

**From:** [FLNR Old Growth BC FLNR:EX](#)  
**To:** [Old Growth Strategic Review](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Sinixt Written Submission  
**Date:** Monday, January 13, 2020 9:04:44 AM

---

-----Original Message-----

From: k.linda@maapress.ca <k.linda@maapress.ca>  
Sent: January 10, 2020 12:09 PM  
To: FLNR Old Growth BC FLNR:EX <Oldgrowthbc@gov.bc.ca>  
Subject: Sinixt Written Submission

To: Garry Merkel and Al Gorley  
Old Growth Strategic Review  
Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development.

As the Matriarch of the Sinixt Smum iem (traditional governance system), I am writing concerning the Old Growth Strategic Review you are conducting for the Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development. I had hoped to give my feedback in person and submit this in the place of that cancelled meeting.

As an Indigenous People divided by an international boundary, our unceded rights as Sinixt are upheld in Canada by Article 36 of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous People. This Declaration has been affirmed by the BC Legislature.

Further, according to Articles 26 and 32, not only do we have the right to the resources in our tum xula7xw (traditional territory), anyone operating in our territory must obtain our free and informed consent for any development activities on our lands. Our Sinixt Indigenous rights and responsibilities, encompass the water, land and the forests, including all Old Growth in our tum xula7xw.

In this era of climate change, it is unconscionable for ANY Old Growth to be logged. It is the removal of forests, especially Old Growth, that are contributing to climate catastrophe. The only forestry solution to our current climate crisis is to leave the Old Growth alone to continue its vital carbon storage and ecological functions. These services also include the protection of Old Growth habitat for all the other species who rely on it including bears, mountain caribou, reptiles and amphibians, plants, etc.

Also, we are concerned about the cumulative impacts of all the forestry activity in our tum xula7xw. All resource development must be assessed in light of all other developments - be they recreational, industrial or community-based - not piecemeal. Our entire tum xula7xw is an area of high wilderness values and has a key role to play in the survival of many species in the upcoming years. Already, our activities have extirpated the two southern caribou herds, in spite of government committees, panels and processes. We so no to any more ecological losses.

We continue to work on our mapping project to broaden core protected areas in the Sinixt tum xula7xw into a Climate Change Conservation Network. Until this ecologically based and responsible planning is complete, we will not allow, as per our UN affirmed Indigenous rights, any resource development in our tum xula7xw and certainly not without our prior, free and informed consent.

Marilyn James  
Sinixt Smum iem Matriarch

(via K.L. Kivi  
Administrative Assistant for Marilyn James)