

April 8, 2021

File: 0230.20/UBCM

Chair and Directors  
Comox Valley Regional District Board

**Re: Request for Support of Resolution at UBCM**

I have received correspondence (attached) from the Comox Valley Youth Climate Council (CYCC) requesting the Board's consideration to support a resolution being forwarded to the Union of British Columbia Municipalities (UBCM) in regards to the protection of at-risk old-growth forests in BC.

The CYCC is deeply concerned about the planned logging of old-growth forests and urges the CVRD Board to support efforts to protect the last remaining old-growth forests and advocate for more sustainable forestry practices.

As the City of Nanaimo recently passed the resolution below, and will be forwarding the resolution to UBCM for the 2021 convention, I am respectfully requesting that each member of the Board support this resolution, or an alternative submission accepted from another local government, when it is presented at the 2021 UBCM Convention:

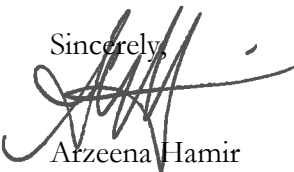
WHEREAS ancient high productivity (big tree) old growth ecosystems are globally one of the most valuable climate mitigation and resiliency assets in terms of carbon storage, sequestration, protection against wildfire, storage of water and bank of biodiversity;

AND WHEREAS, of the 2.7% of the original high productivity (big tree) old-growth forests (less than 1% of BC's total current forested area), 75% are still slated to be eliminated through logging;

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the UBCM call on the provincial government to immediately defer logging in all high productivity, rare, oldest, and most intact old-growth forests as recommended by the Old-Growth Strategic Review, until all 14 of the panel's recommendations have been implemented; including deferrals in such at-risk old-growth forests as the head waters of Fairy Creek, the Upper Walbran Valley, Nahmint Valley, Eden Grove, Edinburgh Mountain, Upper Tsitika Valley, East Creek, Klaskish Valley, Nimpkish Lake and the Inland Old-Growth Temperate Rainforest.

AND THAT the UBCM call 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 for the development of long-term sustainable local economies.

Sincerely,



Arzeena Hamir  
Director

Attachment: Email from the Comox Youth Climate Council

On Apr 2, 2021, at 12:32 PM

Dear Electoral Area B Representative Arzeena Hamir,

**We, the Comox Youth Climate Council (CYCC), write to you as a call to action to take a stand for** the remaining old-growth forests in British Columbia. The City of Nanaimo recently [passed a motion](#) to advocate for the protection of old growth forests and we ask that you do the same.

The IPCC states that we now have [less than ten years](#) to do everything possible to reduce global emissions and avoid climate catastrophe. [Project Drawdown](#) identifies primary forest protection as one of the best global solutions to address climate change. All levels of BC governments must act quickly to protect these [globally significant](#) carbon sinks. In this time of crisis, it would be irresponsible to stay silent on this issue. This is why we ask you to pass a similar motion to the City of Nanaimo.

There was a time where old-growth Coastal Douglas fir forests covered the Comox Valley. Today, almost [none of these forests remain](#) due to over-exploitation and a legacy of old-growth liquidation policies. We ask that you recognize your responsibility to support the efforts to protect the last remaining old-growth forests and advocate for more sustainable forestry practices.

On Thursday, April 1st an Injunction was granted to Teal Jones that allows the logging of Fairy Creek; one of the few large remaining old growth forests on Vancouver Island. The Resolution submitted by Ben Geselbracht to Nanaimo council, attached below, has been altered to fit the purposes of our community. Recognize it, pass it, and stand together with Nanaimo in consideration of the utter importance of this decision, and decisions being made across the world to safeguard our planet from ecological collapse.

We also attach a letter sent by the CYCC to the NDP government that expresses the deep worry and desperation felt by the young generation in the face of the imminent destruction of BC's last old-growth forests. The CYCC implores that all elected officials speak up and take a stand that reflects its responsibility to the generations that will follow.

In the wise and often respected words of Greta Thunberg “We can’t save the world by playing by the rules, because the rules have to be changed. Everything needs to change – and it has to start today.”

Let us start with BC old-growth forests.

Sincerely,

The CYCC

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**Comox Youth Climate Council**

*Youth advocating for climate action in the Comox Valley*