

From: [FLNR Old Growth BC FLNR:EX](#)
To: [Old Growth Strategic Review](#)
Subject: FW: Old Growth Strategic Review
Date: Tuesday, December 10, 2019 6:45:52 AM

From: Peter Gose <peter.gose@gmail.com>
Sent: December 6, 2019 7:49 PM
To: FLNR Old Growth BC FLNR:EX <Oldgrowthbc@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: Old Growth Strategic Review

Dear Premier, Ministers and Critics,

I write as someone who in his teenage years, successfully campaigned with the Sierra Club to make the West Coast Trail into a national park. Back then, BC Forest Products told us that the forests in the area were "decadent" and that we were naive and economically irresponsible to advocate their preservation. Fifty years later, can anyone seriously argue that they were on the right side of that debate?

Meanwhile, the logging of old-growth forest has continued apace, even as their irreplaceable value in carbon sequestration, watershed, fisheries and wildlife habitat conservation, First Nations' lifeways, and ecotourism becomes increasingly evident with every passing year. Even the the BC Chamber of Commerce and two major unions of forestry workers, the Private and Public Workers of Canada (PPWC) and Unifor, along with the Union of BC Municipalities, now favour ending the logging of old-growth forests on Vancouver Island. Similar views are ascendant elsewhere in the province. But the BC government, no matter what political party is in power, continues to defy public and scientific opinion by allowing the ongoing decimation of our old-growth forests for the short-term profit of a few corporations who lack even the most minimal commitment to the communities where they operate. The time has long since past to start governing in the interests of the majority and the future of our province and to end the long-standing patterns of regulatory capture and outright corruption that have prevented a more enlightened management of our forests.

Well over 90% of the low-elevation old-growth forest on the south coast has already been logged. It is not ecologically comparable to second-growth forest and sequesters at least four times the amount of carbon. Given current and historical forestry practices, old-growth forest cannot be considered a renewable resource, particularly within the very restricted time frame we have to decarbonize our economy. Under these circumstances, it is criminally irresponsible to allow any further logging of old-growth forest in this province, or anywhere else. You must act, and act now to end this folly.

The future of the forest industry in this province lies in second-growth forests and value-added production, not the extinction of old-growth and the export of unprocessed logs. Please show the leadership and good judgement needed to address this absurdly unsustainable situation: end the logging of old-growth forest in this province now.

Peter Gose

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