

NOW'S OUR CHANCE to PROTECT ANCIENT FORESTS

September 12, 2019

Dear Mayor and Council,

British Columbia is world-renowned for its ancient rainforests and for the decades of activism to protect them.

Old-growth forests are critical to Indigenous cultures. They provide habitat for iconic endangered wildlife and anchor this province's multi-billion dollar tourism industry. With their ability to store more carbon than younger forests and buffer the impacts of extreme weather fluctuations, old-growth forests are our greatest weapon and our strongest shield in the fight against the climate crisis — the fight of our lives.

Despite all this, these life-giving ecosystems aren't protected. **On Vancouver Island alone, the logging industry cuts down the equivalent of 34 soccer fields worth of old-growth forests every single day.** Meanwhile, the forest industry has never been more unstable, with raw log exports, mill closures, contractor bankruptcies and job losses impacting families and communities.

Our latest paper, **Old-Growth Crisis**,* highlights what's at stake and calls for bold shifts in policy and strategy to put healthy ecosystems, local livelihoods, Indigenous Rights and Title and climate resiliency ahead of the bottom lines of logging corporations.

While forestry laws and regulations are provincial jurisdiction, as a municipal government you hold a great ability to influence public opinion and champion what's right and raise concerns with the provincial government.

Read our publication, raise these issues with your MLA and the minister of forests and your counterparts. Contact me at torrance@wildernesscommittee.org or 250-516-9900 if you have any questions or wish to discuss these critical topics.

We owe it to future generations to speak up about the old-growth crisis before these forests are gone. Please rise to this challenge and champion the protection of old-growth forests in BC.

* [Available in Clerks Office](#)

For the ancient forests,

Torrance Coste | National Campaign Director

Referred to:
Environment and Social Planning
Committee (2019.10.10)
Copied to:
City Manager, Dir. Corporate Services, Dir.
Engineering, Dir. Parks, Rec. and Cultural
Services