift and, putting very little back, have thus put their industry, and the communities and forests that have supported it, into steady decline.

Our communities have suffered boom and bust economies, our mills have steadily closed, our job numbers have continued to plummet as have the number of species our forests once sheltered and which contributed to their health and we are left with a devastated landscape from which we increasingly export raw logs to foreign industries. Our forests and our communities deserve better.

But there are more streams in the forest than there are revenue streams in industry and government. Ecoforestry offers a better approach to forests, viewing them as thriving ecosystems, rich in biodiversity that can provide the base for a healthy communities and more productive economies. Healthy forests = healthy communities. Intact forests provide critical ecological services from required habitat to urgently needed carbon storage to buffering pest outbreaks, fires, floods and droughts. We need to restore natural ecosystem richness, complexity and resiliency as quickly as we can to help us adapt to a rapidly changing climate. That we do not yet have an accounting system that is sophisticated enough to create a figure for the public value of these services, and the cost of doing without them, does not relieve us from the responsibility to begin to do that accounting now.

Clearly our present paradigm of industrial forestry has failed by any measure.

Ecoforestry recognizes that we are a part of nature and to destroy nature is to destroy ourselves. So we call on you to create a bold new forest framework with us that is based on an ecocentric approach that allows both forests and communities to thrive. This approach requires an ecologically appropriate level of harvest but it results in greater job creation when the full range of economic values is realized. To regain community health and resilience, we require an economy that is as richly diverse as our forests. We require a community-based forestry that pays equal attention to ecosystem restoration as it does to timber harvest and is capable of working in a deeply integrated way with value-added industries, the recreation and tourism sectors and local governments. This is especially so for Indigenous governments. Reconciliation with Indigenous peoples cannot be fulfilled without healthy forests and including Indigenous communities in the responsibility for creating that.

This is not yet an area of public policy shift. But it should be. We are calling for this because government isn't. The forest industry has long since passed any criterion of public good. If industrial forestry is able to adapt to the challenges we face, they are welcome to join us. But we no longer support business as usual in the management of our forests because it has involved both the destruction of those forests and the hollowing out of our communities.

Our health, and our future, are dependent on the health of the entire forest ecosystem. We can do better together.

Sincerely,

s.22

.cc info@creativelyunited.org

RE: Protecting BCs Old Growth Forests

From: Hundza, Kirsten ENV:EX <Kirsten.Hundza@gov.bc.ca>
To: s.22
Cc: Minister, FLNR FLNR:EX <FLNR.Minister@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: August 17, 2020 10:21:23 AM PDT

Reference: 359921

August 17, 2020

s.22

Emails.22

Dear s.22

Thank you for your email of July 31, 2020, regarding the protection of old growth forests in B.C.

I appreciate that you took the time to share your concern regarding the management and preservation of old growth forests in British Columbia. This is a critically important issue that resonates strongly on many levels throughout our entire province. We welcome and appreciate your questions, concerns and feedback on this matter. First, let me clarify that the Minister of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development is responsible for overseeing forestry and logging policy in B.C.

As you noted in your email, our government commissioned a review of old growth and old forests policy and practice in B.C. I think we all owe huge thanks to Al Gorley and Garry Merkel for their diligent and thorough work leading the Old Growth Strategic Review panel, and also to the thousands of B.C. residents who took a strong interest and participated in the engagement process. From October 2019 to February 2020, the panel conducted over 200 meetings in 36 communities and met approximately 800 participants. The panel received and reviewed over 300 written submissions as well as more than 18,000 online surveys. These formal written submissions remain available and can be reviewed on the [Old Growth](#) website, if you want to review the full range.

The Old Growth Strategic Review panel's report represents an important first step and launch point towards developing a thorough understanding of potential challenges and opportunities, from as many viewpoints as possible, in relation to the current and future management of and policies related to old forests and their values.

I am keenly interested in the strategic findings and recommendations of this report. As outlined in the report's terms of reference, Minister Donaldson has committed to publicly releasing the Old Growth Strategic Report findings and recommendations within six months, but the goal is by late summer.

With respect to the importance and urgency expressed in your email and in submissions to the panel, the ministry is taking this time to fully review the panel's report and recommendations, including considering interim measures implementation, government-to-government engagement with Indigenous Peoples, discussion with workers and communities, and ultimately determining the way ahead. Minister Donaldson has invited me to discuss the material with him and ministry staff. I have also joined him in a number of consultations with environmental advocates concerned about old growth, as there are obvious environmental concerns with respect to ecosystem health, biodiversity and climate. I continue to work with Minister Donaldson to best coordinate and align policy that involves mandates for both our ministries.

I know that British Columbians have diverse views on how old growth should be treated and that building a consensus on old growth forests has been a challenge for more than 30 years. Today, as we move forward, we need a science-based approach that presents solutions that respect and understand the benefits of old growth to biodiversity, and includes the views of First Nations, forest communities, forest workers, and industry, as well as the views of all people concerned about ecosystem health. This is a challenge many years in the making, which requires careful attention as we move forward on the Old Growth Strategic Review recommendations. By working together, we can and will find a path forward for modern and better old forest policies.

Thank you again for writing.

Sincerely,

George Heyman

Minister

cc: Honourable Doug Donaldson, Minister of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development

From: s.22

Sent: July 31, 2020 9:42 AM

To: Minister, ENV ENV:EX <ENV.Minister@gov.bc.ca>; Deputy Minister ENV:EX <DM.ENV@gov.bc.ca>; Minister, FLNR FLNR:EX <FLNR.Minister@gov.bc.ca>

Subject: Protecting BCs Old Growth Forests

Sirs,

Your government has been in power for three years and yet logging of our ancient forests continues at an alarming rate.

What do you plan to do to immediately protect old growth forests and the associated ecosystems? When will your government put a moratorium on logging our last remaining productive old growth in BC?

Reviewing a report from forest experts is not enough. These are irreplaceable ecosystems and you need to **act** now.

TEAL JONES has started cutting roads into the headwater of Fairy Creek, just east of Port Renfrew. As I understand it they plan to CLEARCUT the entire head of the waterway, the lush bowl mountainous terrain, an old-growth canopy that catches the rain and feeds the creek, unto Fairy Lake and out through its Pacific watershed. The lower part of this creek is protected, and reserved, yet they are going to cut out the very SOURCE of the waterway, the HEADWATER of Fairy Creek.

If you want to be on the right side of history you will make TEAL JONES STOP operations immediately. If you want my vote in the next provincial election you will act now.

Sincerely,

s.22

RE: Act to save old-growth forests

From: Hundza, Kirsten ENV:EX <Kirsten.Hundza@gov.bc.ca>
To: s.22
Cc: Minister, FLNR FLNR:EX <FLNR.Minister@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: August 17, 2020 1:55:52 PM PDT
Attachments: image001.jpg

Reference: 360174

August 17, 2020

s.22

Email: s.22

Dear s.22

Thank you for your email of August 7, 2020, regarding old growth forests in B.C.

I appreciate you taking the time to share your concern regarding the management and preservation of old growth forests in British Columbia. This is a critically important issue that resonates strongly on many levels throughout our entire province. We welcome and appreciate your questions, concerns and feedback on this matter. First, let me clarify that the Minister of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development is responsible for overseeing forestry and logging policy in B.C.

You may be interested to know that our government commissioned a review of old growth and old forests policy and practice in B.C. I think we all owe huge thanks to Al Gorley and Garry Merkel for their diligent and thorough work leading the Old Growth Strategic Review panel, and also to the thousands of B.C. residents who took a strong interest and participated in the engagement process. From October 2019 to February 2020, the panel conducted over 200 meetings in 36 communities and met approximately 800 participants. The panel received and reviewed over 300 written submissions as well as more than 18,000 online surveys. These formal written submissions remain available and can be reviewed on the [Old Growth](#) website, if you want to review the full range.

The Old Growth Strategic Review panel's report represents an important first step and launch point towards developing a thorough understanding of potential challenges and opportunities, from as many viewpoints as possible, in relation to the current and future management of and policies related to old forests and their values. My colleague Minister Doug Donaldson, with his staff in the Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development, is currently reviewing the strategic panel's report and the implications of their recommendations prior to public release and initial response.

This includes:

1. A summary of what the panel heard (more than 200 pages). This includes a summary of the more than 18,000 online surveys and is cross-linked back to the more than 300 written submissions which are also posted on the website.
2. Mr. Gorley and Mr. Merkel's observations and recommendations (a little less than 100 pages).
3. A condensed summary of Old Growth Strategic recommendations (about 30 pages).

I am keenly interested in the strategic findings and recommendations of this report. As outlined in the report's terms of reference, Minister Donaldson has committed to publicly releasing the Old Growth Strategic Report findings and recommendations within six months, but the goal is by late summer. With respect to the importance and urgency expressed in submissions to the panel, the ministry is taking this time to fully review the panel's report and recommendations, including considering interim measures implementation, government-to-government engagement with Indigenous Peoples, discussion with workers and communities, and ultimately determining the way ahead. Minister Donaldson has invited me to discuss the material with him and ministry staff. I have also joined him in a number of consultations with environmental advocates concerned about old growth, as there are obvious environmental concerns with respect to ecosystem health, biodiversity and climate. I continue to work with Minister Donaldson to best coordinate and align policy that involves mandates for both our ministries.

I know that British Columbians have diverse views on how old growth should be treated and that building a consensus on old growth forests has been a challenge for more than 30 years. Today, as we move forward, we need a science-based approach that presents solutions that respect and understand the benefits of old growth to biodiversity, and includes the views of First Nations, forest communities, forest workers, and industry, as well as the views of all people concerned about ecosystem health. This is a challenge many

years in the making, which requires careful attention as we move forward on the Old Growth Strategic Review recommendations.

Many people have alerted my office to a recent report, authored by a trio of independent researchers, that echoes your advocacy and concern for old growth and the preservation of their biodiversity. The Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development indicates that this independent report was included as a submission to the B.C. Old Growth panel. Minister Donaldson and I have both read the report and take it seriously. We agree there is a clear need for policy solutions that reflect the greater engagement we are seeking with First Nations at a government-to-government level, as well as with environmental organizations, workers, forest-dependent communities, the forestry industry and other groups in a transparent process to find solutions. By working together, we can and will find a path forward for modern and better old forest policies.

Thank you again for writing.

Sincerely,

George Heyman

Minister

cc: Honourable Doug Donaldson, Minister of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development

From: s.22

Sent: August 7, 2020 11:59 AM

To: Minister, ENV ENV:EX <ENV.Minister@gov.bc.ca>

Subject: Act to save old-growth forests

Dear George Heyman,

As we rebuild through COVID-19, it is a valuable time to create changes to address some of our provincial systems that no longer make sense. We have learned through COVID-19 how quickly the government can change the way they do things, especially when it is clear that change is needed. I believe that clear and rapid change is needed in how the province treats the remaining endangered old-growth forests in BC.

The value of the remaining, irreplaceable, old-growth forests across the province clearly outweighs their value in timber, and I think it is time that your government move to stop logging them and protect them.

Original, low-elevation old-growth rainforest has been removed from the vast majority of BC, including over 90 per cent of several ecosystem types. Despite this scarcity, the industry has shown no signs of slowing down. It is time that the government step in and protect these amazing places for good.

Old-growth rainforests ecosystems provide benefits and value that far surpass their value as timber. These benefits include recreation and tourism opportunities, resources and medicines integral to Indigenous cultures and habitat for many endangered species. These benefits stretch much farther into the future than the one time cash-in of logging, and have the opportunity to provide benefit and inspiration to many people. Another benefit that is incredibly relevant today is that non-replaceable old-growth rainforests store more carbon than younger forests, making them a critical ally in the fight against climate change. These benefits are not as easy to value in dollar figures, but that does not make them any less valuable.

Please see the clear reasons to take strong and quick actions to protect the remaining old-growth forests in BC. These places are important to British Columbians and time is running out to save what is left of these beautiful ecological and culturally important places. Please don't be the ones that let the last of these places slip away to the push and grind of the economy and forest companies.

As my MLA I want you to know that protecting old-growth in BC is a priority of mine and I ask that you make it your priority as well.

Sincerely,

s.22



Reference: 359625

AUG 11 2020

s.22

Dear s.22

Thank you for your letter of July 9, 2020, regarding old growth forest.

I appreciate you taking the time to share your concern regarding the management and preservation of old growth forests in British Columbia. This is a critically important issue that resonates strongly on many levels throughout our entire province. We welcome and appreciate your concerns and feedback on this matter. First, let me clarify that the Minister of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development is responsible for overseeing forestry and logging policy in B.C.

You may be interested to know that our government commissioned a review of old growth and old forests policy and practice in B.C. I think we all owe huge thanks to Al Gorley and Garry Merkel for their diligent and thorough work leading the Old Growth Strategic Review panel, and also to the thousands of B.C. residents who took a strong interest and participated in the engagement process. From October 2019 to February 2020, the panel conducted over 200 meetings in 36 communities and met approximately 800 participants. The panel received and reviewed over 300 written submissions as well as more than 18,000 online surveys. These formal written submissions remain available and can be reviewed online at www.engage.gov.bc.ca/oldgrowth/written-submissions/.

The Old Growth Strategic Review panel's report represents an important first step and launch point towards developing a thorough understanding of potential challenges and opportunities, from as many viewpoints as possible, in relation to the current and future management of and policies related to old forests and their values. My colleague Minister Doug Donaldson, and his staff in the Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development, is currently reviewing the strategic panel's report and the implications of their recommendations prior to public release and initial response.

This includes:

1. A summary of what the panel heard (more than 200 pages). This includes a summary of the more than 18,000 online surveys and is cross-linked back to the more than 300 written submissions which are also posted on the website.
2. Mr. Gorley and Mr. Merkel's observations and recommendations (a little less than 100 pages).
3. A condensed summary of Old Growth Strategic recommendations (about 30 pages).

...2

This includes:

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5. Mr. Gorley and Mr. Merkel's observations and recommendations (a little less than 100 pages).
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I am keenly interested in the strategic findings and recommendations of this report. As outlined in the report's terms of reference, Minister Donaldson has committed to publicly releasing the Old Growth Strategic Report findings and recommendations within six months, but the goal is by late summer. With respect to the importance and urgency expressed in submissions to the panel, the ministry is taking this time to fully review the panel's report and recommendations, including considering interim measures implementation, government-to-government engagement with Indigenous Peoples, discussion with workers and communities, and ultimately determining the way ahead. Minister Donaldson has invited me to discuss the material with him and ministry staff. I have also joined him in a number of consultations with environmental advocates concerned about old growth, as there are obvious environmental concerns with respect to ecosystem health, biodiversity and climate.

I know that British Columbians have diverse views on how old growth should be treated and that building a consensus on old growth forests has been a challenge for more than 30 years. Today, as we move forward, we need a science-based approach that presents solutions that respect and understand the benefits of old growth to biodiversity, and includes the views of First Nations, forest communities, forest workers, and industry, as well as the views of all people concerned about ecosystem health. This is a challenge many years in the making, which requires careful attention as we move forward on the Old Growth Strategic Review recommendations.

Many people have alerted my office to a recent report, authored by a trio of independent researchers, that echoes your advocacy and concern for old growth and the preservation of their biodiversity. The Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development indicates that this independent report was included as a submission to the B.C. Old Growth panel. Minister Donaldson and I have both read the report and take it seriously. We agree there is a clear need for policy solutions that reflect the greater engagement we are seeking with First Nations at a government-to-government level, as well as with environmental organizations, workers, forest-dependent communities, the forestry industry and other groups in a transparent process to find solutions. By working together, we can and will find a path forward for modern and better old forest policies.

Thank you again for writing.

Sincerely,



George Heyman
Minister

cc: Honourable Doug Donaldson, Minister of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development

RE: Please stop old-growth logging in B.C.

From: Minister, ENV ENV:EX <ENV.Minister@gov.bc.ca>
To: s.22
Cc: Minister, EMPR EMPR:EX <EMPR.Minister@gov.bc.ca>, Minister, FLNR FLNR:EX <FLNR.Minister@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: September 9, 2020 10:41:52 AM PDT
Attachments: RE Old-growth logging in B.C..pdf

Reference: 359925

September 9, 2020

s.22

Email: s.22

Dear s.22

Thank you for your letter of July 31, 2020, regarding old growth forests in British Columbia and the Site C dam. I appreciate you taking the time to share your concern regarding the management and preservation of old growth forests in British Columbia. This is a critically important issue that resonates strongly on many levels throughout our entire province. We welcome and appreciate your questions, concerns and feedback on this matter. First, let me clarify that the Minister of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development is responsible for overseeing forestry and logging policy in B.C.

You may be interested to know that our government commissioned a review of old growth and old forests policy and practice in B.C. I think we all owe huge thanks to Al Gorley and Garry Merkel for their diligent and thorough work leading the Old Growth Strategic Review panel, and also to the thousands of B.C. residents who took a strong interest and participated in the engagement process. From October 2019 to February 2020, the panel conducted over 200 meetings in 36 communities and met approximately 800 participants. The panel received and reviewed over 300 written submissions as well as more than 18,000 online surveys. These formal written submissions remain available and can be reviewed on the [Old Growth](#) website, if you want to review the full range.

The Old Growth Strategic Review panel's report represents an important first step and launch point towards developing a thorough understanding of potential challenges and opportunities, from as many viewpoints as possible, in relation to the current and future management of and policies related to old forests and their values. My colleague Minister Doug Donaldson, with his staff in the Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development, is currently reviewing the strategic panel's report and the implications of their recommendations prior to public release and initial response.

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Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development indicates that this independent report was included as a submission to the B.C. Old Growth panel. Minister Donaldson and I have both read the report and take it seriously. We agree there is a clear need for policy solutions that reflect the greater engagement we are seeking with First Nations at a government-to-government level, as well as with environmental organizations, workers, forest-dependent communities, the forestry industry and other groups in a transparent process to find solutions. By working together, we can and will find a path forward for modern and better old forest policies.

Regarding the Site C dam, while I appreciate that you took the time to share your concerns, the Site C dam falls under the responsibility of the Ministry of Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources. As such, I have shared a copy of your enquiry with my colleague, Minister Bruce Ralston, for his review and consideration.

Thank you again for writing.

Sincerely,

George Heyman

Minister

cc: Honourable Doug Donaldson, Minister of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development
Honourable Bruce Ralston, Minister of Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources

From: s.22

Sent: July 31, 2020 11:42 AM

To: Minister, FLNR FLNR:EX <FLNR.Minister@gov.bc.ca>; Minister, ENV ENV:EX <ENV.Minister@gov.bc.ca>; Minister, IRR IRR:EX <IRR.Minister@gov.bc.ca>; OfficeofthePremier, Office PREM:EX <Premier@gov.bc.ca>

Subject: Please stop old-growth logging in B.C.

[EXTERNAL] This email came from an external source. Only open attachments or links that you are expecting from a known sender.

Hello,

Please see the attached letter addressed to:

- Premier Horgan;
- Ministers Donaldson, Heyman and Fraser; and
- Deputy Ministers Allan, Jardine and Caul.

Thank you,

s.22

s.22

July 31, 2020

Honourable Doug Donaldson, Minister of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development; and John Allan, Deputy Minister

Honourable George Heyman, Minister of Environment and Climate Change Strategy; and Kevin Jardine, Deputy Minister

Honourable Scott Fraser, Minister of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation; and Doug Caul Deputy Minister
Premier John Horgan

RE: Old-growth logging in B.C. and Site C dam

Premier Horgan and Ministers,

I'm writing out of concern for the world's climate, B.C.'s forests, and reconciliation with Indigenous peoples. But first let me say thank you for your work. It's a tough year to be a public figure and community leader, no doubt.

Rita Wong's piece in the National Observer, "[What I learned about violence in B.C.'s Peace Valley](#)" from July 30, 2020, calls attention to destroyed habitats and logging of remote, old-growth forests to make way for the Site C dam. If this project is completed, a vast area will be submerged in Treaty 8 territory – ancestral lands for Dunne-za and Cree people.

This line stood out: **"We are in a climate crisis. Why is B.C. logging old growth forest anywhere?"** [I tweeted this question to Ministers Donaldson and Heyman.](#)

What is B.C.'s strategy for stopping the logging of old-growth forests? Why does it continue? What is the NDP government doing today to stop it?

2020 is a difficult year. But the climate crisis will make this seem easy unless we are proactive. My niece will be my age in 2050. I'd like her to inherit fresh water to drink and a healthy planet to live in.

The Site C dam is a reckless project that must stop. Please make that happen.

Best,

s.22

<https://www.nationalobserver.com/2020/07/30/opinion/what-i-learned-about-violence-bcs-peace-valley>
<https://twitter.com/davidbarcher/status/1288930337825800192>

RE: Open Letter To BC Environment Minister

From: Minister, ENV ENV:EX <ENV.Minister@gov.bc.ca>
To: s.22
Cc: Minister, FLNR FLNR:EX <FLNR.Minister@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: September 9, 2020 3:26:16 PM PDT
Attachments: image002.jpg

Reference: 360155

September 9, 2020

s.22

Email: s.22

Dear s.22

Thank you for your email of August 11, 2020, regarding climate action and the management and preservation of old growth forests in British Columbia.

Old forest is a critically important issue that resonates strongly on many levels throughout our entire province. We welcome and appreciate your questions, concerns and feedback on this matter. As you allude to you in your email, the Minister of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development is responsible for overseeing forestry and logging policy in B.C.

We understand the urgency for climate action, and our government has committed to act. The [CleanBC plan](#) is our pathway for B.C. to prosper economically and to meet our climate challenges, including carbon pollution reduction targets and the need to manage climate-related risks. CleanBC was developed in consultation with communities, Indigenous Peoples, local governments, labour, industry, environmental experts and academics. As you may know, Budget 2019 announced an investment of \$902 million over three years to implement CleanBC, and budget 2020 expanded this to \$1.3 billion over the four-year period. The plan is only the beginning of the Province's efforts to get B.C. back on track to climate leadership; we are also listening to the public on the need to better understand the risks associated with a changing climate and support adaptation measures for impacts we are already experiencing. In addition, we introduced annual public reporting on our progress and plans as part of the *Climate Change Accountability Act*, as well as including advice and critique from the independent Climate Solutions Council.

We know that healthy, mature forests play an important role in storing carbon and removing it from the atmosphere, along with protecting ecological health. Our government commissioned a review of old growth and old forests policy and practice in B.C. I think we all owe huge thanks to Al Gorley and Garry Merkel for their diligent and thorough work leading the Old Growth Strategic Review panel, and to the thousands of B.C. residents who took a strong interest and participated in the engagement process. From October 2019 to February 2020, the panel conducted over 200 meetings in 36 communities and met approximately 800 participants. The panel received and reviewed over 300 written submissions as well as more than 18,000 online surveys. These formal written submissions remain available and can be reviewed on the [Old Growth website](#), if you want to review the full range.

The Old Growth Strategic Review panel's report represents an important first step and launch point towards developing a thorough understanding of potential challenges and opportunities, from as many viewpoints as possible, in relation to the current and future management of and policies related to old forests and their values. My colleague Minister Doug Donaldson, with his staff in the Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development, is currently reviewing the strategic panel's report and the implications of their recommendations prior to public release and initial response. This includes:

1. A summary of what the panel heard (more than 200 pages). This includes a summary of the more than 18,000 online surveys and is cross-linked back to the more than 300 written submissions which are also posted on the website;
2. Mr. Gorley and Mr. Merkel's observations and recommendations (a little less than 100 pages); and

3. A condensed summary of Old Growth Strategic recommendations (about 30 pages).

I am keenly interested in the strategic findings and recommendations of this report. As outlined in the report's terms of reference, Minister Donaldson has committed to publicly releasing the Old Growth Strategic Report findings and recommendations public within six months, but the goal is by late summer. With respect to the importance and urgency expressed in submissions the panel, the ministry is taking this time to fully review the panel's report and recommendations before outlining potential interim measures, further public consultation, and determining the way ahead. Minister Donaldson has invited me to discuss the material with him and ministry staff. I have also joined him in a number of consultations with environmental advocates concerned about old growth, as there are obvious environmental concerns with respect to ecosystem health, biodiversity and climate, as you point out. I continue to work with Minister Donaldson to best coordinate and align policy that involves mandates for both our ministries.

