

January 15, 2020

Dear Sir / Madam,

I am writing on behalf of myself to ensure any decisions around the harvesting or protection of Old Growth is based on Science and not emotions formed by the misinformed public and politicians.

I have worked in BC forests since 1989 where I started as a logger and then achieved a 2 year diploma of Renewable Resources Forestry Option through BCIT. I've been a Registered Forest Technologist and a member of the Association of BC Forest Professionals for 15 years.

I have grave concern that our working forests continue to be taken away from us and set aside through misguided conservation strategies, and out right protection due to environmental organizations, that are not based on science.

Two royal commissions provided the early impetus to the growth of the profession of forestry. The Fulton Royal Commission of 1912 promoted a strong Forest Act and staff for Regional Forestry Offices, and the Whitford and Craig Royal Commission of 1918 promoted a College of Forestry at the University of British Columbia.

Growing concern over the future of the province's forests resulted in the province appointing a Royal Commission on forestry on December 31st, 1943. The sole commissioner was the Honourable Gordon McGregor Sloan, Chief Justice of British Columbia. The terms of reference were broad in scope, allowing the Chief Justice to investigate all aspects of forestry. The final comprehensive report of the commissioner profoundly influenced the direction of forestry in B.C. Sloan described the state of the province's forests as being in a "slowly descending spiral." He stated that the province "must change over from the present system of unmanaged and unregulated liquidation of our forested areas to a planned and regulated policy of forest management, leading eventually to a programme ensuring a sustained yield from all of our productive land area." Commissioner Sloan defined sustained yield as "a perpetual yield of wood of commercially usable quality" with "consequent stability of industrial communities and assurance of permanent payrolls." However, he also understood that the perpetuation of forest cover would provide many direct and indirect benefits such as erosion control, recreational and scenic areas and habitat for wildlife and fish.

If we continue to allow environmental groups and misinformed politicians and public to reduce the working forest, through a system of unscientific unmanaged and unregulated liquidation, we will be allowing the forest to continue in a "slowly descending spiral" and there will be no sustained yield of our productive working forest. No perpetual yield of wood of commercially usable quality with consequent stability of industrial communities and assurance of permanent payrolls and taxation, of which, both are extremely important to our provincial economy.

I find it extremely disappointing and frustrating that an elected politician would join with environmentalist organizations and lobby to reduce the working forest, further eroding future economic stability and investment in the forest sector. Below is a clip from Wikipedia on the Honourable Claire Trivena MLA with regards to lobbying the reduction of old growth working forests. I have provided a link to the full article here as well: [Claire Trivena, From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia](#)

With the [39th BC general election](#) coming in May 2009, Trivena was acclaimed as the BC NDP candidate in October 2008.^[31] The BC Liberals selected former chief of the [Kwakiutl First Nation](#) Marion Wright to face Trivena in what was projected to be a competitive race but which Trivena easily won.^{[32][33][34]} In the [39th Parliament of British Columbia](#) Trivena became one of two assistant deputy speakers.^[35] In that role, she travelled to Kenya to attend a conference for the [Commonwealth Parliamentary Association](#), along with the speaker [Bill Barisoff](#).^[36] She joined with fellow NDP MLAs [Scott Fraser](#) and [Lana Popham](#), in conjunction with the [Western Canada Wilderness Committee](#), in lobbying for the stop to [old-growth logging](#) on Vancouver Island and the Lower Mainland

In my 30 years of forestry I have watched our working forests continually reduced for many different reasons and there seems to be no end to it. Government doesn't seem concerned that the working forest is being slowly reduced even though is a key economic driver of our province. The current government wants to discourage the export of logs and increase the amount available to be cut into lumber and other value-added products but, with a limited working forest area and no access to fiber, what company is going to invest 20 – 30 million dollars to build a new mill? If we want capital investment in facilities and jobs, we need to protect the working forest and ensure it is available for sustainable harvest.

Old growth forests are a large part of the working forest and should remain as part of the working forest. The pressure to stop old growth harvesting is not based on science. Any decisions regarding forests, old growth or not, should be based on science and not emotions.

Old growth forests are important socially, culturally, economically and environmentally. But forests are dynamic ecosystems and healthy forests are those that have a wide-array of age classes, and forestry (including harvesting) plays a fundamental role in supporting diversity and healthy ecosystems.

Government should work with qualified professionals to design and implement science-based plans for forest management. They must consider a broad range of indicators of healthy forests, and not use age as the definition of the "quality" of a forest. Social, environment and economic factors need to be assessed and weighed without one receiving higher weighting due to nonfactual unsupported information.

Old growth forests are not at risk on BC's Coast. Significant work in land use planning and an extensive parks network on the Coast means that conservation objectives are already well-represented on the land base on Vancouver Island

More than 50 per cent of coastal old-growth forests and 520,000 hectares on Vancouver Island are already protected. There are also other special management zones and other restrictions that create additional layers of management for non-timber values.

In the Great Bear Rainforest, a very detailed and prescriptive ecosystem based management (EBM) system was designed and is being implemented to manage old growth forests and other values. This approach recognizes that the Great Bear Rainforest is a globally unique area which had a significant amount of intact forests. This EBM approach is not appropriate and was not intended for areas such as Vancouver Island and most other areas of BC which are vastly different and already highly developed.

In areas of Crown forest that remain within the timber harvesting land base, old (>250 years) and near-old (>140 years) are an important contributor to sustainable fiber flows for the forest sector. These volumes are critical through the transition to second growth harvesting, which is not yet at a stage that can support the forest economy in communities across the coast.

The BC Coastal forest sector is crucial to the economy of Vancouver Island, supporting thousands of direct high-wage jobs and many more indirect jobs in communities across the Coast.

BC's Coastal forest sector needs certainty and predictability that Government will guarantee room on the land base for what is one of the most sustainable renewable resource industries in the world.

Government needs to acknowledge in policy and practice that British Columbia is a global leader in sustainable forest management. We have taken significant steps to protect forests and implement sustainable forest management practices that are unparalleled in other jurisdictions.

As noted in the Government's "Clean BC" strategy, the use of wood in construction is an important strategy to fight climate change. It makes sense to support forestry in BC as it is a carbon-friendly, renewable industry. Having a diverse working forest will contribute to maximum carbon sequestering as second growth forests sequester carbon at a greater rate than old growth forests. Some studies claim that old growth forests are a net producer of carbon.

Taking a balanced approach, that protects economic opportunities on an already significantly constrained land base, means recognizing all that has already been done, and the importance of maintaining economic access to what remains of the timber harvesting land base.

Thank you for your time and considering the working forest and all that those that it supports.

Regards,

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