



## AGENDA

**Agenda for the Regular Meeting of the Tahsis Village Council  
to be held on May 4, 2021 in the Council Chambers  
Municipal Hall, 977 South Maquinna Drive and by electronic means**

**Remote access:** To attend this meeting remotely via Zoom/ phone

**Join the Zoom Meeting**

<https://zoom.us/j/7473599558>

**Dial by your location**

**+1 647 374 4685 Canada**

**Meeting ID: 747 359 9558**

**Find your local number: <https://zoom.us/j/7473599558>**

*Zoom is hosted on servers in the U.S., so the name you use with Zoom and metadata about how you use the application will be stored on servers outside of Canada. If you have privacy concerns: a) don't create your own account with Zoom, b) provide only your first name or a nickname when you join a session, c) keep your camera off and microphone muted, as much as you can, and d) try to avoid sharing any identifying information.*

**A. Call to Order**

**B. Introduction of  
Late Items**

**C. Approval of the  
Agenda**

**D. Petitions and  
Delegations**

**E. Public Input # 1**

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**F. Adoption of the  
Minutes**

**1 Minutes of the Regular Council Meeting held on April 20, 2021**

**G. Rise and Report**

- H. Business Arising**
- 1 Circular Cities and Regions Initiative (CCRI) (Notice of Motion from Councillor Fowler)
  - 2 Tahsis Age Friendly Action Committee - April 15th, 2021 Progress Report Re: Tahsis Seniors Volunteer Driver Vehicle Ride Service
  - 3 UBCM letter to Mayor and Council Re: 2020 CEPF: Emergency Support Services - ESS Modernization Project
  - 4 Old Growth Strategic Review Panel final report and the Union of BC Indian Chief's Resolution 2020-23.
- J. Council Reports**
- 1 Mayor Davis
  - 2 Councillor Elder
  - 3 Councillor Fowler
  - 4 Councillor Llewellyn
  - 5 Councillor Northcott
- K. Bylaws**
- 1 2021 - 2025 Financial Plan Bylaw No. 637, 2021  
1st, 2nd, 3rd Readings
  - 2 Report to Council Re: 2021 Tax Rate Information
  - 3 2021 Tax Rate Bylaw No. 638, 2021  
1st, 2nd, 3rd Readings
  - 4 Report to Council Re: Bylaw Amendments: Fees and Charges, Water and Sewer bylaws
  - 5 Fees and Charges Amendment Bylaw No. 639, 2021  
1st, 2nd, 3rd Readings
  - 6 Water Regulation and Rates Amendment Bylaw No. 640, 2021  
1st, 2nd, 3rd Readings
  - 7 Sewer Regulations and Rates Amendment Bylaw No. 641, 2021  
1st, 2nd, 3rd Readings
- L. Correspondence**
- 1 Letter from Bob Brash, Executive Director, Truck Loggers Association Re: Truck Loggers Association membership dues.
  - 2 Letter from Mayor David Screech, Town of View Royal to Hon. John Horgan Re: Request for Authority and Training for Hospital Security Staff.

- 3 Letter from Merlin Blackwell, Mayor, District of Clearwater Re: Endorsement of 9-8-8 Crisis Line Initiative.
- 4 Letter from Merlin Blackwell, Mayor, District of Clearwater Re: Designation of invasive Asian clams as prohibitive aquatic invasive species.
- 5 April 27th, 2021 email from Rita Aedan to Mayor and Council Re: COVID-19 - No Recreational Travel and April 28th follow up letter to her email of April 27th, 2021.