I know that British Columbians have diverse views on how old growth should be treated and that building a consensus on old growth forests has been a challenge for more than 30 years. Today, as we move forward, we need a science-based approach, that presents solutions that respect and understand the benefits of old growth to biodiversity, and include First Nations, forest communities, forest workers, industry as well as the views of all people concerned about ecosystem health. This is a challenge many years in the making, that requires careful attention as we move forward on the Old Growth Strategic Review recommendations.

Thank you again for taking the time to write, and for your concern about climate change and our government's related policies.

Sincerely,

George Heyman

Minister

cc: Honourable Doug Donaldson, Minister of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development

From: s.22

Sent: Monday, August 10, 2020 5:57 PM

To: Heyman.MLA, George <George.Heyman.MLA@leg.bc.ca>

Subject: Open Letter To BC Environment Minister

Dear George Heyman,

Late September was a groundbreaking moment in the human life-story as 7 million people in 170 countries, inspired by a generation of youth fighting for a liveable climate future, peacefully took to the streets demanding a bold response from the world's governments to the climate emergency that is engulfing the globe.

On September 24th, as part of the global week of climate strike actions, a hundred citizens picketed the BC Ministry of Environment and Climate Change. This action received support from the BCGEU and PEA, who instructed members to respect the citizens' picket lines in solidarity with the global week of climate action.

The goal of this strike action was to expose the undeniable link between the state of abysmal forest 'management' and resource extractive violence on unceded Indigenous lands known as British Columbia and the dire climate crisis we are in. This is the elephant in the room in both forestry and climate policy in B.C. Our message to you, Honorable Minister: It is time to step in to stop the rampant destruction of forest ecosystems and all they support, as a basic duty of your mandate as Environment and Climate Change Strategy Minister.

On Vancouver Island alone, the equivalent of 34 soccer fields of the last remaining carbon-rich, old-growth rainforests have been logged every day. Meanwhile, in the last decade alone, 10,000 jobs were lost in the timber industry to raw log exports, over-cutting and a lack of leadership to ensure the maximum number of jobs per tree cut.

First Nations and forest-dependent communities (those most impacted by these disturbing trends) still struggle for

self-determination and democratic control over land-use decision-making that has for too long been in the hands of large, unaccountable logging corporations that prioritize maximized, short-term profit over job stability, Indigenous culture, sovereignty and land rights, salmon, biodiversity and a safe climate future for all.

Coastal old-growth temperate rainforests are a rare, globally significant carbon sink which play a critical role in buffering against catastrophic climate change. Less than 10% of the remaining low-elevation old-growth forests remain on Vancouver island and they too are being systematically liquidated and replaced with biologically barren industrial tree plantations that will not deliver the carbon sequestration services desperately needed over the next eleven years we have been given by the scientific community to dramatically draw down our collective carbon footprint.

With full knowledge of this crisis, your government has recently accelerated logging of some of the last stands of coastal old-growth forests through its own BC Timber Sales program. Started by the BC Liberals in 2003 it is chronically non-compliant of the government's own inadequate regulations around old-growth forest management.

The rapid loss of old-growth forests coupled with the widespread practice of slash burning and glyphosate spraying and the severity of BC wildfires now contribute to placing BC forests and forestry at the top of all sources of carbon emissions in BC. Coastal and interior rainforests, which are not naturally subject to disturbances from pest outbreaks and wildfire, must be protected to help maintain the planet's threatened life-sustaining ecological balances. BC has a global responsibility to safeguard these forests.

In a climate emergency, wise forest carbon stewardship through legislated protection of old-growth and all primary intact forests is a key natural climate solution we cannot afford to waste. The world has now entered a wave of human-caused mass extinction, the result of endless capitalist growth and resource extraction.

The world's leading climate scientists have given humanity eleven years to avoid runaway climate change, now considered the greatest existential threat facing humanity and currently displacing millions of people world-wide, predominantly in the global south. Canada is heating at twice the rate of the rest of the world, with the Arctic burning and the permafrost and ice sheets melting, causing the real risk of frightening feedback loops, sea level rising, devastating habitat loss and ocean acidification. The stakes could not be higher and your responsibilities clearer.

This is a call to immediately intervene across ministry lines as Environment and Climate Change Minister to urge Premier Horgan and your government to protect the last low and medium elevation coastal and interior old-growth rainforests and all intact primary forests, recognize Indigenous authority and governance in forest stewardship as required under UNDRIP, and to re-invest in value-added sustainable forest policies and practices that preserve and restore the natural world and create long-term, local community jobs, once and for all.

This must be added as a central and unavoidable feature of the government's climate change policy. This is the will of the majority of British Columbians as demonstrated in recent polling indicating that across the province there is 92% support for protection of the last old-growth forests.

We are running out of time. With the FLNRORD Ministry dedicated by policy and daily practise to the liquidation of the last old-growth forest, it is intentionally not the Forest Minister we are calling on.

As the former Executive Director of the Sierra Club and now lead environmental advocate in the BC government, we expect more from you. You have repeatedly made statements to youth climate strikers thanking them for their work and that they should keep on pushing for bold climate action.

Well, dear Minister, what about you? The future depends on it.

For protected forests and a safe living planet.

Urgently,

s.22

RE: Act to save old-growth forests

From: Minister, ENV ENV:EX <ENV.Minister@gov.bc.ca>
To: s.22
Cc: Minister, FLNR FLNR:EX <FLNR.Minister@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: September 16, 2020 7:40:54 AM PDT

Reference: 360188
September 16, 2020

s.22

Email: s.22

Dear s.22

Thank you for your email of August 5, 2020, regarding old growth forests in B.C.

I appreciate that you took the time to share your concern regarding the management and preservation of old growth forests in British Columbia. This is a critically important issue that resonates strongly on many levels throughout our entire province. We welcome and appreciate your questions, concerns and feedback on this matter. First, let me clarify that the Minister of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development is responsible for overseeing forestry and logging policy in B.C.

Last year, our government commissioned a review of old growth and old forests policy and practice in B.C. I think we all owe huge thanks to Al Gorley and Garry Merkel for their diligent and thorough work leading the Old Growth Strategic Review panel, and also to the thousands of B.C. residents who took a strong interest and participated in the engagement process. From October 2019 to February 2020, the panel conducted over 200 meetings in 36 communities and met approximately 800 participants. The panel received and reviewed over 300 written submissions as well as more than 18,000 online surveys. These formal written submissions remain available and can be reviewed on the [Old Growth](#) website, if you want to review the full range.

Minister Donaldson has invited me to discuss the material with him and ministry staff. I have also joined him in a number of consultations with environmental advocates concerned about old growth, as there are obvious environmental concerns with respect to ecosystem health, biodiversity and climate. I continue to work with Minister Donaldson to best coordinate and align policy that involves mandates for both our ministries.

I know that British Columbians have diverse views on how old growth should be treated and that building a consensus on old growth forests has been a challenge for more than 30 years. On September 11, 2020, Government announced its [new approach in the protection of old growth forests](#), with a first step of immediate protection of nine areas in the province totaling almost 353,000 hectares. As recommended by the panel, our government will engage directly with Indigenous Peoples whose territory is impacted as we move forward with the plan, including discussion of deferrals as was done with the nine areas referenced above. Today, as we move forward, we need a science-based approach that presents solutions that respect and understand the benefits of old growth to biodiversity, and includes the views of First Nations, forest communities, forest workers, and industry, as well as the views of all people concerned about ecosystem health.

By working together, we can and will find a path forward for modern and better old forest policies.

Thank you again for writing.

Sincerely,

George Heyman

Minister

cc: Honourable Doug Donaldson, Minister of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development

From: s.22

Sent: August 5, 2020 10:28 PM

To: Minister, ENV ENV:EX <ENV.Minister@gov.bc.ca>

Subject: Act to save old-growth forests

Dear George Heyman,

I've been reading reports of ongoing old-growth rainforest logging in BC. Just to reiterate the problem:

- Original, low-elevation old-growth rainforest, which cannot be replaced, has been removed from the vast majority of BC, including over 90 per cent of several ecosystem types
- Despite this scarcity, the industry has shown no signs of slowing down: on Vancouver Island alone, logging companies have cut down the equivalent of thirty-four soccer fields every single day over the past decade

Now, thankfully global warming denial is not a problem that BC has. However, in light of that acceptance of reality, I fail to understand why we are allowing this unchecked logging to go on.

Are we waiting for a few years of uncontrolled wildfires before we stop this logging?

Sincerely,

s.22

RE: letter mailed regarding Rainforest Action

From: Minister, ENV ENV:EX <ENV.Minister@gov.bc.ca>
To: victoria.shambhala@gmail.com
Cc: Minister, FLNR FLNR:EX <FLNR.Minister@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: September 16, 2020 7:43:49 AM PDT
Attachments: letter from Victoria Shambhala Council to BC Gov't.docx.pdf

Reference: 360175

September 16, 2020

Council of the Victoria Shambhala Meditation Centre

Email: victoria.shambhala@gmail.com

Dear Victoria Shambhala Centre Council Members:

Thank you for your letter of August 5, 2020, regarding old growth forests in B.C.

I appreciate that you took the time to share the Victoria Shambhala Centre members' concern regarding the management and preservation of old growth forests in British Columbia. This is a critically important issue that resonates strongly on many levels throughout our entire province. We welcome and appreciate your questions, concerns and feedback on this matter. First, let me clarify that the Minister of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development is responsible for overseeing forestry and logging policy in B.C.

Last year, our government commissioned a review of old growth and old forests policy and practice in B.C. I think we all owe huge thanks to Al Gorley and Garry Merkel for their diligent and thorough work leading the Old Growth Strategic Review panel, and also to the thousands of B.C. residents who took a strong interest and participated in the engagement process. From October 2019 to February 2020, the panel conducted over 200 meetings in 36 communities and met approximately 800 participants. The panel received and reviewed over 300 written submissions as well as more than 18,000 online surveys. These formal written submissions remain available and can be reviewed on the [Old Growth](#) website, if you want to review the full range.

Minister Donaldson has invited me to discuss the material with him and ministry staff. I have also joined him in a number of consultations with environmental advocates concerned about old growth, as there are obvious environmental concerns with respect to ecosystem health, biodiversity and climate. I continue to work with Minister Donaldson to best coordinate and align policy that involves mandates for both our ministries.

I know that British Columbians have diverse views on how old growth should be treated and that building a consensus on old growth forests has been a challenge for more than 30 years. On September 11, 2020, Government announced its [new approach in the protection of old growth forests](#), with a first step of immediate protection of nine areas in the province totaling almost 353,000 hectares. As recommended by the panel, our government will engage directly with Indigenous Peoples whose territory is impacted as we move forward with the plan, including discussion of deferrals as was done with the nine areas referenced above. Today, as we move forward, we need a science-based approach that presents solutions that respect and understand the benefits of old growth to biodiversity, and includes the views of First Nations, forest communities, forest workers, and industry, as well as the views of all people concerned about ecosystem health.

By working together, we can and will find a path forward for modern and better old forest policies.

Thank you again for writing.

Sincerely,

George Heyman

Minister

cc: Honourable Doug Donaldson, Minister of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development

From: Victoria Shambhala Meditation Centre <victoria.shambhala@gmail.com>

Sent: Friday, August 7, 2020 4:00 PM

To: Donaldson.MLA, Doug <Doug.Donaldson.MLA@leg.bc.ca>; Heyman.MLA, George <George.Heyman.MLA@leg.bc.ca>; James.MLA, Carole <Carole.James.MLA@leg.bc.ca>

Subject: letter mailed regarding Rainforest Action

Please find attached an electronic version of a letter recently mailed to you from the Council of the Victoria Shambhala Meditation Centre.

Thank you for your consideration and attention to this matter.

--

Victoria Shambhala Centre

victoria.shambhala.org



August 5th, 2020

To: Forest Minister Doug Donaldson
Room 248 Parliament Buildings
Victoria, BC V8V 1X4

Environment Minister George Heyman
Room 112 Parliament Buildings
Victoria, BC V8V 1X4

Premier John Horgan
West Annex Parliament Buildings
Victoria, BC V8V 1X4

MLA Carole James
1084 Fort St.
Victoria, BC V8V 3K4

Dear friends and committed public servants,

During a recent listening campaign at our centre, our Victoria Shambhala Centre members identified the environment as a top concern. Front and centre are old growth forests that contain giant trees. The immediate protection of such old growth forests is not only crucial but essential to our planet's survival. The Council of the Shambhala Meditation Centre of Victoria urges you to protect the last remaining old growth forests in BC with huge ancient trees.

A recent independent scientist's report that was submitted to your Old Growth Review Panel concluded that while the BC Government's assumption that 25% of old growth in BC is protected, this figure obscured the truth: only 3% of ancient forests capable of growing the kinds of iconic ancient enormous trees that the world thinks of as old growth remain. And of that 3% that remains, *less than 3% of it is protected*. Truly, it is a dismal and terrifying prospect that our current policy will liquidate the remaining big tree forests within a decade. This destruction for short term profit actually undermines long term benefits to all life on this planet.

These forests are the most resilient to climate change of all forest types in the province. They protect communities from fires, floods, droughts, and windstorms. They hold more carbon than any other ecosystem on the planet, and they continue to sequester carbon each day they are left intact. Every single antibiotic, antidepressant, and antiviral pharmaceutical drug is based on compounds found in old growth forests. And these forests, which stretch from the sea to the sky, embody the sacred nature of our earth beyond any dogma.

As residents of this province, we hold the responsibility for their protection. No other group of humans on earth is responsible for more trees than we are in Canada. Trees are a model of intelligent and beneficial interaction with each other and with other species, but they do not speak a human language, so humans must speak for them. From scientists to indigenous peoples to hikers, we assure you that old growth forests are far more valuable as living ecosystems than as one-off planks of wood or as raw log exports which provide few jobs here at home.

We understand that you may be fearful of making any announcement which could threaten jobs during a pandemic. You should be even more fearful of the cost of logging. The BC Climate Risk Assessment clearly shows that the cost of doing nothing to protect old growth forests - the giants, not the puny old growth that no multinational timber corporation wants anyway - far outweighs the costs of mitigating and preventing climate change. Your most effective action - something that can be done quickly, and efficiently - is to leave these trees alone. To quote one climate activist, "You could not engineer a better device that holds water and soil on a land base, that sequesters carbon from the atmosphere, that produces oxygen, that literally cools the air around you, than a tree."

Therefore, the Council of the Victoria Shambhala Centre urges the BC Government to protect the last remaining ancient rainforest, while ensuring a Green New Deal for communities and Indigenous people who rely on these forests.

Thank you and we look forward to hearing from you soon.

The Council of the Victoria Shambhala Meditation Centre
1-2033 Belmont Ave
Victoria, BC V8R 3Z7

RE: logging old growth

From: Minister, ENV ENV:EX <ENV.Minister@gov.bc.ca>
To: s.22
Cc: Minister, FLNR FLNR:EX <FLNR.Minister@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: September 16, 2020 7:47:20 AM PDT
Attachments: image002.jpg

Reference: 360178
September 16, 2020

s.22

Email: s.22

Dear s.22

Thank you for your email of August 11, 2020, regarding old growth forests in British Columbia.

I appreciate that you took the time to share your concern regarding the management and preservation of old growth forests in British Columbia. This is a critically important issue that resonates strongly on many levels throughout our entire province. We welcome and appreciate your questions, concerns and feedback on this matter. First, let me clarify that the Minister of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development is responsible for overseeing forestry and logging policy in B.C.

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Minister Donaldson has invited me to discuss the material with him and ministry staff. I have also joined him in a number of consultations with environmental advocates concerned about old growth, as there are obvious environmental concerns with respect to ecosystem health, biodiversity and climate. I continue to work with Minister Donaldson to best coordinate and align policy that involves mandates for both our ministries.

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By working together, we can and will find a path forward for modern and better old forest policies.

Thank you again for writing.

Sincerely,

George Heyman

Minister

cc: Honourable Doug Donaldson, Minister of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development

From: s.22

Sent: August 11, 2020 5:16 PM

To: Minister, ENV ENV:EX <ENV.Minister@gov.bc.ca>

Cc: OfficeofthePremier, Office PREM:EX <Premier@gov.bc.ca>; info@bcgreens.ca

Subject: logging old growth

Importance: High

Dear respected representatives,

Can you please explain to me why you are not protecting old growth forests? It seems to me that the BC NDP is allowing the forest industry to devastate our province. Between pesticide spraying and massive old growth logging it appears that your government is doing very little to protect such an important and necessary part of our province.

B.C.'s Old Growth Forest: A Last Stand for Biodiversity, states that these types of forests are naturally rare. Only a small portion of B.C.'s geography supports this type of forest, and it's almost all logged.

“These ecosystems are effectively the white rhino of old-growth forests. They are almost extinguished and will not recover from logging,” write authors Karen Price, Rachel F. Holt, and Dave Daust. The three authors are part of an independent consulting firm based in Nelson, B.C. and produced the report to coincide with the Old Growth Strategic Review initiated by the province.

I'm sure you can grasp how all things are related – the more we log the more habitat we lose. The more habitat we lose the more we damage species and ecosystems. It is logging that is causing the current crisis for the caribou – but instead the NDP sanctions the slaughter of wolves, as if that somehow will fix things.

I am very disappointed in this government on your management of our province's biodiversity. You still have time to try and fix things. Please immediately halt old growth logging – (Fairy Creek on Vancouver Island is currently being devastated) and then start working on a cohesive and sustainable forest management plan.

A very concerned voter.

s.22



Barristers & Solicitors

#103 – 7020 Duncan Street, Powell River BC V8A 1V9

Phone: 604-485-6188 Fax: 604-485-6923

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Please note that I **DO NOT** accept Service or Delivery of Court documents by email.

RE: BC must stop clearcutting endangered old-growth

From: Minister, ENV ENV:EX <ENV.Minister@gov.bc.ca>
To: s.22
Cc: Minister, FLNR FLNR:EX <FLNR.Minister@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: September 16, 2020 7:58:41 AM PDT
Attachments: image001.jpg

Reference: 360176
September 16, 2020
s.22

Email: s.22

Dear s.22

Thank you for your email of August 12, 2020, regarding old growth forests in British Columbia.

I appreciate that you took the time to share your concern regarding the management and preservation of old growth forests in British Columbia. This is a critically important issue that resonates strongly on many levels throughout our entire province. We welcome and appreciate your questions, concerns and feedback on this matter. First, let me clarify that the Minister of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development is responsible for overseeing forestry and logging policy in B.C.

Last year, our government commissioned a review of old growth and old forests policy and practice in B.C. I think we all owe huge thanks to Al Gorley and Garry Merkel for their diligent and thorough work leading the Old Growth Strategic Review panel, and also to the thousands of B.C. residents who took a strong interest and participated in the engagement process. From October 2019 to February 2020, the panel conducted over 200 meetings in 36 communities and met approximately 800 participants. The panel received and reviewed over 300 written submissions as well as more than 18,000 online surveys. These formal written submissions remain available and can be reviewed on the [Old Growth](#) website, if you want to review the full range.

Minister Donaldson has invited me to discuss the material with him and ministry staff. I have also joined him in a number of consultations with environmental advocates concerned about old growth, as there are obvious environmental concerns with respect to ecosystem health, biodiversity and climate. I continue to work with Minister Donaldson to best coordinate and align policy that involves mandates for both our ministries.

I know that British Columbians have diverse views on how old growth should be treated and that building a consensus on old growth forests has been a challenge for more than 30 years. On September 11, 2020, Government announced its [new approach in the protection of old growth forests](#), with a first step of immediate protection of nine areas in the province totaling almost 353,000 hectares. As recommended by the panel, our government will engage directly with Indigenous Peoples whose territory is impacted as we move forward with the plan, including discussion of deferrals as was done with the nine areas referenced above. Today, as we move forward, we need a science-based approach that presents solutions that respect and understand the benefits of old growth to biodiversity, and includes the views of First Nations, forest communities, forest workers, and industry, as well as the views of all people concerned about ecosystem health.

By working together, we can and will find a path forward for modern and better old forest policies.

Thank you again for writing.

Sincerely,

George Heyman

Minister

cc: Honourable Doug Donaldson, Minister of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development

From: s.22

Sent: August 12, 2020 1:51 PM

To: Minister, ENV ENV:EX <[ENV.Minister@gov.bc.ca](#)>

Subject: BC must stop clearcutting endangered old-growth

Dear Minister Heyman,

I am extremely upset that logging of old-growth forests is continuing under this government's policies. I've voted

NDP in every provincial election since I was 18 – almost 50 years now – under the belief that an NDP government would protect the natural environment and recognize the vitally important values of these forests. I'm appalled and angry that the current leadership has turned its back on past policy commitments and is allowing our natural heritage to be destroyed at a time when it is needed more than ever.

Old-growth forests are critical habitat for endangered species and salmon, and provide essential ecological services such as carbon storage, water management and flood protection. Removing them in this era of accelerating climate change is unbelievably stupid, as they are our best allies against the catastrophic impacts of climate chaos on wildlife, humans and local communities. Old growth forests also support jobs in tourism, and provide important refuges for maintaining and renewing people's mental health and well-being.

The last of these highly endangered, globally rare ecosystems are being logged to the brink under your watch. These beautiful, big, old trees are vital to our resilience and ability to deal with the twin crises of climate change and biodiversity loss. The health of ecosystems, communities and humans are put at greater risk every day as huge areas of old-growth forest are clearcut in BC.

For the sake of the planet and our children, please show the leadership necessary to keep these ancient trees standing.

I am joining in the urgent call on your government to:

- Declare a moratorium on logging these endangered ecosystems with big, old trees and remaining intact old-growth areas
- Fund and support Indigenous-led protected areas and land use visions. Help realize the precedent-setting First Nations conservation initiatives underway in the globally significant rainforest regions Clayoquot Sound and Great Bear Rainforest
- Invest in a transition to sustainable second-growth forestry that focuses on value over volume, creating more jobs while protecting biodiversity, drinking water, a livable climate and community safety
- Ensure any post-pandemic economic stimulus puts people and ecosystem health first so we can build back better, by investing in Indigenous and community-led forestry and forest conservation initiatives rather than subsidizing large companies

Old-growth forests are NOT a renewable resource. It has taken centuries for them to become intricate, life-giving ecosystems, and this legacy is being lost in a matter of days and weeks due to human greed, with the benefits flowing to a few at the expense of the many.

Please take immediate actions to stop this short-sighted approach and protect these irreplaceable forests. If you are unable to see the value of preserving them for their own sake, protect these old-growth ecosystems so they can continue to mitigate the negative impacts of climate disruption and maintain BC citizens' health and quality of life.

There is no time for further delay or debate. I am calling on you to act now before it is too late to save the last of BC's endangered forests.

Sincerely,

s.22

RE: Old Growth Forest Preservation

From: Minister, ENV ENV:EX <ENV.Minister@gov.bc.ca>
To: s.22
Cc: Minister, FLNR FLNR:EX <FLNR.Minister@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: September 16, 2020 8:04:49 AM PDT

Reference: 360177

September 16, 2020

John McLaren, Chair

Social Justice and Action Group

Anglican Church of St. John the Divine

Email: s.22

Dear John McLaren:

Thank you for your email of August 12, 2020, regarding old growth forests in British Columbia.

