

January 27, 2020

Sandra Logan
2415 Cardena Crescent
PO Box 746,
Port McNeill, BC
V0N 2R0

Dear Mr. Merkel and Mr. Gorley,

I am writing to voice my concern that the Province may halt harvesting of old growth forests on the coast of BC. I will not be quoting facts or statistics that you as forest professionals are already very aware of. Rather, this letter is to appeal to common sense that must prevail over emotionally charged, non-scientifically based opinions.

Let me tell you a little bit about myself. I moved to the north end of Vancouver Island in 1980 as a young single woman for a job working in the payroll office for Rayonier Canada (now Western Forest Products). I still work for WFP as the Operations Administrator located in Port McNeill. My husband has worked for WFP for 45 years running heavy equipment. Our jobs have provided my family a good living for many decades. During that time, we have lived through market ups and downs, strikes, (the long one in 1986 as well as the current one now in its 7th month) fires and attack from preservationists. The working forest has eroded to the point where coastal small towns are struggling.

I am afraid that our North Island towns will not survive further attack from well-meaning yet ill-informed city dwellers. We need to ask ourselves as a society:
Are we prepared to be a "have not" province relying on tourism? How much park land is enough? Does anyone in the Lower Mainland or Victoria care about the stability and sustainability of our coastal communities? Do they understand how the failure of this industry will affect everyone? People will still demand wood products. Do we want to import them from countries that do not have to operate with the same environmental and safety standards?

We must go forward with a stable working land base. Make the decisions based on science and a balance of values that take into account social values, economy, recreation, biodiversity and preservation that already exists.

Respectfully yours,

Sandra Logan