



A&A TRADING LTD.



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January 31, 2020

Old Growth Strategic Review Panel
Garry Merkel, RPF
Al Gorley, RPF

By email: oldgrowthbc@gov.bc.ca

Dear Mr. Merkel and Mr. Gorley,

A&A Trading Ltd. is a forest tenure holder and is partnered with several First Nations licensees on the BC Coast. We are based out of Vancouver with offices in Campbell River, Terrace, and Haida Gwaii. Old growth timber harvesting is an important part of our business, and that of our partners, as well as supporting the environmental, cultural, and social values that we manage on a daily basis.

Our suggestions are built upon the objectives to sustainably manage the landbase, maintain certainty of ongoing socio-economic benefits from forest management, and ensure the development of science based, effective and adaptive approaches to determining how to manage old growth. Suggestions are also aligned with developing systems and programs that will promote public confidence.

We recommend that the following principles and understanding guide the development of old growth management strategies:

- **Indigenous** peoples' role in governing their territory
- **Regional variability** of forests and their associated management requirements
- **Socio-economic sustainability** and community health
- **Science based and non-political** approaches so long term sustainable decisions are made in isolation of foreign influences, fads and political cycles
- **Clarity** on who makes decisions and at what stage in the planning process

Some tools we suggest may support the development of a strategy, guided by the principles above:

- Clear and measurable sustainability **targets**
- Accurate understanding and **inventory** of existing protection and degree of protection
- Standardized measurement of **value and impact** of actions
- Independent **monitoring** process of targets and systems for development
- **Adaptation** framework built into systems, policy, and approach
- **Integrated** management of resource values (dovetail with existing forest management strategies and values i.e. parks, protected areas, species at risk management, watershed and riparian management)
- A clear **definition** of old growth including varieties and a classification system

- Public **education** with objective and consistent information on the targets and achievement to those targets

We appreciated the opportunity to have a conversation with you and provide this written submission. Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions or would like to build on these ideas further.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M. Leine', with a small dot at the end.

Makenzie Leine
VP Business Development and Indigenous Partnerships
A&A Trading Ltd.