I appreciate that you took the time to share the Anglican Church of St. John the Divine's concerns regarding the management and preservation of old growth forests in British Columbia. This is a critically important issue that resonates strongly on many levels throughout our entire province. We welcome and appreciate your questions, concerns and feedback on this matter. First, let me clarify that the Minister of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development is responsible for overseeing forestry and logging policy in B.C.

Last year, our government commissioned a review of old growth and old forests policy and practice in B.C. I think we all owe huge thanks to Al Gorley and Garry Merkel for their diligent and thorough work leading the Old Growth Strategic Review panel, and also to the thousands of B.C. residents who took a strong interest and participated in the engagement process. From October 2019 to February 2020, the panel conducted over 200 meetings in 36 communities and met approximately 800 participants. The panel received and reviewed over 300 written submissions as well as more than 18,000 online surveys. These formal written submissions remain available and can be reviewed on the [Old Growth](#) website, if you want to review the full range.

Minister Donaldson has invited me to discuss the material with him and ministry staff. I have also joined him in a number of consultations with environmental advocates concerned about old growth, as there are obvious environmental concerns with respect to ecosystem health, biodiversity and climate. I continue to work with Minister Donaldson to best coordinate and align policy that involves mandates for both our ministries.

I know that British Columbians have diverse views on how old growth should be treated and that building a consensus on old growth forests has been a challenge for more than 30 years. On September 11, 2020, Government announced its [new approach in the protection of old growth forests](#), with a first step of immediate protection of nine areas in the province totaling almost 353,000 hectares. As recommended by the panel, our government will engage directly with Indigenous Peoples whose territory is impacted as we move forward with the plan, including discussion of deferrals as was done with the nine areas referenced above. Today, as we move forward, we need a science-based approach that presents solutions that respect and understand the benefits of old growth to biodiversity, and includes the views of First Nations, forest communities, forest workers, and industry, as well as the views of all people concerned about ecosystem health.

By working together, we can and will find a path forward for modern and better old forest policies.

Thank you again for writing.

Sincerely,

George Heyman

Minister

cc: Honourable Doug Donaldson, Minister of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development

From: s.22 John McLaren <s.22

Sent: August 12, 2020 11:48 AM

To: Minister, ENV ENV:EX <[ENV.Minister@gov.bc.ca](#)>

Subject: Fwd: Old Growth Forest Preservation

To: Hon. George Heyman, Minister of the Environment (MLA for Vancouver-Fairview)

Dear Mr. Heyman

The Anglican Church of St. John the Divine through its **Social Justice and Action Group** is writing to you to support the resolution below, put forward by **Greater Victoria Acting Together (GVAT)**, relating to the issue of logging in the very small areas of old growth forest left in British Columbia. We do out of deep concern about the future of creation, and a strong belief in the responsible stewardship and conservation of the earth's resources. The Parish of St. John the Divine is a full member of GVAT

Protecting productive old growth forest is a crucial step to slow climate change and prevent reaching the climate tipping point to a frightening world of extreme weather and all its consequences. BC's temperate rainforest old growth trees are unique to our small corner of the world, but are globally important in the fight against climate change due to their ability to capture and store carbon. They do this better than any other kind of tree on the planet, including the tropical rainforests we hear so much more about. By the same token, if cut down, they release more carbon into the atmosphere than any other kind of forest. Young trees/second growth trees capture and store carbon at a much lower rate than old growth. There is very little old growth left in the Province and nearly all of it is currently slated for logging.

Greater Victoria Acting Together is working for Climate Justice assisted after extensive and careful research by its **Climate Justice Action Team**. Climate Justice means combating climate change while helping (or at least not harming) people who are or will be disproportionately affected by climate change. This is part of why we are asking the provincial government to act in compliance with UNDRIP (the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous People) and in an actively anti-racist manner. This is also part of why we are asking that the provincial government provide direct support to logging communities and logging industry workers whose jobs are affected by an end to the logging of productive old growth forest. Our request that the government use more sustainable logging practices will not only help nature and slow climate change; it will create many jobs, for instance in forest stewardship, monitoring of logging practices and in selective logging which requires more human labor than clear cutting. There are also opportunities for communities to earn money from using their intact forests as carbon reservoirs and being paid carbon offsets, as is being done in the Great Bear Rainforest.

"GVAT asks that the provincial government in 2020 in compliance with the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and in an actively anti-racist manner:

- **end logging of productive old growth forest,**
- **increase sustainable forestry practices,**
- **and directly ensure that any workers or communities (including indigenous communities), that will be adversely economically impacted by the protection of old growth, are fully supported to economic sustainability through a Green New Deal."**

There are many other important reasons to protect productive old growth forest—biodiversity, spiritual, cultural, recreational, tourism, scenery, legacy to future generations, protection and creation of healthy soil, protection of watersheds, cleansing of air, cleansing of water, protection of salmon habitat, stabilisation of slopes and soil, enhancing human physical and mental health, cooling the air and increasing climate resilience. Old growth forests are the ones most likely to survive climate change because they are more resistant to fires, floods and drought than other types of forest.

Yours sincerely, John McLaren

Chair, Social Justice and Action Group

Anglican Church of St. John the Divine

RE: Ancient Forest Protection

From: Minister, ENV ENV:EX <ENV.Minister@gov.bc.ca>
To: s.22
Cc: Minister, FLNR FLNR:EX <FLNR.Minister@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: September 16, 2020 8:12:27 AM PDT

Reference: 360252
September 16, 2020

s.22

Email: s.22

Dear s.22

Thank you for your email of August 14, 2020, regarding old growth forests in British Columbia. It is wonderful to hear from young people who care about the environment.

I appreciate you taking the time to share your concerns about the management and preservation of old growth forests in British Columbia, and more specifically, Vancouver Island. This is a very important issue. First, let me clarify that the Honourable Doug Donaldson, Minister of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development, is responsible for managing forestry and logging policy in B.C. Last year, our government commissioned a review of old growth and old forests policy and practice in B.C. I think we all owe huge thanks to Al Gorley and Garry Merkel for their diligent and thorough work leading the Old Growth Strategic Review panel, and also to the thousands of B.C. residents who took a strong interest and participated in the engagement process. From October 2019 to February 2020, the panel conducted over 200 meetings in 36 communities and met approximately 800 participants. The panel received and reviewed over 300 written submissions as well as more than 18,000 online surveys. These formal written submissions remain available and can be reviewed on the Old Growth website, if you want to review the full range.

Minister Donaldson has invited me to discuss the material with him and ministry staff. I have also joined him in a number of consultations with environmental advocates concerned about old growth, as there are obvious environmental concerns with respect to ecosystem health, biodiversity and climate. I continue to work with Minister Donaldson to best coordinate and align policy that involves mandates for both our ministries.

I know that British Columbians have diverse views on how old growth should be treated and that building a consensus on old growth forests has been a challenge for more than 30 years. On September 11, 2020, Government announced its new approach in the protection of old growth forests, with a first step of immediate protection of nine areas in the province totaling almost 353,000 hectares. As recommended by the panel, our government will engage directly with Indigenous Peoples whose territory is impacted as we move forward with the plan, including discussion of deferrals as was done with the nine areas referenced above. Today, as we move forward, we need a science-based approach that presents solutions that respect and understand the benefits of old growth to biodiversity, and includes the views of First Nations, forest communities, forest workers, and industry, as well as the views of all people concerned about ecosystem health.

By working together, we can and will find a path forward for modern and better old forest policies.

Thank you again for writing.

Sincerely,

George Heyman

Minister

cc: Honourable Doug Donaldson, Minister of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development

From: s.22

Sent: August 14, 2020 1:25 PM

To: Minister, ENV ENV:EX <ENV.Minister@gov.bc.ca>

Subject: Ancient Forest Protection

Hello Mr Heyman, my name is s.22 I am a grade 10 student from Victoria, i know that you are a very busy person so i will try to keep this email short. I am writing to you today regarding a matter that i am sure that you hear a lot about, it is about the urgent need for protection of our old growth forests. I know that you and your team have been working very hard on a new old growth management plan for BC so that it can benefit the forests as well as

providing the forestry workers with reliable jobs. I have recently watched the question and answer with the BC Green caucus and Mr Doug Donaldson and his group. It is great that a plan is being made, however every single day more and more of the irreplaceable old growth ecosystem is being lost.

One of the perks about living in Victoria is that I have some of the world's largest and most diverse forests right in my backyard, however i also get to witness the destruction of the forests that we all know and love. Recently we have taken a trip up to Port Renfrew to Avatar Grove and Big Lonely Doug. I do not know if you have ever been up there but the scenery is amazing. Whether its going over the bridge to Avatar grove and looking up at the front side of Edinburgh Mountain (one of the largest tracts of unprotected old growth forest on Vancouver island) where it has no scars from logging, standing at the base of our countries second largest douglas fir tree, or swimming in fairy lake (just east of Avatar grove and Big Lonely Doug) looking up at the amazing fairy creek valley, these ancient forests mean more to our Province vertical then horizontal.

Two places that need to be protected in the near future are Edinburgh Mountain, although there are no active cut-blocks on the mountain at the moment logging is slowly but surely made its way up the back side of the mountain and is starting to creep up the front, with cut-block 7190 at the base of the mountain. Second and most urgent is the fairy creek valley, this approximately 5 km by 2.5 km (10 km²) fully intact valley is a prime example of what our forests use to look like here in Vancouver Island. Running down the centre of this pristine valley is the fairy creek which starts at the top of the valley and ends in fairy lake a few km below which will then supply the San Juan River with that clean mountain water. Unfortunately, Teal Jones has recently begun road construction in the valley, and while there are no current cut-block applications, the valley very well could be scattered with clearcuts in the near future. The trees will be cut, the land will be destroyed the bears, cougars and birds that once made there dens and nests in the largest cedar trees will be forced to evacuate, and the ancient forest that once grew in that valley will never be the same. The public has proven time and time again, that there is much more value in big trees than big stumps.

Thank you for your time and I hope that my message will contribute to making Vancouver Island and even all of BC into a more sustainable, more second growth dependant land, that we will all come to just to walk through a forest that resembles what the lands we live on used to look like 5,000 years ago.

--

Student of School District 63 Saanich

RE: Protect our big old-growth trees

From: Minister, ENV ENV:EX <ENV.Minister@gov.bc.ca>
To: s.22
Cc: Minister, FLNR FLNR:EX <FLNR.Minister@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: September 16, 2020 10:24:47 AM PDT
Attachments: image001.jpg

Reference: 360988
September 16, 2020

s.22

Email: s.22

Dear s.22

Thank you for your email of August 26, 2020, regarding old growth forests in B.C.

I appreciate that you took the time to share your concern regarding the management and preservation of old growth forests in British Columbia. This is a critically important issue that resonates strongly on many levels throughout our entire province. We welcome and appreciate your questions, concerns and feedback on this matter. First, let me clarify that the Minister of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development is responsible for overseeing forestry and logging policy in B.C.

Last year, our government commissioned a review of old growth and old forests policy and practice in B.C. I think we all owe huge thanks to Al Gorley and Garry Merkel for their diligent and thorough work leading the Old Growth Strategic Review panel, and also to the thousands of B.C. residents who took a strong interest and participated in the engagement process. From October 2019 to February 2020, the panel conducted over 200 meetings in 36 communities and met approximately 800 participants. The panel received and reviewed over 300 written submissions as well as more than 18,000 online surveys. These formal written submissions remain available and can be reviewed on the [Old Growth](#) website, if you want to review the full range.

Minister Donaldson has invited me to discuss the material with him and ministry staff. I have also joined him in a number of consultations with environmental advocates concerned about old growth, as there are obvious environmental concerns with respect to ecosystem health, biodiversity and climate. I continue to work with Minister Donaldson to best coordinate and align policy that involves mandates for both our ministries.

I know that British Columbians have diverse views on how old growth should be treated and that building a consensus on old growth forests has been a challenge for more than 30 years. On September 11, 2020, Government announced its [new approach in the protection of old growth forests](#), with a first step of immediate protection of nine areas in the province totaling almost 353,000 hectares. As recommended by the panel, our government will engage directly with Indigenous Peoples whose territory is impacted as we move forward with the plan, including discussion of deferrals as was done with the nine areas referenced above. Today, as we move forward, we need a science-based approach that presents solutions that respect and understand the benefits of old growth to biodiversity, and includes the views of First Nations, forest communities, forest workers, and industry, as well as the views of all people concerned about ecosystem health.

By working together, we can and will find a path forward for modern and better old forest policies.

Thank you again for writing.

Sincerely,

George Heyman

Minister

cc: Honourable Doug Donaldson, Minister of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development

From: s.22

Sent: August 26, 2020 8:24 AM

To: Minister, ENV ENV:EX <[ENV.Minister@gov.bc.ca](#)>

Subject: Protect our big old-growth trees

Dear George Heyman,

I am struggling to understand why the BC government cannot manage to provide our last old growth forests any kind of meaningful protection.

Extinct is forever- and these forests are so much more than elder trees. They are reservoirs of biodiversity, magnificence, cultural importance, crucial allies in the fight against climate change and pandemics, and essential to watershed health.

Travelling through scores of clearcuts to the unprotected Central Walbran valley last month was both gut wrenching and confusing. My biggest question was- why? Is this necessary? What kind of a world do we live in, where this is necessary for our economy? This is not smart economics: it is reckless, ignorant, and short sighted. Cutting the last old growth forests is not sustainable- it is a quick fix, money grab. What will we do when they're gone? What then?

Arriving in the Central Walbran we breathed a huge sigh of relief, stood in awe of the beauty, wonder and fresh air of this place, and said a silent thank you to all land defenders who stopped this forest from being cut.

I support the land defenders who put their bodies on the line to stop this destructive practise. Particularly right now in Fairy Creek, which is a very important watershed.

Yes, we can have a sustainable, second growth forest industry and I assure you everyone will be happy.

I await your reply with your plan for real action to protect old growth forests. So far I have seen nothing but lip service and twisting of words.

Thank you for your time- and it is not too late.

Sincerely,

s.22

RE: A call for a New Forest Framework in British Columbia

From: Minister, ENV ENV:EX <ENV.Minister@gov.bc.ca>
To: admin@shawniganbasinsociety.org
Cc: Minister, FLNR FLNR:EX <FLNR.Minister@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: September 16, 2020 4:08:18 PM PDT
Attachments: image003.jpg, Forest Framework - Hon. George Heyman, Minister of Environment and Climate Change Strategy.pdf

Reference: 360328

September 16, 2020

Board of Directors

Shawnigan Basin Society

c/o s.22

Email: admin@shawniganbasinsociety.org

Dear Board of Directors:

Thank you for your letter of August 12, 2020, regarding the management of forests in British Columbia.

I appreciate you taking the time to share the Shawnigan Basin Society's concerns regarding the management and preservation of forests in British Columbia. This is a critically important issue that resonates strongly on many levels throughout our entire province. We welcome and appreciate your questions, concerns and feedback on this matter. First, let me clarify that the Minister of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development is responsible for overseeing forestry and logging policy in B.C. As such, I have shared a copy of your enquiry with Minister Donaldson for his review and consideration. We understand the urgency for climate action, and our government has committed to act. The [CleanBC plan](#) is our pathway for B.C. to prosper economically and to meet our climate challenges, including carbon pollution reduction targets and the need to manage climate-related risks. CleanBC was developed in consultation with communities, Indigenous Peoples, local governments, labour, industry, environmental experts and academics. As you may know, Budget 2019 announced an investment of \$902 million over three years to implement CleanBC, and budget 2020 expanded this to \$1.3 billion over the four-year period. The plan is only the beginning of the Province's efforts to get B.C. back on track to climate leadership; we are also listening to the public on the need to better understand the risks associated with a changing climate and support adaptation measures for impacts we are already experiencing. In addition, we introduced annual public reporting on our progress and plans as part of the *Climate Change Accountability Act*, as well as including advice and critique from the independent Climate Solutions Council.

We know that healthy, mature forests play an important role in storing carbon and removing it from the atmosphere, along with protecting ecological health. Last year our government commissioned a review of old growth and old forests policy and practice in B.C. The [Old Growth Strategic Review](#) was conducted by an independent two-person panel and thousands of B.C. residents took a strong interest and participated in the engagement process. From October 2019 to February 2020, the panel conducted over 200 meetings in 36 communities and met approximately 800 participants. The panel received and reviewed over 300 written submissions as well as more than 18,000 online surveys. These formal written submissions remain available and can be reviewed on the [Old Growth](#) website, if you want to review the full range.

Minister Donaldson has invited me to discuss the material with him and ministry staff. I have also joined him in a number of consultations with environmental advocates concerned about old growth, as there are obvious environmental concerns with respect to ecosystem health, biodiversity and climate. I continue to work with Minister Donaldson to best coordinate and align policy that involves mandates for both our ministries.

I know that British Columbians have diverse views on how old growth should be treated and that building a consensus on old growth forests has been a challenge for more than 30 years. On September 11, 2020, Government announced its [new approach in the protection of old growth forests](#), with a first step of immediate protection of nine areas in the province totaling almost 353,000 hectares. As recommended by the panel, our government will engage directly with Indigenous Peoples whose territory is impacted as we move forward with the plan, including discussion of deferrals as was done with the nine areas referenced above. Today, as we move forward, we need a science-based approach that presents solutions that respect and understand the benefits of old growth to biodiversity, and includes the views of First Nations, forest

communities, forest workers, and industry, as well as the views of all people concerned about ecosystem health.

We believe everyone in British Columbia must work together to create a better, cleaner, more sustainable province for today and tomorrow; a province that maintains and supports healthy communities. Thank you again for sharing your thoughts on this important topic.

Sincerely,

George Heyman

Minister

cc: Honourable Doug Donaldson, Minister of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development

From: Shawnigan Basin Society <admin@shawniganbasinsociety.org>

Sent: August 18, 2020 4:18 PM

To: Minister, ENV ENV:EX <ENV.Minister@gov.bc.ca>

Cc: info@creativelyunited.org; admin@ecoforestry.ca

Subject: A call for a New Forest Framework in British Columbia

[EXTERNAL] This email came from an external source. Only open attachments or links that you are expecting from a known sender.

Attn: Hon. George Heyman, Minister of Environment and Climate Change Strategy ,

Please accept this letter on behalf for the directors at the Shawnigan Basin Society.

Kind regards,

s.22

The Shawnigan Basin Society

Tel. 250 929 4076

E-mail: admin@shawniganbasinsociety.org

Website: www.shawniganbasinsociety.org

Facebook: @ShawniganBasinSociety

Twitter: @shawniganwater

Location: #102-1760 Shawnigan Lake - Mill Bay Rd.

PO Box 189, Shawnigan Lake, BC, V0R 2W0

Office Days/Hours: Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday. 12pm-4pm.



Shawnigan Basin Society

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Shawnigan
Basin Society

2020 August 12

Dear Hon. George Heyman, Minister of Environment and Climate Change Strategy,

The forests of British Columbia are by far the most extensive ecosystem in British Columbia covering two-thirds of the land base. Thriving ecosystems provide a wide range of ecological services, have the potential to provide significant and diverse employment and are critical to the culture of Indigenous peoples.

The current track record shows the primary focus of government and the forest industry is to create tree plantations of commercially acceptable feedstock and fibre – trees are a commodity instead of an ecosystem. Over the decades, communities have suffered boom and bust cycles as jobs decline due to technological changes and the export of raw logs. Our forests and our communities deserve better.

Ecoforestry offers an eco-centric approach to forests, viewing them as thriving living beings, rich in biodiversity. Intact forests provide valuable ecological services, including the air we breathe and the water we drink, carbon storage, and critical habitat for a wide range of living beings from fungi to apex predators. They also offer climate change services that buffer pests, floods and drought- services which will become much more valuable as the climate changes. Ecoforestry recognizes that we are a part of nature and that we must work with nature. To destroy nature is to destroy ourselves.

We call upon you for a **bold new forest framework** based on an eco-centric approach that allows ecosystems and communities to thrive. The principles and practice of ecoforestry require that we live and work within ecological parameters and that we protect and restore natural ecosystem richness, complexity and resiliency that we can enjoy and help us adapt to a rapidly changing climate.

It is this approach that provides for an ecologically appropriate level of harvest resulting in greater job creation when the full range of economic values is realized. A rich diversity of direct and indirect jobs is created, from logger, miller, naturalist, restoration ecologist and healer positions to value-added wood crafters and community event planners. Local businesses and suppliers benefit from the uptake of local accommodations and eating establishments.

We no longer support business as usual in the management of our forests. Our health and that of communities is dependent on the health of the entire forest ecosystem. Reconciliation with Indigenous peoples cannot be fulfilled without healthy forests. We can do better. We must do better.

Time is of the essence and now is the time for transformation. We must start the shift to this ecosystem-centric approach to our forests now.

Signed:

Shawnigan Basin Society Board of Directors

RE: Old Growth Management in B.C.

From: Minister, ENV ENV:EX <ENV.Minister@gov.bc.ca>
To: s.22
Cc: Minister, FLNR FLNR:EX <FLNR.Minister@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: December 11, 2020 3:44:24 PM PST

Reference: 366523
December 11, 2020

s.22

Emails s.22

Dear s.22

Thank you for your email of November 30, 2020, regarding old growth forests.

I appreciate that you took the time to share your concern regarding the management and preservation of old growth forests in British Columbia. This is a critically important issue that resonates strongly on many levels throughout our entire province. We welcome and appreciate your questions, concerns and feedback on this matter. First, let me clarify that the Minister of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development is responsible for overseeing forestry and logging policy in B.C.

Last year, our government commissioned a review of old growth and old forests policy and practice in B.C. I think we all owe huge thanks to Al Gorley and Garry Merkel for their diligent and thorough work leading the Old Growth Strategic Review panel, and also to the thousands of B.C. residents who took a strong interest and participated in the engagement process. From October 2019 to February 2020, the panel conducted over 200 meetings in 36 communities and met approximately 800 participants. The panel received and reviewed over 300 written submissions as well as more than 18,000 online surveys. These formal written submissions remain available and can be reviewed on the [Old Growth](#) website, if you want to review the full range.

Former Minister of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development, Doug Donaldson, invited me to discuss the material with him and ministry staff. I also joined him in a number of consultations with environmental advocates concerned about old growth, as there are obvious environmental concerns with respect to ecosystem health, biodiversity and climate. I look forward to working with the new Minister of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development, the Honourable Katrine Conroy, to coordinate and align policy that involves mandates for both our ministries.

I know that British Columbians have diverse views on how old growth should be treated and that building a consensus on old growth forests has been a challenge for more than 30 years. On September 11, 2020, Government announced its [new approach in the protection of old growth forests](#), with a first step of immediate protection of nine areas in the province totaling almost 353,000 hectares. As recommended by the panel, our government will engage directly with Indigenous Peoples whose territory is impacted as we move forward with the plan, including discussion of deferrals as was done with the nine areas referenced above. Today, as we move forward, we need a science-based approach that presents solutions that respect and understand the benefits of old growth to biodiversity, and includes the views of First Nations, forest communities, forest workers, and industry, as well as the views of all people concerned about ecosystem health.

By working together, we can and will find a path forward for modern and better old forest policies.

Thank you again for taking the time to write and for your kind words of congratulations. I am pleased to be continuing in my role as Minister of Environment and Climate Change Strategy.

Sincerely,

George Heyman

Minister

cc: Honourable Katrine Conroy, Minister of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development

From: s.22

Sent: November 30, 2020 12:04 PM

To: Minister, ENV ENV:EX <ENV.Minister@gov.bc.ca>

Subject: Old Growth Management in B.C.

