

January 31, 2020

To: Mr. Al Gorley and Mr. Gary Merkel
Panel Members, Old Growth Strategic Review
Reporting to Minister of Forests, Lands, Natural Resources and Rural Development
British Columbia

From: Katharine Steig,
2604 Lawson Avenue,
West Vancouver, BC, V7V 2G2

Re: BC's Old-Growth Forests

I appreciate the BC Government's plan to review old-growth management in BC. With respect, I urge you to recommend retaining all of BC's remaining old-growth forests to the greatest degree possible for the public good.

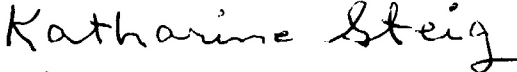
Old-growth forests provide numerous important benefits to British Columbians and those beyond. They store carbon and water, thus reducing the impact of climate change. They provide habitat for numerous rare and endangered plant and animal species.

They have significant tourist value and increase public appreciation of natural resources and better understanding of the need to "tread lightly on the earth."

Old growth-forests are not a "renewable resource" in that it takes hundreds of years for a tree to become "old growth" and the forests in which these trees grow can be even older. Once an old-growth forest is gone, it is gone forever within our grandchildren's and their grandchildren's lifetimes.

I recognize the need to provide jobs for BC forest workers, but I urge you to allow logging in second-growth forests only.

Sincerely,



Katharine Steig

katharine@steig.com