

From: [FLNR Old Growth BC FLNR:EX](#)
To: [Old Growth Strategic Review](#)
Subject: FW: Old growth in B. C.
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From: Paul Prestie <p.prestie@gmail.com>
Sent: December 17, 2019 11:54 AM
To: FLNR Old Growth BC FLNR:EX <Oldgrowthbc@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: Old growth in B. C.

To whom this may concern.

My name is Paul Prestie and have been a career logger all of my working life. I've been part of the good times in the forest industry as well as endured the downturns. Never have I feared the future of this business as I do now with our old growth logging at stake. I have always put faith in the professional people tasked with the job of managing sustainable forestry. I haven't always agreed with some of the prescriptions handed to me for logging certain blocks but knew and trusted that they were doing the right thing. As the years went by, it became very apparent that this was true. With this in mind, I was comfortable with the fact that forestry would continue for many generations to come.

Now, with the idea that old growth logging on the coast of this province may be in jeopardy, I feel the strong need to say that the government in this province needs to let the professional people who know the science and have practiced it for years, be our guides through this dilemma, not political or the uninformed, or the environmental groups that make false claims against our livelihoods.

I can't help but think of the devastating consequences of such a foolish idea that old growth logging must stop. The imbalance this would create in what is now sustainable to what will not be sustainable will be huge. There is second growth available to harvest now but age differences in these stands makes sustainable forestry impossible. Right now being able to balance old and second growth logging makes the long term of this industry viable. Take old growth out of the equation and it will be the beginning of the end of an industry myself and so many have devoted our working lives to.

The impact of the huge reductions in AAC on the work force will be huge. These lost jobs will translate into lost revenues to the small resource based communities these workers live in. Businesses will close, property values will plummet, programs will be cancelled, as well as school enrolments will suffer. People will be forced to leave these communities to school their children and take part in programs no longer offered in the places they have called home for so many years. Men will be forced to seek work away from home as jobs that pay enough to raise a family on are usually in remote locations in northern B.C. or Alberta. This is a blow to any family that has been together since the start and now is torn apart by some poorly thought out government agenda.

More ghost towns will be created as people are forced out by lack of employment.

One must wonder where the government plans to get the revenue lost by the reduced provincial AAC. Raise taxes? A healthy forest industry in this province allows for infrastructure improvements to these remote areas as well as programs in health care schools and emergency preparedness. We all know that when government revenues suffer, programs in small communities suffer as well.

In closing I would like to say, before the government of this wonderful province we live in, climbs into bed with the Sierra club and their band of uninformed do gooders, stop and think about the big picture and the long term effects on all the coastal resource based communities that will be devastated by such a ludicrous idea. Leave sustainable forestry practices to be managed by the professional people who are under oath to do so.

Thank you for viewing my thoughts.

A hard working logger,
Paul Prestie.

Sent from my iPhone