[EXTERNAL] This email came from an external source. Only open attachments or links that you are expecting from a known sender.

November 30, 2020

Dear Minister Heyman,

Congratulations on becoming the new Minister of the Environment in B.C. I extend my best wishes to you as you cooperate with your ministerial colleagues in leading the province through a paradigm shift on how old growth forests(OGF) are managed.

Within the last three months we have seen the conservation of OGF and ancient forests (especially those suffering from irreversible biodiversity loss) become a front and centre election issue. Are we at the point where biodiversity in our forests and its conservation are to become the new normal in the management of OGF in B.C?

It would appear, in part, that your government, in response to two recently published independent science-based studies on the status of OGF in B.C, has committed itself to an adoption of all 14 recommendations set out in the NDP commissioned study by the *Old Growth Strategic Review* panel. The premier is to be commended for this. The implementation of these guidelines for a new direction is key.

The two studies echoed the same conclusion. Present day old growth forestry management policies are not working. A new direction is essential if we are to protect our at-risk ancient forests. A moratorium on logging was required to prevent endangered ecosystems from total collapse. Biodiversity would be lost for ever. Business as usual would fly in the face of science. The NDP government uses science in how it combats the ongoing pandemic. Our ancient forests have been around for millennia. Why should science not be relied upon to underpin our old growth management policies?

The amount of old growth to be protected as outlined by your government totaled over 330,000 hectares in nine 'hot' areas around the province. A more accurate number in all likelihood is considerably smaller than that as much of that total is either:

- already under some form of existing protection or,
- doesn't contain any existing old growth at all, or
- is of little commercial value because your government makes no distinction between OGF found in productive and in that found in non-productive areas. Much of what your government considers old growth is found in swamp and in high altitude areas where the wood is of little commercial value. Is this an honest way to inventory OGF?

Yes, there are signs of positive change. However, no sooner are we to sense some glimpse of change that we are then confronted with recent images of clearcuts in the Cayuse Valley. Ancient forests eliminated. It's hard to process images like those as we have the science telling us that ancient and old growth trees are sequesters of carbon and that the larger the trees the greater amount of carbon is taken from the air. Your government, like preceding NDP and Liberal (Socred) governments have known through access to scientific studies that our old growth forests were and are in trouble. The NDP government promised a sustainable approach to forestry management back in 2017. How have things been different in the forests since that time? We have lost three valuable years. How can we measure the NDP commitment as we go down the road? I know that you are new to the job but I asked the same question to a constituency worker in Rob Fleming's community office. The worker essentially said that I shouldn't judge the new government as it had recently been elected. Since that time three years ago very little has changed in forestry policy. So I am trying to be optimistic but experience has shown me that it is one thing to say and one thing to do.

There must be an immediate moratorium from logging of all at-risk old growth forests. (Existing cutting permits are not grandfathered in.) Those areas have already been identified in recent scientific studies. At risk OGF would be identified as ones in which only 10% (or higher) of old growth is remaining. We are already beyond this threshold in endangered ecosystems around the province,

Only 3% of the provincial forest land base can support the growth of our iconic big trees, the ones that we so proudly use in tourism advertising to lure tourists to our province, ostensibly to see the last vestiges of wilderness. There are many hypocrisies inherent in present day old growth management (OGM) practices. If only citizens and visitors could witness first hand what is transpiring in our ancient forests today. That task has been left to organizations to inform the public whose voice is becoming more and more vocal. It is the responsibility of the government to inform the public on how OGF are managed in a transparent manner. I look forward to hearing statements from the newly elected government to that effect.

97% of our easily accessible valley bottoms that hold many of our old and ancient trees are gone. In September 2020 came an announcement of the possibility of the creation of a registry of 'special' trees. What is 'special'? A number of 1000-1500 trees potentially. This was to be done in conjunction with First Nations groups around the province, The NDP have stated that special trees would require a 2.5 hectares protection zone around each tree. Images of Lonely Doug on the West Coast of Vancouver Island come to mind in which a solitary tree stands alone in a clearcut. If ever a metaphor was needed about OGM in our province here it is. A registry of 'special' trees is a token step as we are not talking about single trees but entire ecosystems.

If present OGM continues in the short and long run employment in the forestry sector will continue to decline due continued old growth logging, exports of raw logs predominantly from private lands, a lack of value added

manufacturing and a lack of timber availability for smaller companies through public auctions. Communities need support to transition to a second growth model. Transition must take place now!

I hope that the NDP positive steps will be bold and honest. It does mean pain for communities across the province and I sympathize with that challenge. However we are talking about ecosystems that have been here for millenia. What of them? What is their value? Are our OGF to be seen only as serving us as a commodity?

Sincerely,

s.22

RE: This is highly disturbing forestry practice.

From: Nicoll, Sara ENV:EX <Sara.Nicoll@gov.bc.ca>
To: s.22
Cc: Minister, FLNR FLNR:EX <FLNR.Minister@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: January 13, 2021 9:19:42 AM PST

Reference: 367281

January 13, 2021

s.22

Email: s.22

Dear s.22

Thank you for your email of December 11, 2020, regarding old growth forests.

I appreciate that you took the time to share your concern regarding the management and preservation of old growth forests in British Columbia. This is a critically important issue that resonates strongly on many levels throughout our entire province. We welcome and appreciate your questions, concerns and feedback on this matter. First, let me clarify that the Minister of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development is responsible for overseeing forestry and logging policy in B.C.

In 2019, our government commissioned a review of old growth and old forests policy and practice in B.C. I think we all owe huge thanks to Al Gorley and Garry Merkel for their diligent and thorough work leading the Old Growth Strategic Review panel, and also to the thousands of B.C. residents who took a strong interest and participated in the engagement process. From October 2019 to February 2020, the panel conducted over 200 meetings in 36 communities and met approximately 800 participants. The panel received and reviewed over 300 written submissions as well as more than 18,000 online surveys. These formal written submissions remain available and can be reviewed on the [Old Growth](#) website, if you want to review the full range.

Former Minister of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development, Doug Donaldson, invited me to discuss the material with him and ministry staff. I also joined him in a number of consultations with environmental advocates concerned about old growth, as there are obvious environmental concerns with respect to ecosystem health, biodiversity and climate. I look forward to working with the new Minister of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development, the Honourable Katrine Conroy, to coordinate and align policy that involves mandates for both our ministries.

I know that British Columbians have diverse views on how old growth should be treated and that building a consensus on old growth forests has been a challenge for more than 30 years. On September 11, 2020, Government announced its [new approach in the protection of old growth forests](#), with a first step of immediate protection of nine areas in the province totaling almost 353,000 hectares. As recommended by the panel, our government will engage directly with Indigenous Peoples whose territory is impacted as we move forward with the plan, including discussion of additional deferrals as was done with the nine areas referenced above. Today, as we move forward, we need a science-based approach that presents solutions that respect and understand the benefits of old growth to biodiversity, and includes the views of First Nations, forest communities, forest workers, and industry, as well as the views of all people concerned about ecosystem health.

By working together, we can and will find a path forward for modern and better old growth forest policies.

Thank you again for writing.

Sincerely,

George Heyman

Minister

cc: Honourable Katrine Conroy, Minister of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development

From s.22

Sent: December 11, 2020 10:24 AM

To: Minister, ENV ENV:EX <[ENV.Minister@gov.bc.ca](#)>

Subject: This is highly disturbing forestry practice.

[EXTERNAL] This email came from an external source. Only open attachments or links that you are expecting from a known sender.

<https://thenarwhal.ca/bc-old-growth-forest-vancouver-island-caycuse/>

Just how is this responsible stewardship on the part of this government? What do you intend to do about this catastrophe? You need to stop this type of corporate greed and political cowardice immediately. This is a shameful mark on a beautiful crown jewel, and those responsible must be held accountable for the sake of our future generations. Completely unacceptable, for what!? Building products? Paper? Particle board? Fuel pellets? That is absolutely insane. Stop selling our future for present greed. Stop this now, not later.

RE: Stop all old growth logging NOW

From: Nicoll, Sara ENV:EX <Sara.Nicoll@gov.bc.ca>
To: s.22
Cc: Minister, FLNR FLNR:EX <FLNR.Minister@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: January 13, 2021 9:30:01 AM PST

Reference: 367361

January 13, 2021

s.22

Email: s.22

Dear s.22

Thank you for your email of December 13, 2020, regarding old growth forests.

I appreciate that you took the time to share your concern regarding the management and preservation of old growth forests in British Columbia. This is a critically important issue that resonates strongly on many levels throughout our entire province. We welcome and appreciate your questions, concerns and feedback on this matter. First, let me clarify that the Minister of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development is responsible for overseeing forestry and logging policy in B.C.

In 2019, our government commissioned a review of old growth and old forests policy and practice in B.C. I think we all owe huge thanks to Al Gorley and Garry Merkel for their diligent and thorough work leading the Old Growth Strategic Review panel, and also to the thousands of B.C. residents who took a strong interest and participated in the engagement process. From October 2019 to February 2020, the panel conducted over 200 meetings in 36 communities and met approximately 800 participants. The panel received and reviewed over 300 written submissions as well as more than 18,000 online surveys. These formal written submissions remain available and can be reviewed on the [Old Growth](#) website, if you want to review the full range.

Former Minister of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development, Doug Donaldson, invited me to discuss the material with him and ministry staff. I also joined him in a number of consultations with environmental advocates concerned about old growth, as there are obvious environmental concerns with respect to ecosystem health, biodiversity and climate. I look forward to working with the new Minister of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development, the Honourable Katrine Conroy, to coordinate and align policy that involves mandates for both our ministries.

I know that British Columbians have diverse views on how old growth should be treated and that building a consensus on old growth forests has been a challenge for more than 30 years. On September 11, 2020, Government announced its [new approach in the protection of old growth forests](#), with a first step of immediate protection of nine areas in the province totaling almost 353,000 hectares. As recommended by the panel, our government will engage directly with Indigenous Peoples whose territory is impacted as we move forward with the plan, including discussion of additional deferrals as was done with the nine areas referenced above. Today, as we move forward, we need a science-based approach that presents solutions that respect and understand the benefits of old growth to biodiversity, and includes the views of First Nations, forest communities, forest workers, and industry, as well as the views of all people concerned about ecosystem health.

By working together, we can and will find a path forward for modern and better old growth forest policies.

Thank you again for writing.

Sincerely,

George Heyman

Minister

cc: Honourable Katrine Conroy, Minister of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development

From: s.22

Sent: December 13, 2020 4:46 PM

To: Minister, ENV ENV:EX <ENV.Minister@gov.bc.ca>

Cc: OfficeofthePremier, Office PREM:EX <Premier@gov.bc.ca>

Subject: Stop all old growth logging NOW

[EXTERNAL] This email came from an external source. Only open attachments or links that you are expecting from a known sender.

To the honourable George Heyman and John Horgan;

Now that you have a clear strong mandate, it is time for you to take bold action on protecting the environment that is our very source of life. One step in the right direction would be to stop all old growth logging immediately. I have been to visit the Fairy Creek watershed blockade. Have you? These fellow citizens are willing to do whatever it takes. Here is a quote from Dr. Diana Beresford-Kroeger. If you don't know about her you should. "Trees are responsible for the most basic necessity of life, the air we breathe. Forests are being cut down across the globe at breathtaking rates- quite literally breathtaking. In destroying them we are destroying our own life support system. Cutting down trees is a suicidal act." (p.105 in To speak for the trees). She is an expert who speaks the truth. I very much look forward your reply outlining the actions you are taking now.

Sincerely,

s.22

RE: Old growth forests: Take Two

From: Minister, ENV ENV:EX <ENV.Minister@gov.bc.ca>
To: s.22
Cc: Minister, FLNR FLNR:EX <FLNR.Minister@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: January 29, 2021 10:57:28 AM PST

Reference: 369557

January 29, 2021

s.22

Email: s.22

Deas.22

Thank you for your emails of December 7, 2020, and January 14, 2021, regarding old growth forests.

I appreciate that you took the time to share your concern regarding the management and preservation of old growth forests in British Columbia. This is a critically important issue that resonates strongly on many levels throughout our entire province. We welcome and appreciate your questions, concerns and feedback on this matter. First, let me clarify that the Minister of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development is responsible for overseeing forestry and logging policy in B.C.

In 2019, our government commissioned a review of old growth and old forests policy and practice in B.C. I think we all owe huge thanks to Al Gorley and Garry Merkel for their diligent and thorough work leading the Old Growth Strategic Review panel, and also to the thousands of B.C. residents who took a strong interest and participated in the engagement process. From October 2019 to February 2020, the panel conducted over 200 meetings in 36 communities and met approximately 800 participants. The panel received and reviewed over 300 written submissions as well as more than 18,000 online surveys. These formal written submissions remain available and can be reviewed on the [Old Growth](#) website, if you want to review the full range.

Former Minister of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development, Doug Donaldson, invited me to discuss the material with him and ministry staff. I also joined him in a number of consultations with environmental advocates concerned about old growth, as there are obvious environmental concerns with respect to ecosystem health, biodiversity and climate. I look forward to working with the new Minister of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development, the Honourable Katrine Conroy, to coordinate and align policy that involves mandates for both our ministries.

I know that British Columbians have diverse views on how old growth should be treated and that building a consensus on old growth forests has been a challenge for more than 30 years. On September 11, 2020, Government announced its [new approach in the protection of old growth forests](#), with a first step of immediate protection of nine areas in the province totaling almost 353,000 hectares. As recommended by the panel, our government will engage directly with Indigenous Peoples whose territory is impacted as we move forward with the plan, including discussion of deferrals as was done with the nine areas referenced above. Today, as we move forward, we need a science-based approach that presents solutions that respect and understand the benefits of old growth to biodiversity, and includes the views of First Nations, forest communities, forest workers, and industry, as well as the views of all people concerned about ecosystem health.

By working together, we can and will find a path forward for modern and better old growth forest policies.

Thank you again for writing.

Sincerely,

George Heyman

Minister

cc: Honourable Katrine Conroy, Minister of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development

From: s.22

Sent: January 14, 2021 8:08 PM

To: Minister, ENV ENV:EX <[ENV.Minister@gov.bc.ca](#)>

Subject: Old growth forests: Take Two

[EXTERNAL] This email came from an external source. Only open attachments or links that you are expecting from a known sender.

Dear Minister,

I wrote to you more than one month ago but have yet to hear from you.

To follow up on my letter from December 7th, did you know that harvesting of old growth emits more carbon in BC than does fossil fuel burning? Do you know that the old growth forests are more valuable standing up than taken down for immediate profit?

In British Columbia, we're emitting far more carbon through land use change than we are emitting through fossil fuel consumption. We can't meet our national goals or our provincial goals until we start curbing our rate of clear cutting in the province, even if we reduce fossil fuels.

We need to not think so small and on short term economic timescales.

Please start protecting the old growth forests. This really matters for us now and future generations.

Sincerely,

s.22

----- Forwarded message -----

From: s.22

Date: Mon, 7 Dec 2020 at 20:28

Subject: Old growth forests

To: <premier@gov.bc.ca>, <ENV.Minister@gov.bc.ca>, <FLNR.Minister@gov.bc.ca>, <murray.rankin@bcndp.ca>

Dear Premier Horgan, Environment Minister Heyman, Minister of Forest Conroy, and my MLA Rankin,

Congratulations on your (re)election.

Old growth forests are a treasure and something we should cherish. Old growth forests promote biodiversity and provide a home for wildlife that cannot live in a newer forest. Old growth forests also capture carbon dioxide more effectively than newer forest.

Despite there not being much old growth forest left in BC, we continue to log it like it is a resource that will just regrow into what it was in a few years. This, of course, is not the case.

Please refer to "A New Future for Old Forests" which the BC government (you!!!) commissioned. It says that old forests have intrinsic value for all living things and should be managed for ecosystem health, not for timber. It also says many old forests are not renewable, which counters the prevailing notion that trees, no matter how old, will grow back.

Let's protect these last ancient rain forests. Let's change a logging system that started almost a century ago when the forests seemed to never end. Now we know better. Let's implement the 14 recommendations of the report. And, if we are really brave, let's put a moratorium on old growth logging.

Sincerely,

s.22



Reference: 369469

January 28, 2021

s.22

Dear s.22

Thank you for your letter of January 4, 2021, regarding old growth forests.

I appreciate that you took the time to share your concern regarding the management and preservation of old growth forests in British Columbia. This is a critically important issue that resonates strongly on many levels throughout our entire province. We welcome and appreciate your questions, concerns and feedback on this matter. First, let me clarify that the Minister of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development is responsible for overseeing forestry and logging policy in B.C.

In 2019, our government commissioned a review of old growth and old forests policy and practice in B.C. From your letter, I can see that you are familiar with the work of the Old Growth Strategic Review panel. I think we all owe huge thanks to Al Gorley and Garry Merkel for their diligent and thorough work leading the panel, and also to the thousands of B.C. residents who took a strong interest and participated in the engagement process. From October 2019 to February 2020, the panel conducted over 200 meetings in 36 communities and met approximately 800 participants. As you may know, the panel received and reviewed over 300 written submissions as well as more than 18,000 online surveys.

Former Minister of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development, Doug Donaldson, invited me to discuss the material with him and ministry staff. I also joined him in a number of consultations with environmental advocates concerned about old growth, as there are obvious environmental concerns with respect to ecosystem health, biodiversity and climate. I look forward to working with the new Minister of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development, the Honourable Katrine Conroy, to coordinate and align policy that involves mandates for both our ministries.

...2

I know that British Columbians have diverse views on how old growth should be treated and that building a consensus on old growth forests has been a challenge for more than 30 years. On September 11, 2020, Government announced its new approach in the protection of old growth forests, with a first step of immediate protection of nine areas in the province totaling almost 353,000 hectares. As recommended by the panel, our government will engage directly with Indigenous Peoples whose territory is impacted as we move forward with the plan, including discussion of deferrals as was done with the nine areas referenced above. Today, as we move forward, we need a science-based approach that presents solutions that respect and understand the benefits of old growth to biodiversity, and includes the views of First Nations, forest communities, forest workers, and industry, as well as the views of all people concerned about ecosystem health.

Your letter included the suggestion to expand provincial parks. You may be pleased to know that our government has recently committed to expanding B.C.'s popular provincial parks by creating new campgrounds, trails and protected areas, while increasing funding to improve infrastructure and protect park ecosystems. To assist in consultations and planning for these commitments, Premier Horgan has appointed MLA Kelly Greene to work with me as Parliamentary Secretary for Environment. I look forward to advancing that part of my mandate.

By working together, we can and will find a path forward for modern and better old growth forest policies.

Thank you again for writing.

Sincerely,



George Heyman
Minister

cc: Honourable Katrine Conroy, Minister of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations
and Rural Development

RE: Our forests

From: Ainsworth, Diana ENV:EX <Diana.Ainsworth@gov.bc.ca>
To: s.22
Cc: Minister, FLNR FLNR:EX <FLNR.Minister@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: March 17, 2021 2:44:34 PM PDT
Reference: 370685

March 17, 2021

s.22

Email: s.22

Dear s.22

Thank you for your email of February 2, 2021, regarding old growth forests.

I appreciate that you took the time to share your concern regarding the management and preservation of old growth forests in British Columbia. This is a critically important issue that resonates strongly on many levels throughout our entire province. We welcome and appreciate your questions, concerns and feedback on this matter. First, let me clarify that the Minister of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development is responsible for overseeing forestry and logging policy in B.C.

There are obvious environmental concerns with respect to ecosystem health, biodiversity and climate that relate to old growth forest management. I am working with the Minister of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development, the Honourable Katrine Conroy, to coordinate and align policy that involves mandates for both our ministries.

In September 2020, our government announced a new, holistic approach to how we manage B.C.'s old growth forests and support forest workers and communities. These actions flow from recommendations from an independent panel report titled ["A New Future for Old Forests"](#) written by Gary Merkel and Al Gorley, two independent panellists who held an extensive engagement process with British Columbians.

There has been a divisive and patchwork approach to how old growth forests have been managed in our Province for a long time. Our Government wants to break from that practice and establish a new way of doing this critical work. As a first step in our [new approach in the protection of old growth forests](#), we have deferred the harvesting of old growth trees in nine areas throughout B.C. that represent areas with high biodiversity, totaling almost 353,000 hectares. As recommended by the panel, our government will engage directly with Indigenous Peoples whose territory is impacted as we move forward with the plan.

I know that British Columbians have diverse views on how old growth should be treated and that building a consensus on old growth forests has been a challenge for more than 30 years. Today, as we move forward, we need a science-based approach that presents solutions that respect and understand the benefits of old growth to biodiversity, and includes the views of First Nations, forest communities, forest workers, and industry, as well as the views of all people concerned about ecosystem health. By working together, we can and will find a path forward for modern and better old growth forest policies.

Thank you again for taking the time to write.

Sincerely,

George Heyman
Minister

cc: Honourable Katrine Conroy, Minister of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development

From: s.22

Sent: February 1, 2021 1:49 PM

To: Minister, ENV ENV:EX <ENV.Minister@gov.bc.ca>

Subject: Our forests

I don't believe our Provincial Government or your Department take our forests situation serious at this moment. We are not moving fast enough to save the old growth forests that we have left and we are still talking about logging them??? For the sake of the future generations on the planet it is time to act and act hard to stop this logging continuing. I live in a rural area where logging is done on the mountain above my home and our community. We are very concerned about the number of trucks going up and down our road to take huge loads of the large trees that help to hold onto the soil. Also we just had our highway paved two years ago and it is already showing bad signs of wear and tear because of these big, fully loaded heavy trucks. The forestry companies should be made to pay for at least a good portion of the repaving the next time as they have made a lot of money of all the wood they take out of here. The next time you meet with them bring it up and see how far you will get, not very far I would bet. I'm just waiting for one of these trucks to lose their load coming down the many tight turns and steepness of the road in front of our house.

But even more importantly is the affect this has on our climate and the increase in more severe storms, rain and the risk of many types of disasters that have and can affect the health of our incredibly important forest, lakes, rivers, salmon and so many other species that live in our forests. We are taking away their habitat again but that does not seem to be taken into account when the forestry companies puts so much pressure on the government who give in to their demands. Wake up and admit that you are not doing nearly enough to increase the protection of our forests. If our governments don't act now logging won't matter to anyone as the planet won't survive. s.22


Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows 10

Fwd: CKNW: Wu - old-growth logging

From: Heyman, George ENV:EX <George.Heyman@gov.bc.ca>
To: Jardine, Kevin ENV:EX <Kevin.Jardine@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: March 22, 2021 2:35:52 PM PDT

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: tno@gov.bc.ca
Date: March 22, 2021 at 11:10:09 AM PDT
Subject: CKNW: Wu - old-growth logging 

CKNW (Vancouver)
CKNW Simi Sara
2021-03-22 06:08

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Page 080 of 140

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[TNO...](#)

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RE: Old Growth Forests

From: Ainsworth, Diana ENV:EX <Diana.Ainsworth@gov.bc.ca>
To: s.22
Cc: Minister, FLNR FLNR:EX <FLNR.Minister@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: March 24, 2021 2:46:26 PM PDT

Reference: 372694

March 24, 2021

s.22

Email: s.22

Dear s.22

Thank you for your email of February 19, 2021, regarding old growth forests.

I appreciate that you took the time to share your concern regarding the management and preservation of old growth forests in British Columbia. This is a critically important issue that resonates strongly on many levels throughout our entire province. We welcome and appreciate your questions, concerns and feedback on this matter. First, let me clarify that the Minister of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development is responsible for overseeing forestry and logging policy in B.C.

