



April 9, 2021

The Honourable John Horgan
Premier of British Columbia
PO Box 9041 Stn Prov Govt
Victoria, BC V8W 9E1

Dear Premier Horgan,

On behalf of Victoria City Council, I am writing today to request favourable consideration of the motion below passed at the April 1, 2021 Council meeting:

WHEREAS Ancient high productivity old-growth ecosystems are globally one of the most valuable climate mitigation and resiliency assets in terms of carbon storage, sequestration, protection against wildfire, storage of water and preservation of biological diversity;

AND WHEREAS Less than 3% of the original high productivity (big tree) old-growth forests in British Columbia remain standing, and of this residual land base, 75% is slated to be eliminated through industrial logging operations;

AND WHEREAS Alternatives exist to increase protection of biological diversity and employment, through the immediate transition to sustainable management of second-growth forests with expanded value-added processing and manufacturing;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the City of Victoria calls on the Government of British Columbia to immediately defer logging in all high-productivity old-growth forests on Vancouver Island, as recommended by the Old Growth Strategic Review, until all 14 of the panel's recommendations have been implemented, including the Fairy Creek watershed in the Capital Regional District and all other at-risk old-growth forests on Vancouver Island;

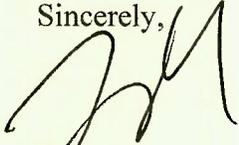
AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the City of Victoria calls on the Government of British Columbia to allocate funding to enact deferrals in an economically just manner, in the full spirit of reconciliation and to support the economic transition of affected First Nations and non-First Nation communities from unsustainable old-growth logging toward the development of long-term sustainable local economies.

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The City of Victoria recognizes the Songhees and Esquimalt Nations in whose traditional territories we live and work "Hay swx qa"

Thank you for your time and consideration. Please do not hesitate to reach out should you have any questions regarding this letter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'LH', written over the word 'Sincerely,'.

Lisa Helps
Victoria Mayor

Cc: MLA's representing constituencies on Vancouver Island
Capital Regional District Board
Capital Region Municipalities
Association of Vancouver Island and Coastal Communities