**M. New Business**

- 1 Report to Council Re: Temporary Use Permit Application - Tahsis Fish Processing Ltd. ("TFPL")

**N. Public Input #2**

**P. Adjournment**



## Minutes

<b><u>Meeting</u></b>	<b>Regular Council</b>
<b><u>Date</u></b>	<b>20-Apr-21</b>
<b><u>Time</u></b>	<b>7:00 PM</b>
<b><u>Place</u></b>	<b>Municipal Hall - Council Chambers and by electronic means</b>

<b><u>Present</u></b>	Mayor Martin Davis Councillor Bill Elder Councillor Sarah Fowler Councillor Cheryl Northcott Councillor Lynda Llewellyn	by video by video
<b><u>Staff</u></b>	Mark Tatchell, Chief Administrative Officer Ian Poole, Director of Finance Janet St-Denis, Corporate Services Manager Shelley Debruyne, Administrative Coordinator	by video by video by video
<b><u>Guest</u></b>	Cpl. K.A Rutherford, a/NCO i/c, Nootka Sound RCMP	by video
<b><u>Public</u></b>	5 members of the public	by phone/video

### **A. Call to Order**

Mayor Davis called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Mayor Davis acknowledged and respected that Council is meeting upon Mowachaht/Muchalaht territory

### **B. Introduction of Late Items and Agenda Changes**

None

### **C. Approval of the Agenda**

**Fowler/Elder: VOT 0135/2021**

**THAT** the Agenda for the April 20, 2021 Regular meeting of Council be adopted as presented.

**CARRIED**

### **D. Petitions and Delegations**

None

### **E. Public Input # 1**

None

### **F. Adoption of the Minutes**

- Minutes of the Committee of the Whole Meeting held on April 6, 2021**



**Fowler/Elder: VOT 0136/2021**

**THAT** the Committee of the Whole meeting minutes of April 6, 2021 be adopted as presented.

**CARRIED**

**2 Minutes of the Regular Council Meeting held on April 6, 2021**

**Fowler/Elder: VOT 0137/2021**

**THAT** the Regular Council Meeting minutes of April 6, 2021 be adopted as presented.

**CARRIED**

**3 Minutes of the Committee of the Whole Meeting held on April 13, 2021**

**Fowler/Elder: VOT 0138/2021**

**THAT** the Committee of the Whole minutes of April 13, 2021 be adopted as presented.

**CARRIED**

**G. Rise and Report**

At the April 13, 2021 Closed Committee of the Whole, Council approved offering for sale 146 Alpine View Road (Lot 2, Plan VIP35185, DL 595, Nootka Land District)

**H. Business Arising**

**1 Presentation by Cpl. K.A Rutherford, Royal Canadian Mounted Police, Nootka Sound Detachment "E" Division British Columbia Re: Annual Performance Plan.**

**Fowler/Elder: VOT 0139/2021**

**THAT** this Annual Performance Plan be received.

**CARRIED**

Corporal Rutherford spoke to the Annual Performance Plan highlighting local priorities and initiatives such as the detachment's partnership with Island Health to address mental illness health issues. A question and answer period followed. Council expressed support for the detachment's Annual Performance Plan.

**2 Public Presentation of the 2021 Budget and Proposed Tax Rates**

**Fowler/Elder: VOT 0140/2021**

**THAT** this presentation be received.

**CARRIED**

The Director of Finance, in presenting the 2021 Operating budget, spoke to the budget cycle, time lines, considerations, costs and opportunities. The water and sewer cost structures and resulting new user fees were presented in detail. The five-year Capital Plan was presented, highlighting the capital projects and capital funding sources.

Next, the property tax information was presented with a 7.5 % increase in property tax revenues noting an almost zero dollar change to the average single-family/strata home.

**CARRIED**

**Lewellyn/Fowler: VOT 0141/2021**

**THAT** the budget discussion be opened up to the public for questions at this time.

**CARRIED**

**Fowler/Northcott: VOT 0142/2021**

**THAT** Council direct Staff to prepare the Financial Plan and Property Tax Bylaws based on the details included in this presentation.

**CARRIED**

**1 "no" vote registered  
Councillor Elder**

**J. Council Reports****Mayor Davis** (written report)

Since our last council meeting, I have attended one meeting each of the hospital board and the regional district. These were the first meetings where the Ka:'yu:'k't'h'/Che:k'tles7et'h' (Kyuquot-Chekleset) First Nations have joined us as full members, represented by Director Kevin Jules, who is Legislative Chief of the KCFN. It is an historic occasion as this is the first time that a first nation within our regional district has joined us as an equal partner. I believe that having our local first nations joining the regional district will lead to more equal and balanced governance across the region and I look forward to our other indigenous governments having representation in time. There was an exchange of gifts and at the regional district meeting, the KCFN presented a painting of sunset over the Pacific from Kyoquot, while the regional partners presented a large wood plaque created using woods donated from the various communities. Our portion was Yew wood.