There are obvious environmental concerns with respect to ecosystem health, biodiversity and climate that relate to old growth forest management. I am working with the Minister of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development, the Honourable Katrine Conroy, to coordinate and align policy that involves mandates for both our ministries.

In September 2020, our government announced a new, holistic approach to how we manage B.C.'s old growth forests and support forest workers and communities. These actions flow from recommendations from an independent panel report titled "[A New Future for Old Forests](#)" written by Gary Merkel and Al Gorley, two independent panellists who held an extensive engagement process with British Columbians.

There has been a divisive and patchwork approach to how old growth forests have been managed in our Province for a long time. Our Government wants to break from that practice and establish a new way of doing this critical work. As a first step in our [new approach in the protection of old growth forests](#), we have deferred the harvesting of old growth trees in nine areas throughout B.C. that represent areas with high biodiversity, totaling almost 353,000 hectares. As recommended by the panel, our government will engage directly with Indigenous Peoples whose territory is impacted as we move forward with the plan, and consider possible additional areas for deferral while a full old forest plan is completed.

I know that British Columbians have diverse views on how old growth should be treated and that building a consensus on old growth forests has been a challenge for more than 30 years. Today, as we move forward, we need a science-based approach that presents solutions that respect and understand the benefits of old growth to biodiversity, and includes the views of First Nations, forest communities, forest workers, and industry, as well as the views of all people concerned about ecosystem health. By working together, we can and will find a path forward for modern and better old growth forest policies.

Thank you again for taking the time to write.

Sincerely,

George Heyman

Minister

cc: Honourable Katrine Conroy, Minister of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development

From: s.22

Sent: February 19, 2021 11:01 AM

To: Minister, ENV ENV:EX <[ENV.Minister@gov.bc.ca](#)>

Subject: Old Growth Forests

Dear Minister Heyman,

The state of old growth forests in British Columbia is deeply concerning. I recently learned that less than 1% of forests in B.C. have large, old trees still standing. And that most old growth in B.C. remains open to logging.

The new NDP majority government campaigned on an election promise to implement all 14 of the old growth review panel recommendations, which you received in April. The most urgent recommendation was to ban the logging of at-risk old growth forests within 6 months.

The government's announcement of logging deferrals for 350,000 hectares of land in September only included 3,800 hectares of at-risk old growth forests: these types of misleading announcements erode public trust in your work.

Your Ministry already has the necessary information to recommend key areas for immediate logging deferrals across B.C. But, these deferrals are overdue – according to the old growth review panel, they should have been implemented by the end of October at the latest.

Meanwhile, 50,000+ people have signed a petition to end logging in at-risk old growth forests across B.C.

This immediate action for old growth is dire. But it shouldn't end there. I urge you to ensure that the Ministry is equipped to work with, and support, Indigenous Nations on long-term protection plans.

Will you please respond with confirmation that you have received this email. I sincerely hope you move forward to ban logging in old growth forests across the province as quickly as possible. We don't have time to wait.

s.22

RE: BC NDP on the environment

From: Ainsworth, Diana ENV:EX <Diana.Ainsworth@gov.bc.ca>
To: s.22
Cc: Minister, FLNR FLNR:EX <FLNR.Minister@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: March 24, 2021 3:32:23 PM PDT

Reference: 372849

March 24, 2021

s.22

Email s.22

Dear s.22

Thank you for your email of February 24, 2021, regarding old growth forests.

I appreciate that you took the time to share your concern regarding the management and preservation of old growth forests in British Columbia. This is a critically important issue that resonates strongly on many levels throughout our entire province. We welcome and appreciate your questions, concerns and feedback on this matter. First, let me clarify that the Minister of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development is responsible for overseeing forestry and logging policy in B.C.

There are obvious environmental concerns with respect to ecosystem health, biodiversity and climate that relate to old growth forest management. I am working with the Minister of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development, the Honourable Katrine Conroy, to coordinate and align policy that involves mandates for both our ministries.

In September 2020, our government announced a new, holistic approach to how we manage B.C.'s old growth forests and support forest workers and communities. These actions flow from recommendations from an independent panel report titled "[A New Future for Old Forests](#)" written by Gary Merkel and Al Gorley, two independent panellists who held an extensive engagement process with British Columbians.

There has been a divisive and patchwork approach to how old growth forests have been managed in our Province for a long time. Our Government wants to break from that practice and establish a new way of doing this critical work. As a first step in our [new approach in the protection of old growth forests](#), we have deferred the harvesting of old growth trees in nine areas throughout B.C. that represent areas with high biodiversity, totaling almost 353,000 hectares. As recommended by the panel, our government will engage directly with Indigenous Peoples whose territory is impacted as we move forward with the plan, and consider possible additional areas for deferral while a full old forest plan is completed.

I know that British Columbians have diverse views on how old growth should be treated and that building a consensus on old growth forests has been a challenge for more than 30 years. Today, as we move forward, we need a science-based approach that presents solutions that respect and understand the benefits of old growth to biodiversity, and includes the views of First Nations, forest communities, forest workers, and industry, as well as the views of all people concerned about ecosystem health. By working together, we can and will find a path forward for modern and better old growth forest policies.

Thank you again for taking the time to write.

Sincerely,

George Heyman

Minister

cc: Honourable Katrine Conroy, Minister of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development

From s.22

Sent: February 23, 2021 3:38 PM

To: Minister, ENV ENV:EX <[ENV.Minister@gov.bc.ca](#)>

Subject: BC NDP on the environment

Mr Minister,

s.22

Yada yada, right?

I write and I write, I call and I call. I am so frustrated with the BCNDP in many areas related to the environment, but most frustrated about OLD GROWTH FORESTS!

Please stand up to John Horgan and urge the end of unsustainable logging practices.

Follow the recommendations of the report that came out months ago, not after all the old growth is logged, but NOW.

I believe the BCNDP is ignoring the wishes of the general public in relation to forestry policy. Evn my old reactionary logger friends and fisherman friends all want old growth forests protected. Everyone does. Except the forest companies and John Horgan.

Please form an alliance with Rob Fleming, Lana Popham and other cabinet ministers who are concerned about old growth and go together to John Horgan to ask for it to be stopped. Follow the recommendations of the report. I very much value the old growth stands near the San Juan River in Port Renfrew. I spend much of each summer out there and last year saw where Teal Jones is moving in to log that valley. It is so beautiful. The air is gorgeous in the old growth stands and you know it's good to keep to combat climate change. We are going to be a laughing stock in the world when these beautiful ecosystems are wiped out! It's so stupid I can't stand it.

I expected to be exhausted and ignored by the BC Liberals. I did not expect it with the BCNDP. I'm very concerned about the government's lack of concern for the wishes of the public over the status quo of profits for forest companies. Priorities are all wrong and extremely short sighted.

Sincerelys.22

RE: Old growth forest

From: Ainsworth, Diana ENV:EX <Diana.Ainsworth@gov.bc.ca>
To: s.22
Cc: Minister, FLNR FLNR:EX <FLNR.Minister@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: March 24, 2021 3:45:46 PM PDT

Reference: 372847

March 24, 2021

s.22

Email: s.22

Dear s.22

Thank you for your email of February 24, 2021, regarding old growth forests.

I appreciate that you took the time to share your concern regarding the management and preservation of old growth forests in British Columbia. This is a critically important issue that resonates strongly on many levels throughout our entire province. We welcome and appreciate your questions, concerns and feedback on this matter. First, let me clarify that the Minister of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development is responsible for overseeing forestry and logging policy in B.C.

There are obvious environmental concerns with respect to ecosystem health, biodiversity and climate that relate to old growth forest management. I am working with the Minister of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development, the Honourable Katrine Conroy, to coordinate and align policy that involves mandates for both our ministries.

In September 2020, our government announced a new, holistic approach to how we manage B.C.'s old growth forests and support forest workers and communities. These actions flow from recommendations from an independent panel report titled "[A New Future for Old Forests](#)" written by Gary Merkel and Al Gorley, two independent panellists who held an extensive engagement process with British Columbians.

There has been a divisive and patchwork approach to how old growth forests have been managed in our Province for a long time. Our Government wants to break from that practice and establish a new way of doing this critical work. As a first step in our [new approach in the protection of old growth forests](#), we have deferred the harvesting of old growth trees in nine areas throughout B.C. that represent areas with high biodiversity, totaling almost 353,000 hectares. As recommended by the panel, our government will engage directly with Indigenous Peoples whose territory is impacted as we move forward with the plan, and consider possible additional areas for deferral while a full old forest plan is completed.

I know that British Columbians have diverse views on how old growth should be treated and that building a consensus on old growth forests has been a challenge for more than 30 years. Today, as we move forward, we need a science-based approach that presents solutions that respect and understand the benefits of old growth to biodiversity, and includes the views of First Nations, forest communities, forest workers, and industry, as well as the views of all people concerned about ecosystem health. By working together, we can and will find a path forward for modern and better old growth forest policies.

Thank you again for taking the time to write.

Sincerely,

George Heyman

Minister

cc: Honourable Katrine Conroy, Minister of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development

From: s.22

Sent: February 24, 2021 9:52 AM

To: Minister, ENV ENV:EX <ENV.Minister@gov.bc.ca>

Subject: Old growth forest

Hi Env Minister,

How do you see the old growth forest fit in the environmental landscape of the province of BC?

Is the old growth forest a key focus of your environmental strategy as scientists are explaining it needs to be?

Or are you leaving the old growth forest planning in the dirty hands of the forestry minister?

I am looking forward to hear from you,

Kindly,

s.22

Comox valley

RE: Canada's Last Remaining Old Growth

From: Ainsworth, Diana ENV:EX <Diana.Ainsworth@gov.bc.ca>
To: s.22
Cc: Minister, FLNR FLNR:EX <FLNR.Minister@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: March 25, 2021 1:35:28 PM PDT

Reference: 372863

March 25, 2021

s.22

Email:s.22

Dears.22

Thank you for your email of February 24, 2021, regarding old growth forests.

I appreciate that you took the time to share your concern regarding the management and preservation of old growth forests in British Columbia. This is a critically important issue that resonates strongly on many levels throughout the entire province. We welcome and appreciate your questions, concerns and feedback on this matter. First, let me clarify that the B.C. Minister of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development is responsible for overseeing forestry and logging policy in B.C.

There are obvious environmental concerns with respect to ecosystem health, biodiversity and climate that relate to old growth forest management. I am working with the Minister of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development, the Honourable Katrine Conroy, to coordinate and align policy that involves mandates for both our ministries.

In September 2020, our government announced a new, holistic approach to how we manage B.C.'s old growth forests and support forest workers and communities. These actions flow from recommendations from an independent panel report titled "[A New Future for Old Forests](#)" written by Gary Merkel and Al Gorley, two independent panellists who held an extensive engagement process with British Columbians.

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Thank you again for taking the time to write.

Sincerely,

George Heyman

Minister

cc: Honourable Katrine Conroy, Minister of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development

From: s.22

Sent: February 24, 2021 1:18 PM

To: Minister, ENV ENV:EX <ENV.Minister@gov.bc.ca>

Subject: Canada's Last Remaining Old Growth

Dear Mr. Heyman,

I am a resident of California, in the USA.

I wish to know if you are going to immediately halt the extensive destruction of Old Growth forests in Canada due to logging, especially Vancouver Island where close to 2.7% of virgin valley bottom ecosystems remain intact, and which are the most capable of carbon sequestration.

e.g.

<https://thenarwhal.ca/bc-forests-old-growth-impacts-map/>

The Canadian government has dragged its heels for 40+ years on preserving what's left of Canada's Old growth. British Columbia's recently re-elected Premier John Horgan campaigned on saving old growth, yet has still not enacted any concrete steps to protect what is left of these ancient ecosystems.

e.g.

[https://www.ubcic.bc.ca/old_growth_forests_in_b_c_remain_on_the_chopping](https://www.ubcic.bc.ca/old_growth_forests_in_b_c_remain_on_the_chopping_block)

_block

This is not just an issue for Canada, as these valley bottom forests host trees capable of capturing carbon dioxide and support a diverse ecosystem of threatened plants and animals and are an essential bulwark against global climate change, promoting clean air and clean water. Not to mention the impact this destruction of Canada's natural beauty has on eco-tourism.

This issue needs extremely urgent action, as the government granted leases to timber companies such as Teal Jones, Western Timber Products et al are actively logging remaining tracts of ancient ecosystems at an approximate rate of 34 foot ball fields of old growth per day.

e.g.

<https://www.instagram.com/ancientforestalliance/>

Please advise,

Sincerely,

s.22

RE: Logging of BC's old growth forests

From: Ainsworth, Diana ENV:EX <Diana.Ainsworth@gov.bc.ca>
To: s.22
Cc: Minister, FLNR FLNR:EX <FLNR.Minister@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: March 25, 2021 3:44:09 PM PDT

Reference: 374440
March 25, 2021

s.22

Email: s.22

Dear s.22

Thank you for your email of March 18, 2021, regarding old growth forests.

I appreciate that you took the time to share your concern regarding the management and preservation of old growth forests in British Columbia. This is a critically important issue that resonates strongly on many levels throughout our entire province. We welcome and appreciate your questions, concerns and feedback on this matter. First, let me clarify that the Minister of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development is responsible for overseeing forestry and logging policy in B.C.

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I know that British Columbians have diverse views on how old growth should be treated and that building a consensus on old growth forests has been a challenge for more than 30 years. Today, as we move forward, we need a science-based approach that presents solutions that respect and understand the benefits of old growth to biodiversity, and includes the views of First Nations, forest communities, forest workers, and industry, as well as the views of all people concerned about ecosystem health. By working together, we can and will find a path forward for modern and better old growth forest policies.

Thank you again for taking the time to write.

Sincerely,

George Heyman

Minister

cc: Honourable Katrine Conroy, Minister of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development

From: s.22

Sent: March 18, 2021 3:46 PM

To: Minister, ENV ENV:EX <ENV.Minister@gov.bc.ca>

Subject: Logging of BC's old growth forests

Dear Hon. Minister Heyman:

I am concerned with the logging of old growth forests in BC. Just yesterday I watched several logging trucks come out of Aggasiz loaded with old growth trees.

In completing further research today, I understand that your department has allowed and increase in old growth deforestation within the Province. If this is true then I am very concerned. Please understand that the diversity of species in an old growth forest is irreplaceable. The replacement of old growth trees with a monoculture is not much different than that of the grass in a golf course.

Can you provide me some assurances that this is not occurring; that Covid hasn't allowed an out of the public view slight of hand by the Ministry of Forests.

Sincerely,

s.22

RE: Stop Old Growth logging now!

From: Ainsworth, Diana ENV:EX <Diana.Ainsworth@gov.bc.ca>
To: s.22
Cc: Minister, FLNR FLNR:EX <FLNR.Minister@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: March 25, 2021 3:59:07 PM PDT

Reference: 374441

March 25, 2021

s.22

Email: s.22

Dear s.22

Thank you for your recent emails regarding old growth forests.

I appreciate that you took the time to share your concern regarding the management and preservation of old growth forests in British Columbia. This is a critically important issue that resonates strongly on many levels throughout our entire province. We welcome and appreciate your questions, concerns and feedback on this matter. First, let me clarify that the Minister of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development is responsible for overseeing forestry and logging policy in B.C.

There are obvious environmental concerns with respect to ecosystem health, biodiversity and climate that relate to old growth forest management. I am working with the Minister of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development, the Honourable Katrine Conroy, to coordinate and align policy that involves mandates for both our ministries.

In September 2020, our government announced a new, holistic approach to how we manage B.C.'s old growth forests and support forest workers and communities. These actions flow from recommendations from an independent panel report titled ["A New Future for Old Forests"](#) written by Gary Merkel and Al Gorley, two independent panellists who held an extensive engagement process with British Columbians.

There has been a divisive and patchwork approach to how old growth forests have been managed in our province for a long time. Our government wants to break from that practice and establish a new way of doing this critical work. As a first step in our [new approach in the protection of old growth forests](#), we have deferred the harvesting of old growth trees in nine areas throughout B.C. that represent areas with high biodiversity, totaling almost 353,000 hectares. As recommended by the panel, our government will engage directly with Indigenous Peoples whose territory is impacted as we move forward with the plan, and consider possible additional areas for deferral while a full old forest plan is completed.

I know that British Columbians have diverse views on how old growth should be treated and that building a consensus on old growth forests has been a challenge for more than 30 years. Today, as we move forward, we need a science-based approach that presents solutions that respect and understand the benefits of old growth to biodiversity, and includes the views of First Nations, forest communities, forest workers, and industry, as well as the views of all people concerned about ecosystem health. By working together, we can and will find a path forward for modern and better old growth forest policies.

Thank you again for taking the time to write.

Sincerely,

George Heyman

Minister

cc: Honourable Katrine Conroy, Minister of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development

From: s.22

Sent: March 21, 2021 2:36 PM

To: s.22

Cc: Minister, ENV ENV:EX ; OfficeofthePremier, Office PREM:EX

Subject: Stop Old Growth logging now!

Hello,

I am writing because of my deep concern about the logging of Old Growth trees and Teal Cedar's intent to cut all they are "entitled" to on their cutblocks.

This is wildly unpopular in BC for good reason.

According to a new study in *Frontiers in Forests and Global Change*, older, large-diameter trees have been shown to store disproportionately massive amounts of carbon compared to smaller trees. This highlights their importance in mitigating climate change.

Please, STOP Old Growth Logging on Southern Vancouver Island, no deferrals until everyone has forgotten, specifically Fairy Creek right now. Deny Teal Jones the injunction they seek to remove environment protectors from trying to stop this madness.

The Climate Emergency we all face is terrifying and the time for a halt to producing greenhouses gasses and also keeping carbon sequestered is necessary.
Its anti-life to allow this Old Growth logging to take place.

They...and their habitat must be preserved! This is obvious, correct? Cutting these trees and the habitat they need and provide to save logging jobs for a few more months is illogical.
Perhaps offer retraining for loggers who are rightfully afraid their way of life is winding down. The passive energy sector is growing...
Sincerely,

s.22

Older, large-diameter trees have been shown to store disproportionately massive amounts of carbon compared to smaller trees, highlighting their importance in mitigating climate change, according to a new study in *Frontiers in Forests and Global Change*.

From: Llewellyn-Thomas, Marnie ENV:EX <Marnie.LlewellynThomas@gov.bc.ca>
To: Morgan, Carly ENV:EX <Carly.Morgan@gov.bc.ca>
Cc: Kamlade, Taylor ENV:EX <Taylor.Kamlade@gov.bc.ca>, O'Brien, Kellie ENV:EX <Kellie.O'Brien@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: March 29, 2021 3:47:33 PM PDT
Attachments: image001.png

Hi Carly,

Definitely, Old-growth is FLNRO.



Marn

From: Morgan, Carly ENV:EX <Carly.Morgan@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: March 29, 2021 3:44 PM
To: Llewellyn-Thomas, Marnie ENV:EX <Marnie.LlewellynThomas@gov.bc.ca>
Cc: Kamlade, Taylor ENV:EX <Taylor.Kamlade@gov.bc.ca>; O'Brien, Kellie ENV:EX <Kellie.O'Brien@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: Advice: MGH mtg w/ Private Citizen ^{s.22} (374505)

Hi Marnie,

Advice requested. This private citizen would like to discuss her concerns regarding Old Growth forestry practices in BC. I assume this is mostly FLNRO, would it be better redirected to MKC?

Thank you,



Carly Morgan

Issues and Administrative Coordinator
Deputy Minister's Office
Ministry of Environment & Climate Change Strategy
P: 250-704-3050 • Carly.Morgan@gov.bc.ca

From ^{s.22}

Sent: March 23, 2021 2:33 PM

To: Minister, ENV ENV:EX <ENV.Minister@gov.bc.ca>

Subject: Protect Old Growth Forest- Injunction served to Fairy Creek Blockade

[EXTERNAL] This email came from an external source. Only open attachments or links that you are expecting from a known sender.

Dear Minister,

I am writing to express my concerns over the lack of follow-through on BC NDP promises regarding Old-Growth Forest Management in BC.

According to the [BC NDP website](#), the re-elected government (i.e. the current government) "moved to protect nearly 353,000 hectares of old growth forests" in early September, 2020.

Unfortunately, the 353,000 hectares mentioned here only include about 196,000 hectares of actual old-growth -- the rest is 2nd growth or non-forest area. Additionally, of those 196,000 hectares, only about 3,400 hectares overlaps with the 415,000 hectares of healthy and picturesque old growth identified by Dr. Price *et al.* in the [Veridian Report](#). Most of the area is actually deemed as 'unproductive' old growth, like ancient bogs and old-but-small

bonsai-style trees. Furthermore, it's come to my attention that 137,000 hectares of the land claimed to be protected was actually already protected under existing legislation! Overall, the BC NDP's claim to be "committed to protecting old growth and biodiversity" is a shallow and non factual statement. At best, it would be more accurate to say that 3,400 hectares were slated for protection - much less impressive. And, at the current rate of decision making, I fear that we won't even be able to conserve this much.

The BC NDP website goes on to state that "a re-elected BC NDP will implement the full slate of proposals from the Old Growth Strategic Review Panel. We will act on all fourteen recommendations and work with Indigenous leaders and organizations, industry, labour and environmental organizations on the steps that will take us there." However, what is lacking is a commitment to any timeframe in which these recommendations will be implemented. **A promise with no timeline, is no promise at all.**

The efforts to protect Old-growth stands in Fairy Creek are a grass-roots effort to help the BC NDP government hold true to their word. Vancouver Island is renowned for its old- growth trees but soon the facade will break. There has been a history of people standing up to protect old growth stands - the Meares Island blockade comes to mind. I can't imagine a single BC resident entering that forest and saying "wow, I wish this had been logged, too." We have the opportunity to act and save another stand of old-growth. If successful, BC residents will recall this fight for years to come and again they will say "I'm so grateful that this remains."

Under Section 13 of B.C.'s Forests Act, the Minister of Natural Resources Mr. Nathan Cullen can defer harvesting activities for up to four years without compensating tenure holders. I am asking you as a civil servant to pressure for the **extension or full removal of the injunction served to the Fairy Creek Blockade (court date is this Thursday, March 25th)** At the very least, we need more time to hold the BC government accountable to these promises. I need to see you act on behalf of BC's Old Growth Forests in alignment with BC NDP campaign promises.

Finally, current estimates project that there will be no productive old growth forests remaining on Vancouver Island (Remember, Meares is another island) within 3-4 years under the current business-as-usual forestry practices. I can't stand to live in a world with no stands left.

Thank you for reading about and acting on my behalf to address these concerns. I would like to discuss my concerns over the phone as well. Would it be possible to set up a time in which to discuss my concerns regarding Old Growth forestry practices in BC?

Sincerely,

s.22



Reference: 373007

March 26, 2021

s.22

Dear s.22

Thank you for your letter of February 7, 2021, regarding old growth forests, and for sharing the signatures from your online petition with me. I apologize for the delay in responding.

I appreciate that you took the time to share your concern regarding the management and preservation of old growth forests in British Columbia. This is a critically important issue that resonates strongly on many levels throughout our entire province. We welcome and appreciate your questions, concerns and feedback on this matter. First, let me clarify that the Minister of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development is responsible for overseeing forestry and logging policy in B.C., including the Special Tree Protection Regulation that you mention in your letter.

There are obvious environmental concerns with respect to ecosystem health, biodiversity and climate that relate to old growth forest management. I am working with the Minister of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development, the Honourable Katrine Conroy, to coordinate and align policy that involves mandates for both our ministries.

In September 2020, our government announced a new, holistic approach to how we manage B.C.'s old growth forests and support forest workers and communities. These actions flow from recommendations from an independent panel report titled "A New Future for Old Forests" (<https://engage.gov.bc.ca/oldgrowth>) written by Gary Merkel and Al Gorley, two independent panellists who held an extensive engagement process with British Columbians.

