



**Clayoquot
Action.org**

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To: Old Growth Strategic Review Panel

The challenges facing the planet are interconnected—from the climate crisis and the extinction wave, to global market failure. Although these challenges are global by nature, the best place to bring about change is locally. Protecting BC's remaining old growth forests provides a natural climate solution and presents BC with an effective mechanism for dealing with climate change.

More and more research demonstrates the extraordinary value of Earth's remaining intact forests for addressing climate change and protecting wildlife, indigenous cultures, critical watersheds, and human health. The old growth temperate rainforests of BC are some of the world's most carbon-rich forests. Because they are more effective at storing carbon than many other forest types, continuing to log them not only impacts us and wildlife, but our planet's climate.

The world is watching. What we choose to do with our rainforests greatly affects people around the world. Let's be a leader and create a legacy that our children will be proud of.

People from all over the world come to see and experience BC's old growth rainforests because intact ecosystems like these (and the wildlife who live in and depend on them) are now rare on our planet. If we choose to log the last remaining old growth forests it would be a heartbreaking and embarrassing legacy for those to come.

Today it is clearer than ever that protecting the remaining old growth forests can simultaneously balance conservation, cultural and economic values - they are all connected.

For today's families and future generations to benefit from their wide range of values an updated approach to old-growth management in this province should include:

1. Dialogue with First Nations on how Old-Growth Protection can be integrated into Indigenous-Led Land Use Planning, new governance models, and sustainable economic diversification.
2. Legislated protection of our remaining old growth forests.
This should start with an immediate moratorium on harvesting in the most intact and endangered forests while the BC government develop its Old Growth Strategy. A science and ecosystem-based plan for the protection of all remaining primary forests should follow this moratorium.
3. A transition away from the industrial harvest of our remaining old growth forest and towards community-based forestry focused exclusively on second-growth.

This has already been done in New Zealand - it is possible!
Thank you for your time and consideration,



Dan Lewis

Clayoquot Action
Tofino, BC

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