We had a Unity Trail meeting last week where we are trying to find a way forward after the rejection of our previous proposal by Rec Sites and Trails. We have discussed options such as finding a different route or even going to a hiking trail instead, which should be more easily achievable. No decisions have been made and further consultation with our other partners in the project is occurring.

We have had two more budget meetings and the presentation of our financial model is on the agenda tonight.

On another note, I attended the AGM of the Canadian Cave Conservancy last weekend and have been elected President of the national association. We are involved in the conservation of cave and karst ecosystems; Horne Lake Park cave tours were originally established by the CCC as a public education tool. I hope to use my position to lobby governments to finally bring a Cave Protection Act to BC and hopefully, Canada.

Wolves have been an issue in our community for several weeks now and have led to the death of two dogs to date. This is an unfortunate situation as they seem to have moved into our community and show no fear of humans. Our conservation officers have been in town often and the wolves will be removed, hopefully before things get worse. The safety of our children is priority.

And for those so inclined, Happy 420 Day!

**Councillor Fowler** (verbal report)

Councillor Fowler spoke to her report on the proposed Tahsis Seniors Volunteer driver Vehicle Ride Service (TSVRS).

**Councillor Elder**

No Report

**Councillor Northcott**

No Report

**Councillor Llewellyn**

No Report

**Fowler/Elder: VOT 0143/2021**

**THAT** the Council Reports be received.

**CARRIED**

**K. Bylaws**

None

**L. Correspondence**

- 1 John Vassilaki, Mayor, City of Penticton letter to Brian Frenkel, President UBCM Re: Council seeking support from UBCM to help challenge provincial paramountcy.
- 2 Lisa Helps, Mayor, City of Victoria Re: Support for Laid-off Hotel and Tourism Industry Workers

**Llewellyn/Fowler: VOT 0144/2021**

**THAT** these correspondence items be received.

**CARRIED**

**M. New Business**

- 1 **AVICC Virtual AGM and Convention May 28, 2021.**

**Fowler/Elder: VOT 0145/2021**

**THAT** this information be received.

**CARRIED**

**Llewellyn/Elder: VOT 0146/2021**

**THAT** Mayor Davis and Councillor Fowler attend the AVICC Virtual AGM and Convention on May 28, 2021.

**CARRIED**

- 2 **Circular Cities and Regions Initiative (CCRI) (Notice of Motion from Councillor Fowler)**

**Fowler/Elder: VOT 0147/2021**

**THAT** this information be received.

**CARRIED**

**Fowler/Elder: VOT 0148/2021**

**THAT, WHEREAS** participants in the CCRI can create peer to peer learning opportunities for increased sustainability and economic development;

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT** staff submit an application for the Village of Tahsis with Councillor Fowler as the representative to [info@Canadiancircularcities.ca](mailto:info@Canadiancircularcities.ca) by the April 30, 2021 deadline.

**CARRIED**

- 3 **Public Notification "Alternative Means" Resolution**

**Fowler/Elder: VOT 0149/2021**

**THAT** this resolution be considered.

**CARRIED**

The CAO spoke to this resolution.