There has been a divisive and patchwork approach to how old growth forests have been managed in our province for a long time. Our government wants to break from that practice and establish a new way of doing this critical work. As a first step in our new approach in the protection of old growth forests, we have deferred the harvesting of old growth trees in nine areas throughout B.C. that represent areas with high biodiversity, totaling almost 353,000 hectares. As recommended by the panel, our government will engage directly with Indigenous Peoples whose territory is impacted as we move forward with the plan, and consider possible additional areas for deferral while a full old forest plan is completed.

...2

Ministry of Environment and
Climate Change Strategy

Office of the
Minister

Mailing Address:
Parliament Buildings
Victoria BC V8V 1X4

Telephone: 250 387-1187
Facsimile: 250 387-1356
Website: www.gov.bc.ca/cnv

I know that British Columbians have diverse views on how old growth should be treated and that building a consensus on old growth forests has been a challenge for more than 30 years. Today, as we move forward, we need a science-based approach that presents solutions that respect and understand the benefits of old growth to biodiversity, and includes the views of First Nations, forest communities, forest workers, and industry, as well as the views of all people concerned about ecosystem health. By working together, we can and will find a path forward for modern and better old growth forest policies.

Thank you again for taking the time to write.

Sincerely,



George Heyman
Minister

cc: Honourable Katrine Conroy, Minister of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations
and Rural Development

RE: PLEASE REPLY..... BC Environmental Protection?

From: Minister, ENV ENV:EX <ENV.Minister@gov.bc.ca>
To: s.22
Cc: Minister, FLNR FLNR:EX <FLNR.Minister@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: April 12, 2021 11:55:53 AM PDT

Reference: 375211

April 12, 2021

s.22

Email: s.22

Dear s.22

Thank you for your email of March 29, 2021, regarding old growth logging and deposits on beverage containers. I would also like to acknowledge your email of March 17 regarding beverage container deposits. I have asked Laurel Nash, Assistant Deputy Minister of the Environmental Protection Division in my ministry, to provide you with a detailed response on that topic. In this email, I am pleased to respond to your concerns about old growth forests.

The management and preservation of old growth forests in British Columbia is a critically important issue that resonates strongly on many levels throughout our entire province. We welcome and appreciate your questions, concerns and feedback on this matter. First, let me clarify that the Minister of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development is responsible for overseeing forestry and logging policy in B.C.

There are obvious environmental concerns with respect to ecosystem health, biodiversity and climate that relate to old growth forest management. I am working with the Minister of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development, the Honourable Katrine Conroy, to coordinate and align policy that involves mandates for both our ministries.

In September 2020, our government announced a new, holistic approach to how we manage B.C.'s old growth forests and support forest workers and communities. These actions flow from recommendations from an independent panel report titled ["A New Future for Old Forests"](#) written by Gary Merkel and Al Gorley, two independent panellists who held an extensive engagement process with British Columbians. There has been a divisive and patchwork approach to how old growth forests have been managed in our province for a long time. Our government wants to break from that practice and establish a new way of doing this critical work. As a first step in our [new approach in the protection of old growth forests](#), we have deferred the harvesting of old growth trees in nine areas throughout B.C. that represent areas with high biodiversity, totaling almost 353,000 hectares. As recommended by the panel, our government will engage directly with Indigenous Peoples whose territory is impacted as we move forward with the plan, and consider possible additional areas for deferral while a full old forest plan is completed.

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Thank you again for taking the time to write.

Sincerely,

George Heyman

Minister

cc: Honourable Katrine Conroy, Minister of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development

From: s.22

Sent: March 29, 2021 9:34 AM

To: Minister, ENV ENV:EX <ENV.Minister@gov.bc.ca>

Subject: FW: PLEASE REPLY..... BC Environmental Protection?

Please reply to both the 'old growth logging' and the NEW Deposit rates for bottle returns. The governments stand on both these items reverses the well being of our province. BC's leaders need to look to the future and stop stepping backwards in environmental standards.

B.C. old-growth data 'misleading' public on remaining ancient forest: independent report

Government touts 13 million hectares of province's forests are old growth, but ecologists found only 35,000 hectares support the largest trees

s.22

Jun 4, 2020
7 min read

The majority of British Columbia's productive old-growth forests are gone, and the majority of the old growth remaining is slated to be logged, says an independent study released Thursday by B.C. ecologists who previously worked for the provincial government.

The findings of the report shed new light on [provincial claims](#) that, despite intensive logging, B.C. is still home to significant amounts of old growth.

According to the B.C. government, 23 per cent of forest in the province is old growth, about 13 million hectares.

Yet the new study found only three per cent of B.C. is capable of supporting large trees and within that small portion of the province, the [ecologists found only 2.7 per cent of the trees are actually old as "old forests on these sites have dwindled considerably due to intense harvest."](#)

RESENDING email below for reply...

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows 10

From: s.22

Sent: March 17, 2021 3:06 PM

To: [Minister, ENV ENV:EX](#)

Subject: bottle recycling deposits

Good afternoon,

I am writing with concerns to the deposit amount for bottles which was changed by the BC Govt.

This change reduced the extra money low income/homeless individuals were relying on to help them get by AND reduced the amount of recycling that will occur.

Inflation/expenses have not gone down and peoples time is worth money. BC's decision hurts those who need it most and the environment.

1. Low income and homeless persons who rely on these returns to help to get by in life or pay their bills have now had that income cut in half. From what I've seen while doing returns, Alcohol cans/bottles deposits account for the majority of the returns. They used to be double the value.
2. People like myself who spend our days working fulltime will not be bothered to sort through, recycle cans/bottles any more. Why would we? Last time I went in I expected \$60 for a truck load of recyclables, I recieved \$30.00. not worth my time. I also used to make an effort to pull empties out of our garbage bins at our business, give them to people who needed the money, however that is no longer the case. If they are in the garbage they are all going to the landfill.

The govt went the wrong way in standardizing the rate. Alberta has been paying .05,.10 and .25 deposits back for over a decade.

If people would like to purchase pop, juice, alcohol a .10\$ deposit that will returned is not an issue. Wasting our time to collect minimal funds is an issue.

This needs to be readdressed. ***Please reply.***

Thanks for your time,

s.22

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows 10

FW: MEDIA RELEASE: BC failing to do its part to address the global climate and biodiversity crisis -- Sierra Club BC

From: Deputy Minister ENV:EX <DM.ENV@gov.bc.ca>
To: Jardine, Kevin ENV:EX <Kevin.Jardine@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: April 23, 2021 2:17:50 PM PDT
Attachments: image005.jpg, image007.jpg, image008.jpg, image006.jpg
FYI Kevin.

Sara Nicoll (she/her)
Correspondence Manager
Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy
w) 778-974-2752 c) 250-208-1680

From: s.22 @sierraclub.bc.ca
Sent: April 23, 2021 11:20 AM
To: Muter, David FLNR:EX <David.Muter@gov.bc.ca>; Bawtinheimer, Brian FLNR:EX <Brian.Bawtinheimer@gov.bc.ca>; Dale, Alec R ENV:EX <Alec.Dale@gov.bc.ca>; Deputy Minister ENV:EX <DM.ENV@gov.bc.ca>; Mack, James ENV:EX <James.Mack@gov.bc.ca>; Pollard, Desmond ENV:EX <Desmond.Pollard@gov.bc.ca>; Brown, Edena FLNR:EX <Edena.Brown@gov.bc.ca>; Monroe, Danielle FLNR:EX <Danielle.Monroe@gov.bc.ca>; Sather, Kelly ENV:EX <Kelly.Sather@gov.bc.ca>; Renneberg, Tim FLNR:EX <Tim.Renneberg@gov.bc.ca>; Andrews, Scott FLNR:EX <Scott.Andrews@gov.bc.ca>; Gaber, Leon EMBC:EX <Leon.Gaber@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: MEDIA RELEASE: BC failing to do its part to address the global climate and biodiversity crisis -- Sierra Club BC

[EXTERNAL] This email came from an external source. Only open attachments or links that you are expecting from a known sender.

Dear provincial staff,
Please see below our media release commenting on BC's failure to do its part to address the global climate and biodiversity crisis, highlighting BC's dismal emissions trends, spending for fracking and old-growth logging (e.g. BCTS logging roads and cut blocks) instead of adequate funding for climate action and implementing the old-growth panel recommendations, all contributing to Canada's role as the only G7 country increasing emissions, instead of reducing them.

Believe me, we are experiencing no joy sending out media releases like this, but we are in an emergency and polling data shows that the vast majority of people in BC want this province to make a greater contribution to addressing the global climate and biodiversity crisis, actually reversing the trends of pollution and destruction of the last intact ecosystems instead of business-as-usual with tinkering around the edges.

Have a good weekend and if appropriate, please share my email as widely as possible at all levels of the BC government. Happy to answer questions.

s.22

<https://sierraclub.bc.ca/b-c-failing-to-do-its-part-to-address-the-global-climate-and-biodiversity-crisis/>

Subject: MEDIA RELEASE: BC failing to do its part to address the global climate and biodiversity crisis -- Sierra Club BC

RE: Inquiry about old growth.

From: Minister, ENV ENV:EX <ENV.Minister@gov.bc.ca>
To: s.22
Cc: Minister, FLNR FLNR:EX <FLNR.Minister@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: April 28, 2021 3:19:58 PM PDT
Attachments: DSC_4909 4.jpeg

Reference: 375177

April 28, 2021

s.22

Email: s.22

Dear s.22

Thank you for your email of March 26, 2021, regarding old growth forests.

I appreciate that you took the time to share your concern regarding the management and preservation of old growth forests in British Columbia. This is a critically important issue that resonates strongly on many levels throughout our entire province. We welcome and appreciate your questions, concerns and feedback on this matter. First, let me clarify that the Minister of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development is responsible for overseeing forestry and logging policy in B.C.

There are obvious environmental concerns with respect to ecosystem health, biodiversity and climate that relate to old growth forest management. I am working with the Minister of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development, the Honourable Katrine Conroy, to coordinate and align policy that involves mandates for both our ministries.

In September 2020, our government announced a new, holistic approach to how we manage B.C.'s old growth forests and support forest workers and communities. These actions flow from recommendations from an independent panel report titled ["A New Future for Old Forests"](#) written by Gary Merkel and Al Gorley, two independent panellists who held an extensive engagement process with British Columbians.

There has been a divisive and patchwork approach to how old growth forests have been managed in our province for a long time. Our government wants to break from that practice and establish a new way of doing this critical work. As a first step in our [new approach in the protection of old growth forests](#), we have deferred the harvesting of old growth trees in nine areas throughout B.C. that represent areas with high biodiversity, totaling almost 353,000 hectares. As recommended by the panel, our government will engage directly with Indigenous Peoples whose territory is impacted as we move forward with the plan, and consider possible additional areas for deferral while a full old forest plan is completed.

I know that British Columbians have diverse views on how old growth should be treated and that building a consensus on old growth forests has been a challenge for more than 30 years. Today, as we move forward, we need a science-based approach that presents solutions that respect and understand the benefits of old growth to biodiversity, and includes the views of First Nations, forest communities, forest workers, and industry, as well as the views of all people concerned about ecosystem health. By working together, we can and will find a path forward for modern and better old growth forest policies.

Thank you again for taking the time to write.

Sincerely,

George Heyman

Minister

cc: Honourable Katrine Conroy, Minister of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development

From: s.22

Sent: March 26, 2021 10:50 AM

To: Minister, ENV ENV:EX <ENV.Minister@gov.bc.ca>

Subject: Inquiry about old growth.

Good morning.

My name is s.22 after speaking with one of your lovely staff on the phone, I told this email would be a good way to get through to you guys. As it's obvious from the title of this email, my inquiry is regarding any solutions you guys might be discussing to deal with this Old Growth logging uproar that has persisted from the public for months. We are so tired of silence, and I was just wondering if there's ANYTHING you could tell me. I've contacted so many of the NDP offices and heard nothing.

Please write back.

Page 104 of 140

Withheld pursuant to/removal as

Copyright

Fwd: CBU: Coste - old growth logging


From: Heyman, George ENV:EX <George.Heyman@gov.bc.ca>
To: Jardine, Kevin ENV:EX <Kevin.Jardine@gov.bc.ca>
Cc: Sather, Kelly ENV:EX <Kelly.Sather@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: May 3, 2021 7:02:45 PM PDT

He is with the wilderness committee and today they published data gathered from public sources that shows that over the last year, the province has approved cut blocks for more than 84,000 hectares of old growth forest.

An increase of 43% from the previous year.

Sent from my iPad

Begin forwarded message:

From: tno@gov.bc.ca
Date: May 3, 2021 at 6:11:27 PM PDT
Subject: CBU: Coste - old growth logging 

CBU (CBC Vancouver)

2021-05-03 17:33

Copyright

[TNO...](#)

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EDRMS CM: Re: CBU: Coste - old growth logging

From: Jardine, Kevin ENV:EX <Kevin.Jardine@gov.bc.ca>
To: Heyman, George ENV:EX <George.Heyman@gov.bc.ca>
Cc: Sather, Kelly ENV:EX <Kelly.Sather@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: May 3, 2021 7:06:42 PM PDT

Yup. This was the one I mentioned, Minister.

Best,
K.
250-361-6753 (txt & talk)


On May 3, 2021, at 7:02 PM, Heyman, George ENV:EX <George.Heyman@gov.bc.ca> wrote:

He is with the wilderness committee and today they published data gathered from public sources that shows that over the last year, the province has approved cut blocks for more than 84,000 hectares of old growth forest.

An increase of 43% from the previous year.

Sent from my iPad

Begin forwarded message:

From: tno@gov.bc.ca
Date: May 3, 2021 at 6:11:27 PM PDT
Subject: CBU: Coste - old growth logging 

CBU (CBC Vancouver)

2021-05-03 17:33

Copyright

[TNO...](#)

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Reference: 375175

May 3, 2021

s.22

Dear s.22

Thank you for your letter of March 19, 2021, regarding old growth forests.

I appreciate that you took the time to share your concern regarding the management and preservation of old growth forests in British Columbia. This is a critically important issue that resonates strongly on many levels throughout our entire province. We welcome and appreciate your questions, concerns and feedback on this matter. First, let me clarify that the Minister of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development is responsible for overseeing forestry and logging policy in B.C.

There are obvious environmental concerns with respect to ecosystem health, biodiversity and climate that relate to old growth forest management. I am working with the Minister of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development, the Honourable Katrine Conroy, to coordinate and align policy that involves mandates for both our ministries.

In September 2020, our government announced a new, holistic approach to how we manage B.C.'s old growth forests and support forest workers and communities. These actions flow from recommendations from an independent panel report titled "A New Future for Old Forests" written by Gary Merkel and Al Gorley, two independent panellists who held an extensive engagement process with British Columbians.

There has been a divisive and patchwork approach to how old growth forests have been managed in our province for a long time. Our government wants to break from that practice and establish a new way of doing this critical work. As a first step in our new approach in the protection of old growth forests, we have deferred the harvesting of old growth trees in nine areas throughout B.C. that represent areas with high biodiversity, totaling almost 353,000 hectares. As recommended by the panel, our government will engage directly with Indigenous Peoples whose territory is impacted as we move forward with the plan, and consider possible additional areas for deferral while a full old forest plan is completed.

...2

I know that British Columbians have diverse views on how old growth should be treated and that building a consensus on old growth forests has been a challenge for more than 30 years. Today, as we move forward, we need a science-based approach that presents solutions that respect and understand the benefits of old growth to biodiversity, and includes the views of First Nations, forest communities, forest workers, and industry, as well as the views of all people concerned about ecosystem health. By working together, we can and will find a path forward for modern and better old growth forest policies.

Thank you again for taking the time to write.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'G. Heyman', with a stylized, cursive script.

George Heyman
Minister

cc: Honourable Katrine Conroy, Minister of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations
and Rural Development

RE: Old Growth Deferrals

From: Minister, ENV ENV:EX <ENV.Minister@gov.bc.ca>
To: s.22
Cc: Minister, FLNR FLNR:EX <FLNR.Minister@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: May 7, 2021 10:56:25 AM PDT
Attachments: image002.jpg

Reference: 375585

May 7, 2021

s.22

Email: s.22

Dear s.22

Thank you for your email of March 31, 2021, regarding old growth forests, such as the Fairy Creek watershed.

I appreciate that you took the time to share your concern regarding the management and preservation of old growth forests in British Columbia. This is a critically important issue that resonates strongly on many levels throughout our entire province. We welcome and appreciate your questions, concerns and feedback on this matter.

The Minister of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development, the Honourable Katrine Conroy, is responsible for overseeing forestry and logging policy in B.C. I have shared your questions with her for her review and consideration. There are obvious environmental concerns with respect to ecosystem health, biodiversity and climate that relate to old growth forest management. I am working with Minister Conroy to coordinate and align policy that involves mandates for both our ministries.

I know that British Columbians have diverse views on how old growth should be treated and that building a consensus on old growth forests has been a challenge for more than 30 years. Today, as we move forward, we need a science-based approach that presents solutions that respect and understand the benefits of old growth to biodiversity, and includes the views of First Nations, forest communities, forest workers, and industry, as well as the views of all people concerned about ecosystem health. By working together, we can and will find a path forward for modern and better old growth forest policies.

Our government takes this challenge and the importance of conservation in old forests very seriously and I am committed to working with Minister Conroy and all my cabinet colleagues as we implement the recommendations of the expert panel.

Thank you again for taking the time to write.

Sincerely,

George Heyman

Minister

cc: Honourable Katrine Conroy, Minister of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development

From: s.22

Sent: March 31, 2021 11:24 PM

To: Minister, ENV ENV:EX <ENV.Minister@gov.bc.ca>

Subject: Old Growth Deferrals

Dear Mr Heyman

I read your biography and see that you were the executive director of the Sierra Club BC, so clearly you already know what is at stake here. Please do all you can to urge your colleagues at the ministry of forests and Mr. Horgan to take immediate action to stop old growth logging in rare ecosystems, such as within Fairy Creek. Because old-growth is so important for carbon sequestration and other environmental values, this falls within your jurisdiction and responsibility (so please don't be shy!). To be clear, I am not necessarily against old growth logging; I am against the logging of old growth forests which are rare and at risk of biodiversity loss. Specific questions I would encourage you to ask the premier and the minister of forests (if you do not have the answers yourself):

- 1) Why is the government not following the recommendations of the Strategic Review? Specifically, why are the most at risk ecosystems still being logged instead of deferring them from logging during consultations and restructuring of our currently unsustainable forestry system? Your 353,000 hectares of deferrals

announced are mostly forests that are not at immediate threat of logging, are already protected or are second growth forests. Fairy Creek, the Wahlbran Valley and the surrounding highly productive old growth on southern Vancouver Island seem to match exactly the areas the report recommends be deferred; they meet all the criteria; it's almost as if the report did everything they could but name them specifically (see below for an excerpt of areas recommended for deferrals, pg 55 of the report)

2) If consultation with First Nations is the issue that is causing delays, I have serious questions about this logic. To consult First Nations about old growth logging while continuing to log is like reaching out to shake their hand with the other hand holding a chainsaw, continuing to cut down their forests. In no consultation process is this a genuine approach and like the report says, deferrals allow a breathing room for potential solutions.

3) Do you believe there is a sense of urgency needed with this issue? Is there any timeline you have committed to? With so little low elevation, highly productive old growth left, if the consultation process is going to take years, this could cause irreversible damage in the meantime. This is why the strategic review recommended the immediate deferrals. Even if roads and a only a few cutblocks go into places like Fairy Creek, this will cause significant disturbance (see the discussion on Old Growth Management Areas in the report and concerns about the impacts of edge cuts, roads and other disturbances on OGMA's).

4) Is the amount of financial assistance to those impacted by the deferrals the issue here? (to the Pacheedaht First Nation and Teal Jones?). In the future (both short-term and long-term), I am confident that tourism will show that these areas are worth more standing.

Fairy Creek looks like it will turn into a large conflict with civil disobedience planned and protests. Reading the Old Growth Strategic Review, I'm reminded that this could have been avoided. I understand the government is trying to balance immediate ecological irreversible risk and the economic impacts of immediate deferrals. I want to also acknowledge that the decades of stagnation in forest policy change is not the responsibility of your government alone. Thank you for commissioning the Strategic Review in the first place; clearly the government is acknowledging the public concern here.

Please do not let this turn into the same end result as the cod fishery in the Maritimes where no government wanted to take leadership and steer the region into a more sustainable industry for fear of a backlash...until it was too late. The industry and forestry communities know something has to be done to save this rare ecosystems. BC has waited so long to take action that we need a bold new direction now and we need it fast.

I look forward to your response.

Respectfully,

s.22

RE: worth more alive!

From: Minister, ENV ENV:EX <ENV.Minister@gov.bc.ca>
To: s.22
Cc: Minister, FLNR FLNR:EX <FLNR.Minister@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: May 7, 2021 2:42:33 PM PDT

Reference: 375587

May 7, 2021

s.22

Emails.22

Dear s.22

Thank you for your email of April 12, 2021, regarding old growth forests, such as the Fairy Creek watershed.

I appreciate that you took the time to share your concern regarding the management and preservation of old growth forests in British Columbia. This is a critically important issue that resonates strongly on many levels throughout our entire province. We welcome and appreciate your questions, concerns and feedback on this matter.

The Minister of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development, the Honourable Katrine Conroy, is responsible for overseeing forestry and logging policy in B.C. I have shared your questions with her for her review and consideration. There are obvious environmental concerns with respect to ecosystem health, biodiversity and climate that relate to old growth forest management. I am working with Minister Conroy to coordinate and align policy that involves mandates for both our ministries.

I know that British Columbians have diverse views on how old growth should be treated and that building a consensus on old growth forests has been a challenge for more than 30 years. Today, as we move forward, we need a science-based approach that presents solutions that respect and understand the benefits of old growth to biodiversity, and includes the views of First Nations, forest communities, forest workers, and industry, as well as the views of all people concerned about ecosystem health. By working together, we can and will find a path forward for modern and better old growth forest policies.

Our government takes this challenge and the importance of conservation in old forests very seriously and I am committed to working with Minister Conroy and all my cabinet colleagues as we implement the recommendations of the expert panel.

Thank you again for taking the time to write.

Sincerely,

George Heyman

Minister

cc: Honourable Katrine Conroy, Minister of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development

From s.22

Sent: April 12, 2021 8:48 PM

To: Minister, ENV ENV:EX <ENV.Minister@gov.bc.ca>

Subject: worth more alive!

Dear Minister Heyman,

Please take immediate action to defer old growth logging in rare ecosystems, such as within Fairy Creek. To be clear, I am not necessarily against all old growth logging; I am against the logging of old growth forests which are rare and at risk of biodiversity loss, which the Strategic Review on Old Growth clearly recommends protecting and states we are at a crisis point.

1) Why is the government not following the recommendations of the Strategic Review? Specifically, why are the most at risk ecosystems still being logged instead of deferring them from logging during consultations and restructuring of our currently unsustainable forestry system? Your 353,000 hectares of deferrals announced are mostly forests that are not at immediate threat of logging, are already protected or are second growth forests. Fairy Creek, the Wahlbran Valley and the surrounding highly productive old growth on southern Vancouver Island match exactly the areas the report recommends be deferred (see below for an excerpt of areas recommended for deferrals, page 55 of the Strategic Review report)

2) If consultation with First Nations is the issue that is causing delays, I have serious questions about this logic. To consult First Nations about old growth logging while continuing to log is like reaching out to shake their hand and with the other hand holding a chainsaw, continuing to cut down their forests. In no consultation process is this a genuine approach and like the review report says, deferrals allow breathing room for potential solutions. As Green Party MLA Sonia Furstenau phrased it: “deferrals are a tool to maintain options in a time of crisis...You can’t build a new framework for protection while you log the last of what’s left. You can’t consult on what’s already gone.”

