January 26 2020

Dear Sir/ Madame

Re: OLD GROWTH LOGGING

The current climate of one of our Resource Based Industries here in BC– the "Forestry Sector" is facing a sad and scary future. The future of our economy and well-being of our local communities that depend on the "Forestry Sector" to feed their families have to once again "RALLY" to protect what is left after the last time we came up against "ENVIRONMENTALISTS" that do not live in our communities we call home.

To have to bring attention to the panel doing this review, that only 30% of the coastal forest is available for harvest. That of the 8.4 million hectares of forestland on Coastal B.C., 5.8 million hectares (approximately 70%) of the coastal forest is not available for harvesting – due to constraints already in place for example - parks/reserves/Wildlife Habitat Areas etc.

To end "Old Growth Logging" in the current working forest that is currently available would reduce immediately 50% of the Annual Allowable Cut available. Presently there is not enough second growth (2G) available to maintain stable and healthy communities we were to be faced with "NO LOGGING of OLD GROWTH".

What is the plan for all that would be affected by placing more constraints on the working forest that is currently left, if we simply stopped logging "OLD GROWTH"? Due to the conservation measures currently in place, "WE WILL NEVER HARVEST ALL OF BC'S OLD GROWTH TIMBER". There are over 50,000 direct forestry jobs in BC at stake with this new initiative that is being proposed. That equates to millions of dollars in salaries and wages possible lost forever.

We both are overwhelmed with emotion, that once again, 26 years after a "CORE" Rally that took place March 21 1994 that we must once again, write to the government currently in power that is doing this study that the thinking is flawed and not a workable solution for those depending on the Forest Sector for their lively hoods. The motto was 12% no more back in 1994.

In 1994 the "Commission on Resources and the Environment" (CORE) proposed by Stephen Owen, in his report he recommended 13% of Vancouver Island be set aside as parkland and a further 8 percent be protected with limits on logging and mining – this is once again rearing it's head with a different acronym "Old Growth Review".

Taken from the Kitsap Sun Newspaper article – March 21 1994 found online regarding CORE

Known simply as CORE, the report recommends 13 percent of Vancouver Island be set aside as parkland and a further 8 percent be protected with limits on logging and mining.

Commissioner Stephen Owen says his blueprint could cost 900 direct and indirect jobs unless the government retrains those who are displaced.

But loggers, and residents of Island communities that depend on the industry, say the report vastly underestimates the job losses. They say they aren't prepared to see their livelihood wiped out. Business owners and directly related industries are not the only ones that will suffer if forestry jobs are lost. "We depend on the loggers" "If the loggers are not working, we can't stay in business. We have been through it before with strikes. We go up and down with the logging industry."

We can also say that many European visitors that come to visit and view the parks, the parks that were created back in the mid 1990's within the area that we live and work are unable to, as these parks have no road access to them. Much of our forests have been preserved and what is left from that "CORE" report - we need as working forest that support communities and families living in those communities.

We respectfully request that this panel/and current government – leave well enough alone. The strategies and working plans in place for "Forest Stewardship" live up to the requirements set in place back in the mid 1990's and strict guidelines that have been introduced over the years since then – provide society with sustainable and climate friendly wood products. It is carefully managed for wildlife habitat, biodiversity and climate change. Our coastal forests are healthy and productive. For every tree harvested we plant 3 in it's place. Young healthy trees sequester up to 25% more CARBON than old dying trees.

There is currently 70% of the "coastal forest" that is not available for harvesting due to legislative restrictions, physical and economic constraints, and to further constrain the remaining 30% with "NO OLD GROWTH" logging is detrimental for all. 54% of BC Crown Land is already protected or restricted. Forestry Feeds OUR Family and many others that we know and work with. Thank you for taking the time to read our letter hoping it gives the panel some insight to how decisions made at levels not directly affected impact working people dependent on the RESOURCE.

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Below some photos from the past. "Communities fighting for Sustainability" – CORE – It is such a shame that a few thousand people living in URBAN areas on the mainland and across the province can have a detrimental impact on a RESOURSE INDUSTRY THAT helped build this province.