

Swansea Point Community Association

January 18, 2017

via email

To: The Hon. George Heyman, Minister of the Environment;

To: The Honorable Doug Donaldson, Minister of the Forestry, Lands, Natural Resource Operations;

To: Mark Haddock, Director

RE: Regarding the Review of the Professional Reliance Model (PRM)

My name is Danielle D'Amour, I am currently acting as President of the Swansea Point Community Association, and have the privilege of writing on their behalf. We appreciate the opportunity to bring our concerns forward regarding the Review of Professional Reliance Model. We as a community have experienced firsthand the consequences of a poorly regulated Forest Stewardship Plan. The lack of government regulation combined with hired professionals working directly for private enterprise has left a lasting and devastating scar on our community.

In 1997 our community experienced the largest debris flow recorded in BC history; just two years after steep slope cutting began in our vicinity. The destruction that followed claimed homes, eroded our roads and forced the evacuation of our residents by boat; the vast majority being senior citizens. Our main road was washed away making any access to our community impossible. We were completely cut off from any form of aid from our Fire Department or Emergency Services. This experience has left a lasting and profound negative emotional and financial impact on our community. The financial burden our residents suffered was not met by any government assistance, nor were the logging companies held responsible or accountable for the destruction caused as a result of their actions.

Again in 2012 we experienced yet again another slide causing hundreds of thousands of dollars in damages to personal properties, homes and roads. Again, no assistance was offered to the residents who suffered great financial loses.

This past spring 2017, we come to find out that Tolko Industries is planning to harvest 11 cut blocks above our community as early as 2019. According to old and outdated Forest Stewardship Plans, Tolko Industries would be operating within their rights to do so. However, since 1997 there have been studies and reports indicating that cutting above us would result in loss of life and property. Yet, here we sit struggling to prevent Tolko from logging above our community. There is no accountability and little to no community engagement from the logging company. There is no platform for our community to voice their concerns to put a stop to it. It seems like an uphill battle.

What assurances can we give our community members that our elected officials are working to ensure their safety and protect them from financial losses. As well as keeping in mind current environmental strategies, goals and solutions?

In the case of accidents, who can we say will be responsible and to be held accountable for the loss of life and property?

It is imperative that the BC Government and/or Federal Government oversee and regulate the forestry industry to mitigate loss of life, property damage and ensure environmental sustainability. There must be regulations and enforcement in place to guide private industry.

Please find enclosed and attached to this email copies of a community signed petition requesting a moratorium on logging in the area above Swansea Point with 208 signatures to date.

Kind regards,

Danielle D'Amour

SPtCA President