3) Do you believe there is a sense of urgency needed with this issue? Is there any timeline you have committed to? With so little low elevation, highly productive old growth left (2.7% SI index 25+ and 10% SI index 20-25), if the consultation process is going to take years, this could cause irreversible ecosystem damage in the meantime. This is why the strategic review recommended the immediate deferrals. Even if roads and a few cut-blocks go into places like Fairy Creek, this will cause significant disturbance (see the discussion on Old Growth Management Areas in the report and concerns about the impacts of edge cuts, roads and other disturbances on OGMAAs).

4) Is the amount of financial assistance to those impacted by the deferrals the issue here? (to the Pacheedaht First Nation and Teal Jones?). In the future (both short-term and long-term), I am confident that tourism will show that these areas are worth more standing.

Fairy Creek looks like it will turn into a large conflict with civil disobedience planned and protests. I understand the government is trying to balance immediate ecological irreversible risk and the economic impacts of immediate deferrals. I want to also acknowledge that the decades of stagnation in forest policy change is not the responsibility of your government alone. Thank you for commissioning the Strategic Review in the first place; clearly the government is acknowledging the public concern here.

Please do not let this turn into the same end result as the cod fishery in the Maritimes where no government wanted to take leadership and steer the region into a more sustainable industry for fear of a backlash...until it was too late. The industry and forestry communities know something has to be done to protect these rare ecosystems. BC has waited so long to take action that we need a bold new direction now and we need it fast. I look forward to your response.

Respectfully, [s.22](#)

RE: Strategic Review of Old Growth Management in B.C.

From: Minister, ENV ENV:EX <ENV.Minister@gov.bc.ca>
To: s.22
Cc: Minister, FLNR FLNR:EX <FLNR.Minister@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: May 10, 2021 8:42:41 AM PDT

Reference: 375586

May 10, 2021

s.22

Email: s.22

Dear s.22

Thank you for your email of April 4, 2021, regarding old growth forests, such as the Fairy Creek watershed. I appreciate that you took the time to share your concern regarding the management and preservation of old growth forests in British Columbia. This is a critically important issue that resonates strongly on many levels throughout our entire province. We welcome and appreciate your questions, concerns and feedback on this matter.

The Minister of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development, the Honourable Katrine Conroy, is responsible for overseeing forestry and logging policy in B.C. I have shared your questions with her for her review and consideration. There are obvious environmental concerns with respect to ecosystem health, biodiversity and climate that relate to old growth forest management. I am working with Minister Conroy to coordinate and align policy that involves mandates for both our ministries.

I know that British Columbians have diverse views on how old growth should be treated and that building a consensus on old growth forests has been a challenge for more than 30 years. Today, as we move forward, we need a science-based approach that presents solutions that respect and understand the benefits of old growth to biodiversity, and includes the views of First Nations, forest communities, forest workers, and industry, as well as the views of all people concerned about ecosystem health. By working together, we can and will find a path forward for modern and better old growth forest policies.

Our government takes this challenge and the importance of conservation in old forests very seriously and I am committed to working with Minister Conroy and all my cabinet colleagues as we implement the recommendations of the expert panel.

Thank you again for taking the time to write.

Sincerely,

George Heyman

Minister

cc: Honourable Katrine Conroy, Minister of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development

From: s.22

Sent: April 4, 2021 12:13 PM

To: Minister, ENV ENV:EX <ENV.Minister@gov.bc.ca>

Subject: Strategic Review of Old Growth Management in B.C.

Dear George Heyman (Minister of Environment and Climate Change Strategy),

Please take immediate action to defer old growth logging in rare ecosystems, such as within Fairy Creek. To be clear, I am not necessarily against all old growth logging; I am against the logging of old growth forests which are rare and at risk of biodiversity loss, which the Strategic Review on Old Growth clearly recommends protecting and states we are at a crisis point.

1) Why is the government not following the recommendations of the Strategic Review? Specifically, why are the most at risk ecosystems still being logged instead of deferring them from logging during consultations and restructuring of our currently unsustainable forestry system? Your 353,000 hectares of deferrals announced are mostly forests that are not at immediate threat of logging, are already protected or are second growth forests. Fairy Creek, the Wahlbran Valley and the surrounding highly productive old growth on southern Vancouver Island match exactly the areas the report recommends be deferred (see below for an excerpt of areas recommended for deferrals, page 55 of the Strategic Review report)

2) If consultation with First Nations is the issue that is causing delays, I have serious questions about this logic. To consult First Nations about old growth logging while continuing to log is like reaching out to shake their hand and with the other hand holding a chainsaw, continuing to cut down their forests. In no consultation process is this a genuine approach and like the review report says, deferrals allow breathing room for potential solutions. As Green Party MLA Sonia Furstenau phrased it: “deferrals are a tool to maintain options in a time of crisis... You can’t build a new framework for protection while you log the last of what’s left. You can’t consult on what’s already gone.”

3) Do you believe there is a sense of urgency needed with this issue? Is there any timeline you have committed to? With so little low elevation, highly productive old growth left (2.7% SI index 25+ and 10% SI index 20-25), if the consultation process is going to take years, this could cause irreversible ecosystem damage in the meantime. This is why the strategic review recommended the immediate deferrals. Even if roads and a few cut-blocks go into places like Fairy Creek, this will cause significant disturbance (see the discussion on Old Growth Management Areas in the report and concerns about the impacts of edge cuts, roads and other disturbances on OGMAAs).

4) Is the amount of financial assistance to those impacted by the deferrals the issue here? (to the Pacheedaht First Nation and Teal Jones?). In the future (both short-term and long-term), I am confident that tourism will show that these areas are worth more standing.

Fairy Creek looks like it will turn into a large conflict with civil disobedience planned and protests. I understand the government is trying to balance immediate ecological irreversible risk and the economic impacts of immediate deferrals. I want to also acknowledge that the decades of stagnation in forest policy change is not the responsibility of your government alone. Thank you for commissioning the Strategic Review in the first place; clearly the government is acknowledging the public concern here.

Please do not let this turn into the same end result as the cod fishery in the Maritimes where no government wanted to take leadership and steer the region into a more sustainable industry for fear of a backlash...until it was too late. The industry and forestry communities know something has to be done to protect these rare ecosystems. BC has waited so long to take action that we need a bold new direction now and we need it fast.

I look forward to your response.

Respectfully,

s.22

RE: Protect Fairy Creek - the Last Stand of Intact Old Growth on southern Vancouver Island

From: Minister, ENV ENV:EX <ENV.Minister@gov.bc.ca>
To: s.22
Cc: Minister, FLNR FLNR:EX <FLNR.Minister@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: May 10, 2021 12:32:58 PM PDT

Reference: 375504

May 10, 2021

s.22

Email: s.22

Dear s.22

Thank you for your email of April 11, 2021, regarding old growth forests, such as the Fairy Creek watershed.

I appreciate that you took the time to share your concern regarding the management and preservation of old growth forests in British Columbia. This is a critically important issue that resonates strongly on many levels throughout our entire province. We welcome and appreciate your questions, concerns and feedback on this matter.

The Minister of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development, the Honourable Katrine Conroy, is responsible for overseeing forestry and logging policy in B.C. I have shared your email with her for her review and consideration. There are obvious environmental concerns with respect to ecosystem health, biodiversity and climate that relate to old growth forest management. I am working with Minister Conroy to coordinate and align policy that involves mandates for both our ministries.

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Our government takes this challenge and the importance of conservation in old forests very seriously and I am committed to working with Minister Conroy and all my cabinet colleagues as we implement the recommendations of the expert panel.

Thank you again for taking the time to write.

Sincerely,

George Heyman

Minister

cc: Honourable Katrine Conroy, Minister of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development

From: s.22

Sent: April 11, 2021 12:52 PM

To: Heyman.MLA, George <George.Heyman.MLA@leg.bc.ca>

Subject: Protect Fairy Creek - the Last Stand of Intact Old Growth on southern Vancouver Island

Dear Mr. Heyman,

This is a copy of the letter I sent to Rob Fleming's assistant, Noah, in response to a letter I received from him supporting the current NDP policy of logging Fairy Creek and other last remaining old growth stands. I hope that you, as BC's Minister of Environment, and as a committed environmentalist, may be able to find a way to take a stand within your own party against this policy.

I look forward to hearing from you on this.

Yours,

s.22

Dear Noah,

Thank you for your response to my letter regarding the importance of saving the Fairy Creek Old Growth. You may remember that we had quite a conversation when I phoned your office a couple of weeks ago, and I was heartened to think that perhaps there was some long-term thinking going on amongst the NDP caucus. When I got this letter,

my heart sank. I imagine this is a version of a letter composed by the Minister of Forests to try to pacify those of us who are struggling for a halt to the destruction of the last of Vancouver Island's old growth forest. It includes many half-truths, and seems to be to be more an attempt to obfuscate than to truly and honestly meet the concerns of those of us who feel betrayed by the NDP on this issue.

I reiterate what I said to you on the phone: I believe that this failure to protect the environmental values of this forest will irrevocably harm the NDP in the long run. Many of us who have worked for the NDP over the years will turn our backs on the party. And our children and grandchildren will forever blame you for the loss of these last bits of old-growth forest.

I have included my specific comments on your letter below, in red.

Yours,

s.22

On Apr 9, 2021, at 2:17 PM, Fleming.MLA, Rob <Rob.Fleming.MLA@leg.bc.ca> wrote:

Dear s.22

Thank you for taking the time to reach out to our Victoria-Swan Lake Constituency Office with your concerns regarding old growth conservation and logging in our province. We have heard from many in our community who share your concerns on this issue.

I want to assure you that MLA Fleming and the government are working hard to develop and put in place a new, comprehensive approach for how old-growth forests are managed in our province. Our government wants to make sure people can appreciate old-growth trees and ecosystems for years to come while supporting a sustainable forest sector for workers and communities.

1. Characterising the value of old growth ecosystems purely in aesthetic terms ("appreciate") misses much of the values that they offer. (see pp. 27-29 of *A New Future for Old Forests*.)
2. However, if aesthetics are the criteria, then large-tree, productive old growth is severely under-represented in BC's protected areas.
3. Fairy Creek is the closest intact old growth valley to Victoria. If you want people to be able to appreciate old-growth trees and ecosystems for years to come, then proximity matters.
4. "Sustainable" forest sector requires that Old Growth values be sustained – something that your government committed to when it adopted the Report's recommendations.

When our government released the old-growth report last September, we took immediate action on four recommendations and committed to implementing all fourteen. Our commitment to this critical work has not changed. In September, our government worked collaboratively with First Nations on a government-to-government basis and protected old-growth in nine different areas at high risk across B.C. This was an essential step in acting on the top two recommendations from the old-growth report.

The recommendation you are referring to reads: *Until a new strategy is implemented, defer development in old forests where ecosystems are at very high and near-term risk of irreversible biodiversity loss.* "Very high and near-term risk" implies that these deferrals should focus on the forests most at risk of logging in the imminent future.

It seems that the purpose of these deferrals was to avoid the talk-and-log approach that your government seems to be now continuing and which has characterised government approach to discussion of old growth protection for decades.

The Status quo while the new Old Growth strategy is developed should be that the trees are left standing – not that they continue to be cut.

Please provide any analysis showing that the areas you have deferred were selected on the basis of "very high and near-term risk of irreversible biodiversity loss" and/or any analysis of which areas of old growth meet that criteria.

We know there is much more work to do. To get this right, our government will follow the old-growth report's advice and fully engage Indigenous leaders, industry, workers, communities, and environmental groups to find the right way forward for old-growth forests in B.C. Some call for an immediate moratorium, but this approach risks thousands of good family-supporting jobs within BC communities and nations and would not be consistent with our commitment to undertaking this matter in a government-to-government way. We know others have called for no changes to logging practices, but this could risk damage to critical ecosystems. There is a better way for B.C. to manage old-growth forests, and our government will work collaboratively with all our partners to do this.

Before releasing the report, the government reviewed it with the First Nations Leadership Council and committed to partnering with Indigenous Nations on the recommendations. We worked with Indigenous Nations to develop nine temporary deferral areas as part of the response to Recommendation No. 6 to protect rare and at-risk old-growth ecosystems. As we advance, Rob and the government are committed to partnering with Indigenous Nations on the recommendations. There are more than 200 Nations in the province, most of which will have an interest in this topic. COVID-19 is impacting every community in BC, presenting added challenges to the engagement process. That

said, we are moving forward with this engagement process that is critically important for old-growth forests in our province.

200 Nations in the Province each have an interest in deferrals in their territory. To suggest that you need to consult 200 nations before Fairy Creek or other particular areas can be deferred is disingenuous.

The Union of BC Indian Chiefs (UBCIC) has [criticized the government](#) for failing to deliver on the commitment to defer logging in at risk old growth, including Fairy Creek.

BC consultation with First Nations for years has been based on the premise that logging in old growth would occur and that the best Nations could hope for were to get some revenue and jobs as a result. This is the case with the Pacheedaht Nation Consultation and Revenue Sharing Agreement, [signed by your government in 2017](#), which guarantees stumpage sharing and which prevents the Nation from interfering with logging.

11.1 Non-interference. Pacheedaht First Nation agrees it will not support or participate in any acts that frustrate, delay, stop or otherwise physically impede or interfere with provincially authorized forest activities.

11.2 Cooperation and Support. Pacheedaht First Nation will promptly and fully cooperate with and provide its support to British Columbia in seeking to resolve any action that might be taken by a member of First Nation that is inconsistent with this Agreement.

While I do not know how this provision is interpreted by the Pacheedaht, the provision seems to limit the ability of the Nation to support members, such as Bill Jones, who oppose logging, or indeed to act on the wishes of its members should they support protecting Old Growth in their territories.

Will your government publicly waive Article 11 of the Agreement to allow the Pacheedaht to consult its members on protection of Fairy Creek and other Old Growth in their territory and to take appropriate action?

Thank you for reaching out, and I will make certain to pass along your concerns to MLA Fleming.

Warm regards,

Noah

Noah Mitchell (he/him)

Constituency Assistant to Rob Fleming, MLA for Victoria-Swan Lake

P: 250-356-5022 | 1020 Hillside Avenue Victoria BC V8T 2A3

MLA Website and to Sign up for Rob's Newsletter: [Rob Fleming](#) | [Facebook](#) | [Twitter](#) | [Instagram](#)

The Victoria-Swan Lake Constituency Office recognizes that we reside on the territory of the Lekwungen people, now known as the Esquimalt and Songhees First Nations.

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From: s.22

Sent: March 31, 2021 11:15 AM

To: Fleming.MLA, Rob <Rob.Fleming.MLA@leg.bc.ca>

Subject: Protect Fairy Creek - the Last Stand of Intact Old Growth on southern Vancouver Island

Dear Rob Fleming,

I phoned your office earlier today, and had a great conversation with your assistant re my despair over the NDP government's refusal to defer logging in the Fairy Creek watershed, the only remaining old-growth forest on southern Vancouver Island. Here's my follow-up letter.

I spent quite a lot of last week standing in front of the BC courthouse holding up my *Protect Fairy Creek Old Growth* sign. What impressed and amazed me, as a rather ancient activist, was the almost-constant honking of horns. Drivers travelling up and down Blanshard Street honked, waved out their windows, gave thumbs up. The majority of people, especially on southern Vancouver Island, support protection of the little bit of old-growth forest we have left (between 2 and 3 percent). John Horgan came to power promising to end the logging of old-growth, and to adopt the 14 recommendations of the *Old Growth Strategic Review*, including the recommendation that *immediate action be taken to defer logging in areas with significant old growth trees*. Mr. Horgan – in standing up for the short-term interests of his IWA friends – risks alienating a huge swath of his non-union supporters, including many NDPers, and young people, who turned out in droves at the rally last Saturday held at the Legislature.

How long will the logging of Fairy Creek watershed take, I wonder? And in a year or two, when this irreplaceable watershed is destroyed, what then? The loggers will still have to look for other jobs, and the NDP government will still have failed to plan for a sustainable second-growth forest industry. BC citizens will be left with a valley of huge stumps, the memory of people being arrested, and a legacy of bitterness against this government and its broken promises.

Rob, I have the sense that you are an environmentalist. I know that you are aware of the enormous value, for so many reasons, of BC's old-growth forest. I hope that you will do all within your power, working from within the

party, to help Premier Horgan and Forest Minister Katrine Conroy see that the only course of action that makes sense is to defer the logging of Fairy Creek.

Yours,

s.22

RE: Fairy Creek - MLA protests

From: Lo, Reamick ENV:EX <Reamick.Lo@gov.bc.ca>
To: Corns, Paul GCPE:EX <Paul.1.Corns@gov.bc.ca>, Sather, Kelly ENV:EX <Kelly.Sather@gov.bc.ca>, Pollard, Desmond ENV:EX <Desmond.Pollard@gov.bc.ca>
Cc: Jardine, Kevin ENV:EX <Kevin.Jardine@gov.bc.ca>, Mack, James ENV:EX <James.Mack@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: May 31, 2021 9:53:33 AM PDT
FYI – his constituency office is closed to the public due to COVID.

From: Corns, Paul GCPE:EX <Paul.1.Corns@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: May 31, 2021 9:46 AM
To: Sather, Kelly ENV:EX <Kelly.Sather@gov.bc.ca>; Pollard, Desmond ENV:EX <Desmond.Pollard@gov.bc.ca>; Lo, Reamick ENV:EX <Reamick.Lo@gov.bc.ca>
Cc: Jardine, Kevin ENV:EX <Kevin.Jardine@gov.bc.ca>; Mack, James ENV:EX <James.Mack@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: FW: Fairy Creek - MLA protests

For your awareness. FLNRORD does not have an IN. I have included the latest bullets below. Also including Justine's piece from this morning.

P

CFOX (Victoria)

2021-05-31 08:02

Lisa Best: The protest in the Fairy Creek watershed over old-growth logging continues to ramp up. A demonstration is planned today from three to five in Vancouver in front of MLA George Heyman's office.

CFOX 1070's Alex Rodgeron says RCMP have a new tactic.

Alex Rodgeron: This comes after RCMP arrested four more people on Friday, three of whom needed to be removed from hanging tree structures. BC RCMP Sgt Kris Clark says Mounties will no longer be discussing enforcement operations with media, as a number of protesters have used the information to inform their movements.

Kris Clark: What's been happening is we actually invited media in advance of where we might be, and the protesters were somehow gathering that information and changing up their tactics to divert our resources.

Rodgeron: Since enforcement began, the RCMP has now arrested 137 individuals, at least none of who were already previously arrested.

Here's the latest FLNRORD bullets.

- Under the Wildlife Act, active nests are protected from direct harm and from harassment (cannot take, injure, molest or destroy a bird or its egg, or a nest occupied by a bird or its egg).
- Best management practices are to delay any harvest in the vicinity (~500m) of the sighting locations until after breeding season (beginning approximately March 15, may extend to August 15)


- And as a precaution, delay other activities that may cause disturbance to nesting birds (e.g. processing, loading, hauling, helicopter use) in the vicinity (~500m) of the sighting locations until after breeding season (beginning approximately March 15, may extend to August 15). Teal is applying these best management practices
- Specific disturbance thresholds are unknown for this species and likely depend on multiple factors within the specific habitat.
- The BC Recovery Plan (2013) estimates that there are 750-1500 breeding pairs (1500-3000 individuals) of Western Screech-owl (*kennicottii* subspecies) in BC, but has not refined this down to the regional level.
- The sightings were reported with recordings. They are credible reports and so we do expect that there are nesting pairs in the area. A nest site has not been found.
- Ministry staff will be going to the area in the next few days to try and locate the nest site. Teal Jones has also hired a wildlife professional to help identify the nest site.

B.C. launches search for endangered owls in Fairy Creek

Globe and Mail

Monday, May 31, 2021

Page A06

By Justine Hunter 

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Page 123 of 140

Withheld pursuant to/removed as

Copyright

RE: Fairy Creek Logging

From: Minister, ENV ENV:EX <ENV.Minister@gov.bc.ca>
To: s.22
Cc: Minister, FLNR FLNR:EX <FLNR.Minister@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: June 4, 2021 2:22:10 PM PDT

Reference: 377844

June 4, 2021

s.22

Email:s.22

Dear s.22

Thank you for your email of May 20, 2021, regarding old growth logging.

I appreciate that you took the time to share your concern regarding the preservation and management of old growth forests in British Columbia. This is a critically important issue that resonates strongly on many levels throughout our entire province, including with me and my colleagues in government. We welcome and appreciate your questions, concerns and feedback on this matter.

The Minister of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development, the Honourable Katrine Conroy, is responsible for overseeing forestry and logging policy in B.C. I have shared your questions with her for her review and consideration. There are obvious environmental concerns with respect to ecosystem health, biodiversity and climate that relate to old growth forest management. I am working with Minister Conroy to coordinate and align policy that involves mandates for both our ministries.

I know that British Columbians have diverse views on how old growth should be treated and that building a consensus on old growth forests has been a challenge for more than 30 years. Today, as we move forward, we need a science-based approach that presents solutions that understand and reflect the importance of old growth to biodiversity, and includes the views of First Nations, forest communities, forest workers, and industry, as well as the views of all people concerned about ecosystem health. By working together, we can and will find a path forward for modern and better old growth forest policies.

With regards to Spotted Owl habitat conservation, B.C. manages over 334,000 hectares of habitat for Spotted Owl. Of this, over 280,000 hectares are legally protected and over 49,000 hectares of habitat are managed (allowing tree harvest with retention) in designated Wildlife Habitat Areas. As of March 11, 2021, B.C. announced additional interim protection of a one-year deferral as part of a newly announced [Canada-B.C. Nature Agreement](#) that prevents harvesting in the Spuzzum and Utzlius creek drainages (over 32,671 hectares of Crown land). During this time the Province plans to work with the federal government as well as Spuzzum First Nation and other Indigenous Nations on finalizing a Release Strategy as well as an updated federal Recovery Strategy for Spotted Owls in B.C.

Our government takes these challenges and the importance of conservation in old forests very seriously and I am committed to working with Minister Conroy and all my Cabinet colleagues as we keep our commitment to implement all recommendations of the expert panel. As the panel said, and one of its members—Garry Merkel—repeated in recent interviews, changing our paradigm of forestry to put ecosystem health as the foundation is a challenge and will take some time. We are attempting to respond to that challenge with respect and support for Indigenous Nations while ensuring that we address areas most at risk as soon as possible. Minister Conroy has committed to more deferral this summer to move our work forward.

Thank you again for taking the time to write.

Sincerely,

George Heyman

Minister

cc: Honourable Katrine Conroy, Minister of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development

-----Original Message-----

From:s.22

Sent: May 20, 2021 12:10 PM

To: Minister, ENV ENV:EX <ENV.Minister@gov.bc.ca>

Subject: Fairy Creek Logging

[EXTERNAL] This email came from an external source. Only open attachments or links that you are expecting from a known sender.

Hello,

I have called the premiers office for weeks and have not heard back, so I would appreciate a response to this email and answers to my questions.

I am emailing regarding the decision to allow logging of the endangered old growth forests in BC, particularly in the fairly creek watershed. I would like to add my voice to the many of Canadians demanding a moratorium on old growth logging in BC.

As a young person, healing the climate is necessary for my future. Old growth ecosystems are extremely important for storing and cycling carbon, being the ecosystem that stores the most carbon in the world. We are in a climate crisis, and destroying these ecosystems is worsening the crisis and taking away my future. How can you justify logging these forests in a climate crisis?

