

Tom Yates

Subject: FW: Old Growth logging ban in the SRD

From: Geraldine Kenny <geraldinek@uniserve.com>
Sent: May 11, 2021 5:23 PM
To: Tom Yates <TYates@srd.ca>
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Subject: Old Growth logging ban in the SRD

To the Board of the Strathcona Regional District

The Sierra Club of British Columbia, Quadra Group, is petitioning the Strathcona Regional District to implement immediate logging deferrals and long term bans for all remaining old growth forests in the SRD and throughout British Columbia.

Ancient high productivity old-growth ecosystems are globally one of the most valuable climate mitigation and resiliency assets in terms of carbon storage, protection against wildfire, water storage, and as incomparable banks of biodiversity. We are now aware that only 2.7% of the original high productivity old-growth forests in BC still exist.

Be it resolved that the SRD call on the provincial government to immediately defer logging in all high productivity, rare, old and mostly intact old-growth forests as recommended by the Old-Growth Strategic Review, pending the implementation of all 14 of the panel's recommendations.

We ask that the SRD call on the Government of British Columbia to allocate sufficient funding to enact deferrals in an economically just manner, and in the full spirit of reconciliation to support the economic transition of affected First Nations communities—and all non-First Nations communities, too— from unsustainable old-growth logging to the development of long-term sustainable local economies.

The United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change has determined that we now have less than ten years to do everything possible to reduce global emissions and avoid climate catastrophe. The protection of primary forests has been identified as one of the best global solutions to address climate change. The BC government and all elected officials must act quickly to protect these globally significant carbon sinks. It is the government's responsibility to the people of British Columbia to reduce carbon emissions from deforestation and associated land-use changes through an immediate ban on old-growth logging.

Public support for protecting old-growth is evident: Comox Youth Climate Council reports that 55,000+ people have signed a petition to end logging in at-risk old-growth forests across B.C. Thousands more have sent emails, made phone calls, and reached out on social media. More broadly, the Sierra Club's recent polling indicates that over 90% of people living in British Columbia support action to protect endangered old-growth forests.

We demand that our elected officials act as climate leaders and immediately stop the destruction of the globally essential carbon sinks that are BC's remaining old-growth forests. It is encouraging that the Resolution to do so has been supported to date by the communities of Cumberland, CVRD, Lantzville, Nanaimo, Port Renfrew, Metchosin, Colwood and Powell River, with more signing on daily.

Regards,
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