

From: idris clarke <i.m.clarke@dundee.ac.uk>
Sent: December 20, 2019 12:21 PM
To: FLNR Old Growth BC FLNR:EX <Oldgrowthbc@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: Old Growth Strategy

Dear Al Gorely and Garry Merkel,

That Old growth is valuable is not in doubt. The value of Old growth is a non-partisan issue however what is in doubt is the paradigm that the best monetization of this value is the relatively hasty destruction of an immensely valuable nonreplaceable asset that has accrued over eons.

I hope that the reexamination and remodeling of BC's old growth strategy accurately reflects the breadth of knowledge and experience of those experiencing these environments integrally involving the internal examination of the development that led us to this position. After policy change and the related behavioral change I hope we will eventually look back to our current position with a mix of shock and disbelief that when presented with what is essentially an incredible gift our imaginations stretched no further than seeing plunder for the taking .

My experiences of numerous fragments of Old Growth Rainforest has shook me; changing my mindset, forcing me to reexamine how I view myself and how I act in relation to our Earth systems. Similarly experiencing the nativity of how we treat this asset has deeply shook me. I am incredibly thankful for this shaking I have received by being immersed in these ancient forest systems and think I and those I interact with are much better for it- I would be great full and thankful if any other person presently or in the distant future got this opportunity.

Sincerely,

idris clarke