90% of British Columbians wish to see an end to old growth logging. How can your government, who represents the people of BC, justify going against the wishes of 90% of its people?

Old growth forests are home to endangered spotted owls, among other endangered species. How can you justify taking the last of their habitat when they are a protected species?

It is not enough to say that I am disgusted by your party's decision to continue logging old growth, after part of your platform was a commitment to protecting old growth. More than that I am terrified of a government that does not listen to its people, and that values short term financial gain over my future. Logging these forests will directly impact my future, as it furthers the climate crisis that we are in. I am terrified of having my future slowly being taken away, and I would like to ask you what gives you that right?

I will be awaiting your response.

s.22

EDRMS CM: FW: MATERIALS - Natural Resource Public Safety Committee

From: Jardine, Kevin ENV:EX <Kevin.Jardine@gov.bc.ca>
To: O'Brien, Kellie ENV:EX <Kellie.O'Brien@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: June 8, 2021 2:26:31 PM PDT
Attachments: 619527 - IBN - Direct Action Update - June 8th 2021 NRPS Meeting.pdf

For my 4:00, pls, Kellie (unless you've already put it up there 😊)

From: Duncan, Nikki PSSG:EX <Nikki.Duncan@gov.bc.ca>

Sent: June 8, 2021 11:31 AM

To: Manwaring, Richard G FLNR:EX <Rick.G.Manwaring@gov.bc.ca>; Mihlar, Fazil EMLI:EX <Fazil.Mihlar@gov.bc.ca>; Caul, Doug D IRR:EX <Doug.Caul@gov.bc.ca>; Jardine, Kevin ENV:EX <Kevin.Jardine@gov.bc.ca>; Kristianson, Eric PREM:EX <Eric.Kristianson@gov.bc.ca>; Rideout, Wayne PSSG:EX <Wayne.Rideout@gov.bc.ca>; Melles, Jennifer IRR:EX <Jennifer.Melles@gov.bc.ca>; Carr, Michelle EMLI:EX <Michelle.Carr@gov.bc.ca>; McAndrews, Caroline GCPE:EX <Caroline.McAndrews@gov.bc.ca>

Cc: Olsson, Liz V FLNR:EX <Liz.Olsson@gov.bc.ca>; Hunt, Melanie EMLI:EX <Melanie.Hunt@gov.bc.ca>; Howie, Matthew IRR:EX <Matthew.Howie@gov.bc.ca>; O'Brien, Kellie ENV:EX <Kellie.O'Brien@gov.bc.ca>; Mulloy, Eleanor PREM:EX <Eleanor.Mulloy@gov.bc.ca>; Grove, Juliet PSSG:EX <Juliet.Grove@gov.bc.ca>

Subject: MATERIALS - Natural Resource Public Safety Committee

Good morning,

Please see attached IBN for the Natural Resource Public Safety Committee meeting at 4pm today (June 8th).

Thank you

Nikki Duncan | Manager, Executive Operations
Office of the Deputy Solicitor General

Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General
PO Box 9290 Stn Prov Govt, Victoria, BC V8W 9J7

Phone: 778-974-3801

**MINISTRY OF PUBLIC SAFETY AND SOLICITOR GENERAL
POLICING AND SECURITY BRANCH
INFORMATION BRIEFING NOTE**

PURPOSE: For **INFORMATION** for Mark Sieben,
Deputy Solicitor General, Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General

ISSUE:
Direct Action Across the Province – Update for the Natural Resources Meeting on
June 8, 2021

SUMMARY:

- Protest activities with respect to Teal Jones Cedar Products (TJCP) continue. As of June 7, 2021, approximately 200 protestors are present in the Injunction Zone.

s.15

- On May 31, 2021, approximately 20 protestors attended a Trans Mountain Pipeline (TMP) worksite in Coquitlam and refused to leave the entry to this work area. The matter resolved peacefully after a number of hours.

- s.15

BACKGROUND:

- The following is an update on various direct-action activities that the Critical Incident Secretariat is monitoring in conjunction with the RCMP and PSB.

s.15

- As of June 7th, 2021, approximately 200 protestors are present in the Injunction Zone. Police have made numerous additional arrests between May 25th and June 5th, 2021, primarily near the Hatton and Waterfall Camps, tallying a total of 172 arrests as of June 5th. Some individuals arrested are members of the Braided Warriors and the Indigenous Youth Movement. Despite these arrests, Chief Jones of Pacheedaht First Nation (PFN) has reaffirmed his support of Police action to date.

s.15

- Satellite protests sympathetic to the Fairy Creek Blockade, and some pro-logging counter protests, continue to emerge (e.g. protest at Premier's Constituency Office on May 28, 2021, protest in Castlegar on May 31, 2021, and planned protest in Nelson on June 5, 2021). s.15

s.15

- On June 4th, 2021 Ditidaht, Huu-ay-aht, and Pacheedaht First Nations signed the Hisuk Ma C'awak Declaration which formally gave notice to the Province of a request to defer old-growth logging for two years in the Fairy Creek and Central Walbran areas. The Nations asked that while work is underway everyone allow forestry operations in other parts of their Territories to continue without disruption.
- On June 7, 2021, the Premier released a statement acknowledging receipt of the Declaration. The Premier indicated that the Province is prepared to enter into discussions with the First Nations regarding the Declaration on an expedited basis.

- s.15

- An alternative media outlet has recently challenged RCMP efforts to ensure that media can effectively bear witness to active enforcement, arguing that the police are too limiting on media access. The case is ongoing, and no hearing date has yet been set. s.15

s.15

- The Premier has recently announced policy development initiatives for modernizing the forest sector. Old growth deferrals will continue with new deferrals possible. Deferrals with respect to Fairy Creek would require extensive consultations with First Nations who already have agreements in place with respect to the activity in their territories.

LNG/Coastal Gas Link (CGL)

- Expansion of the CGL workforce is set to start in June 2021 to begin pipeline installation along the designated route, which also falls under the Injunction Zone.

- s.15

Trans Mountain Pipeline (TMP)

- BC Parks continues to monitor protestor interest in holding anti-TMP rallies at the North Thompson and Mount Robson Provincial Parks.
- On May 31, 2021, approximately 20 protestors attended the TMP worksite in Coquitlam. TMP Security and RCMP advise the incident resolved over several hours with protesters departing peacefully.
- The HDD is now being installed at Colony Farm, where it will be used to pull pipe under the South Fraser River. Drill work is also underway at Burnaby Mountain to allow access to the Westridge Terminal.
- PSB has received inquiries from the Regional District about the protest activities of the Tiny House Warriors in the Blue River Region and has had subsequent conversations with regards to concerns at the local level. These conversations are ongoing across government to provide a suitable response.

Other Issues re: Road Access Restrictions

- s.15
- Kispiox Access Restrictions – FLNRORD continues to work with the Kispiox Hereditary Chiefs to determine next steps with regard to the access restriction.

DISCUSSION:

- Ongoing communication between PSB, the Critical Incident Secretariat, the RCMP and other law enforcement agencies, and other communication channels is necessary to monitor protest activities, support enforcement efforts, and protect the public's right to legitimate and peaceful protests.

INDIGENOUS PEOPLES CONSIDERATIONS:

- There are many Indigenous governments, Hereditary Chiefs, and other partners with a diverse range of involvement and responses in each of these activities. RCMP are directly engaged with Indigenous governments and organizations as monitoring and enforcement activities continue.

OTHER MINISTRIES IMPACTED/CONSULTED:

- FLNRORD, MOTI, EMLI, ENV, MIRR and GCPE – Impacted

PREPARED BY:

Evelyn Kalman
Senior Policy Analyst
Policing and Security Branch
(236) 478-1622

APPROVED JUNE 03, 2021 BY:

Brian Sims
Executive Director
Policing and Security Branch
(250) 387-3920

APPROVED JUNE 04, 2021 BY:

Glen Lewis
Associate Director
Policing and Security Branch
(236) 478-2230

APPROVED June 7, 2021 BY:

Wayne Rideout
ADM & Director of Police Services
Policing and Security Branch
(250) 387-1100

RE: Stop Old Growth Logging NOW!!!

From: Minister, ENV ENV:EX <ENV.Minister@gov.bc.ca>
To: s.22
Cc: Minister, FLNR FLNR:EX <FLNR.Minister@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: June 17, 2021 3:19:34 PM PDT
Attachments: image002.png

Reference: 378751

June 17, 2021

s.22

Email:s.22

Dear s.22

Thank you for your email of May 27, 2021, regarding old growth logging in the Fairy Creek watershed. I appreciate that you took the time to share your concern regarding the management and preservation of old growth forests in British Columbia. This is a critically important issue that resonates strongly on many levels throughout our entire province. We welcome and appreciate your questions, concerns and feedback on this matter.

The Minister of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development, the Honourable Katrine Conroy, is responsible for overseeing forestry and logging policy in B.C. I have shared your questions with her for her review and consideration. As you are aware, there are obvious environmental concerns with respect to ecosystem health, biodiversity and climate that relate to old growth forest management. I am working with Minister Conroy to coordinate and align policy that involves mandates for both our ministries.

I know that British Columbians have diverse views on how old growth should be treated and that building a consensus on old growth forests has been a challenge for more than 30 years. Today, as we move forward, we need a science-based approach that presents solutions that respect and understand the benefits of old growth to biodiversity, and includes the views of First Nations, forest communities, forest workers, and industry, as well as the views of all people concerned about ecosystem health. By working together, we can and will find a path forward for modern and better old growth forest policies.

There has been a divisive and patchwork approach to how old growth forests have been managed in our province for a long time. Our government wants to break from that practice and establish a new way of doing this critical work. As a first step in our [new approach in the protection of old growth forests](#), we have deferred the harvesting of old growth trees in nine areas throughout B.C. that represent areas with high biodiversity, totaling almost 353,000 hectares, including over 200,000 hectares of old growth trees. As recommended by the panel, our government continues to engage directly with Indigenous Peoples whose territory is impacted as we move forward with the plan and consider additional areas for deferral while a full old forest plan is completed.

On June 7, 2021, the Huu-ay-aht, Pacheedaht and Ditidaht First Nations released their land use vision and the Hišuk ma c̓awak Declaration for the future use of the Fairy Creek watershed and central Walbran area. To honour the declaration and demonstrate the Province's commitment to reconciliation with our Indigenous Peoples, the Government of British Columbia recently [announced](#) that old growth logging will be deferred for two years in these areas—protecting an additional 2,034 hectares—while the Nations prepare their resource stewardship plans.

Our government continues to take this challenge and the importance of conservation in old forests very seriously and I am committed to working with Minister Conroy and all my cabinet colleagues as we implement the recommendations of the expert panel.

Thank you again for taking the time to write.

Sincerely,

George Heyman

Minister

cc: Honourable Katrine Conroy, Minister of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development

From: s.22

Sent: May 27, 2021 10:18 PM

To: Minister, ENV ENV:EX <ENV.Minister@gov.bc.ca>

Subject: Stop Old Growth Logging NOW!!!

Dear Honourable George Heyman,

I write on behalf of myself, my children, my community, and the environment, to demand that the provincial government require Teal Jones to withdraw immediately and permanently from the old growth forest area in Southern Vancouver Island known as Fairy Creek.

The NDP [campaigned on a promise](#) to implement all recommendations of the Old Growth Strategic Review Panel. Allowing Teal Jones to log within the old growth area at Fairy Creek and supporting the current injunction **breaks that promise and does irreparable harm to our environment and our climate.**

I have so much to say on this topic, but what I would really like to know is **what you have to say**. As Minister of Environment and Climate Change Strategy, you have a duty to do what is best for our environment and our climate.

- Please tell me why you are not stopping this precious old growth area from being logged?
- Please tell me why the NDP is putting the interests of a private company above the interests of the environment, the climate, and the local and broader community?
- Please tell me how logging in old growth areas that can NEVER be replaced, and that provide immense benefits to our ever-warming climate, could ever be part of sustainable or ethical forestry practices?
- Please explain how you view the environmental impacts of failing to keep our few remaining old growth areas intact?
- Please explain why the NDP has not kept its campaign promise on old forests?

I would like you to answer these questions. I have a 7 year old daughter, **s.22**, who is just as distraught as I am at the thought of losing any of the remaining [2.7% of old growth forests in our province](#), and I don't know how to explain it to her. So please, explain it to me, and be straightforward, so I can help her understand.

Attached is a photo of her at a protest, begging her government, the government that promised to protect our most precious and ancient trees and their habitats, that you leave ALL old growth forests entirely intact for her generation to enjoy their beauty and environmental benefits.

This logging is the biggest and most permanent mistake we can possibly make. Stand up for what is right and bring a stop to it, immediately.

With grave concern,

s.22

EDRMS CM: Fwd: Materials for June 18 DMWGF

From: Jardine, Kevin ENV:EX <Kevin.Jardine@gov.bc.ca>
To: Mack, James ENV:EX <James.Mack@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: June 18, 2021 12:41:21 PM PDT
Attachments: image001.jpg, 7_620662 - DSG IBN - Forestry Enforcement Update for the Deputy Minister Working Group on Forestry - Final.pdf

FYI...

Best,
K.
250-361-6753 (txt & talk)

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Harris, Megan FLNR:EX" <Megan.Harris@gov.bc.ca>
Date: June 18, 2021 at 12:40:23 PM PDT
To: "Olsson, Liz V FLNR:EX" <Liz.Olsson@gov.bc.ca>, "Wanamaker, Lori PREM:EX" <Lori.Wanamaker@gov.bc.ca>, "Caul, Doug D IRR:EX" <Doug.Caul@gov.bc.ca>, "Jardine, Kevin ENV:EX" <Kevin.Jardine@gov.bc.ca>, "Halls, Lori D FLNR:EX" <Lori.D.Halls@gov.bc.ca>, "Sieben, Mark PSSG:EX" <Mark.Sieben@gov.bc.ca>, "Muter, David FLNR:EX" <David.Muter@gov.bc.ca>, "Sutherland, Craig FLNR:EX" <Craig.Sutherland@gov.bc.ca>, "Zacharuk, Christina PREM:EX" <Christina.Zacharuk@gov.bc.ca>, "Kristianson, Eric PREM:EX" <Eric.Kristianson@gov.bc.ca>, "Yuma Morisho, Okenge MUNI:EX" <Okenge.YumaMorisho@gov.bc.ca>, "Meggs, Geoff PREM:EX" <Geoff.Meggs@gov.bc.ca>, "Bain, Don PREM:EX" <Don.Bain@gov.bc.ca>, "Zadravec, Don GCPE:EX" <Don.Zadravec@gov.bc.ca>, "Manwaring, Richard G FLNR:EX" <Rick.G.Manwaring@gov.bc.ca>, "Balcaen, Trish L IRR:EX" <Trish.Balcaen@gov.bc.ca>, "Rideout, Wayne PSSG:EX" <Wayne.Rideout@gov.bc.ca>
Cc: "Marquis, Yvette PREM:EX" <Yvette.Marquis@gov.bc.ca>, "Howie, Matthew IRR:EX" <Matthew.Howie@gov.bc.ca>, "Mulloy, Eleanor PREM:EX" <Eleanor.Mulloy@gov.bc.ca>, "Shortt, Amanda PREM:EX" <Amanda.Shortt@gov.bc.ca>, "O'Brien, Kellie ENV:EX" <Kellie.O'Brien@gov.bc.ca>, "Blackstock, Sara FLNR:EX" <Sara.Blackstock@gov.bc.ca>, "Duncan, Nikki PSSG:EX" <Nikki.Duncan@gov.bc.ca>, "Larkin, Brenda FLNR:EX" <Brenda.Larkin@gov.bc.ca>, "Brubacher, Kelly MUNI:EX" <Kelly.Brubacher@gov.bc.ca>, "Wood, Andrea D FLNR:EX" <Andrea.Wood@gov.bc.ca>, "de Bree, Jennifer FLNR:EX" <Jennifer.deBree@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: RE: Materials for June 18 DMWGF

Good afternoon,

Please find attached one last additional document for today's meeting. ADM Rideout will speak to the enforcement IBN on DM Sieben's behalf.

Cheers,
Megan

From: Olsson, Liz V FLNR:EX <Liz.Olsson@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: Thursday, June 17, 2021 1:51 PM
To: Wanamaker, Lori PREM:EX <Lori.Wanamaker@gov.bc.ca>; Caul, Doug D IRR:EX <Doug.Caul@gov.bc.ca>; Jardine, Kevin ENV:EX <Kevin.Jardine@gov.bc.ca>; Halls, Lori D FLNR:EX

<Lori.D.Halls@gov.bc.ca>; Sieben, Mark PSSG:EX <Mark.Sieben@gov.bc.ca>; Muter, David FLNR:EX <David.Muter@gov.bc.ca>; Sutherland, Craig FLNR:EX <Craig.Sutherland@gov.bc.ca>; Zacharuk, Christina PREM:EX <Christina.Zacharuk@gov.bc.ca>; Kristianson, Eric PREM:EX <Eric.Kristianson@gov.bc.ca>; Yuma Morisho, Okenge MUNI:EX <Okenge.YumaMorisho@gov.bc.ca>; Meggs, Geoff PREM:EX <Geoff.Meggs@gov.bc.ca>; Bain, Don PREM:EX <Don.Bain@gov.bc.ca>; Zdravec, Don GCPE:EX <Don.Zdravec@gov.bc.ca>; Harris, Megan FLNR:EX <Megan.Harris@gov.bc.ca>; Manwaring, Richard G FLNR:EX <Rick.G.Manwaring@gov.bc.ca>; Balcaen, Trish L IRR:EX <Trish.Balcaen@gov.bc.ca>

Cc: Marquis, Yvette PREM:EX <Yvette.Marquis@gov.bc.ca>; Howie, Matthew IRR:EX <Matthew.Howie@gov.bc.ca>; Mulloy, Eleanor PREM:EX <Eleanor.Mulloy@gov.bc.ca>; Shortt, Amanda PREM:EX <Amanda.Shortt@gov.bc.ca>; O'Brien, Kellie ENV:EX <Kellie.O'Brien@gov.bc.ca>; Blackstock, Sara FLNR:EX <Sara.Blackstock@gov.bc.ca>; Duncan, Nikki PSSG:EX <Nikki.Duncan@gov.bc.ca>; Larkin, Brenda FLNR:EX <Brenda.Larkin@gov.bc.ca>; Brubacher, Kelly MUNI:EX <Kelly.Brubacher@gov.bc.ca>; Wood, Andrea D FLNR:EX <Andrea.Wood@gov.bc.ca>; de Bree, Jennifer FLNR:EX <Jennifer.deBree@gov.bc.ca>

Subject: Materials for June 18 DMWGF

Good afternoon,

Please find attached the agenda and materials for the June 18th 2pm DM Working Group on Forestry.

Thank you,

Liz Olsson (she/her) | Senior Executive Assistant
Deputy Minister Rick Manwaring
Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural
Development
441 Columbia Street, Kamloops, V2C 2T3 | Phone: 250-312-7278
*I acknowledge with gratitude that I carry out my work on the
traditional territory of the Tk'emlups te Secwepemc peoples*

Please note: This email message, including attachments, is intended for the addressee(s) only and may contain legally privileged information. Any unauthorized use, distribution, disclosure or reproduction is strictly prohibited. If you have received this email in error, please notify sender by return email and delete all copies.



**MINISTRY OF PUBLIC SAFETY AND SOLICITOR GENERAL
POLICING AND SECURITY BRANCH
INFORMATION BRIEFING NOTE**

PURPOSE: For **INFORMATION** for Wayne Rideout,
Acting Deputy Solicitor General, Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor
General.

ISSUE: Forestry Enforcement Update for the Deputy Minister Working Group on
Forestry

SUMMARY:

- Protest activities with respect to Teal-Jones Cedar Products (TJCP) continue to ensue. As of June 16, 2021, Police have made 238 arrests. Approximately 20% of these arrests include criminal charges and have been passed to the BC Prosecution Service for processing.
- s.15
- The RCMP report that protest activity is yet to cease following the announcement to defer logging of old growth timber on Indigenous territories throughout Fairy Creek and the Central Walbran Valley. It is anticipated that some level of protest activity will continue in the area for the foreseeable future.

BACKGROUND:

- TJCP has harvesting rights for wood at the Fairy Creek Watershed on southwestern Vancouver Island, which is an area that encompasses old growth timber and has been the site of increased protest activity since August 2020. Protestor numbers in the area have fluctuated between 80 and 200 individuals over the past year, with a total of eight blockade sites established to date, including three occupied sites.

Protest Activity

- s.15
-
- There have also been satellite protests sympathetic to the Fairy Creek Blockade that have emerged, including a protest at the Legislative Assembly in Victoria on June 11, 2021, which resulted in mischief.

Enforcement Action

- On April 1, 2021, the Supreme Court of BC (SCBC) made an order granting an Injunction that enables TJCP to continue forestry work in the Fairy Creek Watershed and allows for Police enforcement regarding obstruction or other related offences.
- Police enforcement of the Injunction began on May 17, 2021, **s.15**
s.15
- **s.15**

- Police report that despite the ongoing protest actions, work by TJCP continues generally unimpeded.

- **s.15**

-

Old Growth Deferrals

- The Fairy Creek Watershed includes the traditional territories of the Pacheedaht, Huu-ay-aht, and Ditidaht First Nations, who have approved selective TJCP logging activities on these territories and issued related media releases.
- On June 4, 2021, these Nations signed the Hisuk Ma C'awak Declaration, which formally requested that the Province defer old-growth logging for two years in Fairy Creek and the Central Walbran Valley. The Nations have asked the public to allow forestry operations in other parts of their territories to continue without disruption. On June 9, 2021, the Premier publicly announced that the BC Government has accepted this request and will be deferring the harvesting of old growth trees in Fairy

Creek and the Central Walbran Valley for two years, which includes protecting about 2,000 hectares of forest from logging.

- The RCMP have connected with industry about alterations to ongoing forestry operations that may require changes to their enforcement strategy. TJCP has voluntarily committed to refrain from logging the old growth stands in Fairy Creek and the Central Walbran Valley. Currently, TJCP is working in the Eden, Edinburgh, Hatton, Braden, and Granite Creek areas, with private security teams holding road access and providing notification to those found in breach of the SCBC Injunction.
- The protestors have noted that the deferrals will not prevent substantial old growth logging to occur in other areas. The Rainforest Flying Squad has indicated they will continue protest activity until the entire Fairy Creek Rainforest is protected.
- Police remain in place to ensure that the lawful rights to work and peaceful protest continue in accordance with the SCBC Injunction, **s.15**

Media Relations and Legal Observers

- Police have established provisions to accommodate media and legal observers (witnesses) at the protest sites in a controlled manner while enforcement is underway. However, an alternative media outlet has recently challenged efforts to ensure that media can effectively bear witness to active enforcement, arguing that the Police are too limiting on media access. The case is before the courts.
- **s.15**

INDIGENOUS PEOPLES CONSIDERATIONS:

- There are many Indigenous governments, Hereditary Chiefs, and other Indigenous partners with a diverse range of involvement and responses regarding this issue. Police continue to be directly engaged with these Indigenous governments and organizations.

OTHER MINISTRIES IMPACTED/CONSULTED:

- FLNRORD, MOTI, EMLI, ENV, MIRR, GCPE, MCFD – Impacted

PREPARED BY:

Evelyn Kalman, Senior Policy Analyst
Policing and Security Branch
(236) 478-1622

APPROVED [DATE] BY:

Brian Sims, Executive Director
Policing and Security Branch
(250) 387-3920

APPROVED [DATE] BY:

Wayne Rideout
Acting Deputy Solicitor General