**Fowler/Elder: VOT 0150/2021**

**THAT, WHEREAS** from time to time the Village is obligated under the Community Charter to post or publish a public notice; and

**WHEREAS** it is not practicable to publish a public notice in a newspaper that is distributed at least weekly within the area affected by the subject matter of the notice, as required by the Community Charter, as the closest newspaper is published in Campbell River which is 150 km away; and

**WHEREAS** the Community Charter permits municipal governments to meet the public notification requirements by alternative means;

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, THAT** the Village of Tahsis establishes the following as the alternative means for public notification under s. 94 of the Community Charter:

The notice is written legibly on Village letterhead or with the Village logo inserted

The notice is posted on the Tahsis Now Facebook group page and one other Tahsis related Facebook group page (e.g., Tahsis, British Columbia, Tahsis Community)

The notice is posted on the Tahsis Living Blog webpage, or an equivalent blog which posts notice, news and events about the Tahsis community

The notice is posted on the Village of Tahsis website

If a matter requires publication for 2 consecutive weeks, the notices will be considered combined if the above posting requirements are met; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT**, notices will also be posted in public posting places.

**CARRIED**

**N. Public Input #2**

A member of the public inquired about the Community Unity Trail "snag" to which Council and staff responded.

A member of the public asked when the Museum sign board would be put up.

**Adjournment****Fowler/Elder: VOT 00151/2021**

**THAT** the meeting be adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

**CARRIED**

**Certified Correct this**

4th Day of May, 2021

**Chief Administrative Officer**

## **Progress report**

**whereas local transportation options, especially for seniors represent a barrier to health care services therefore be it resolved to provide conditional grant and act in a trustee for local ride service offered by the seniors society. be it further resolved to communicate with the SRD concerning expanding the TSVRS to wheels for wellness in gold river and to campbell river.**

In the Village of Tahsis 2021 Strategic plans under the heading of community well being the first bullet point reads “develop and implement a transportation service to Campbell river.” Following that goal is something that many work on and even more benefit from “support activity that improves food security for Tahsis residents especially those financially compromised. These goals are built on the foundation of 2020’s strategic priorities of “submit a Age-friendly Communities planning grant focusing on Transportation and of 2019’s Age-friendly planning project.

Tahsis Seniors Volunteer driver vehicle Ride Service  
(rideshare taxi-style volunteer service within Tahsis)

### **TSVRS project launched over 2021-22 We will grow an ever evolving list of volunteer drivers.**

- on demand for Wheels for Wellness trips  
Schedule and dispatch (TSVRS.)
- Tahsis Seniors Volunteer Ride Service.
- Tahsis Seniors society to interview and Vet driver volunteers applicants.
- (6 day 8:00-5:00 bookings) Village volunteer vehicle ride service operated by Tahsis Seniors)
- proposed bi-weekly travel to GR/CR return)
- Seniors Society to Schedule and dispatch.
- In cooperation with Tahsis Village, Recreational and finance department for volunteer reimbursement once seniors have vetted and approved.
- All applications to be stored in secure lockup in the Rec Centre.
- Volunteer drivers to be compensated for km travel.
- Look into Tahsis Village km reimbursement schedule.
- 53 cent per km recommended local (village rides \$.66 km)
- Village administrative and monetary support appreciated where possible.

Ride client payments who are under the age 55 years can contribute \$5.00 trip within Village, otherwise seniors (55plus) ride client cost by donation within the Tahsis village.

- 25.00 per person travels to Campbell River.
- 8,000.00 total seed money for pilot project
- Village \$4,000.00 start up funds Seniors Society to match \$4,000.00.
- TSVRS budget (52 week one year budget)

26 biweekly volunteer travel reimbursement

Campbell River 360 km trip average at .53 a km = \$4,960.80

- Budget reserve 3,039.20

Once the local ride service is operational.

The next step to be this linking of the seniors society ride service with the larger network Wheels for wellness.

TSVRS to Coordinate wheels for Wellness client drop off –return Gold River and Campbell River. Wheels for Wellness has service to and returns all points South Campbell River To Victoria. In cooperation with Wheels for wellness our volunteers transport to GR/CR. Wheels for Wellness transport to points South Island as far as Victoria (no cost for Wheels for wellness service donations readily accepted Tax receipt provided)

**In one years time our goals expand.**

**Recommendations with a bit longer range... on the more distant horizon**

Village of Tahsis owned a nine-passenger Van.

Scheduling – dispatch coordinated through Village Rec center.

Seniors Society to partner in this endeavor providing Volunteers to schedule and dispatch.

Potential partnerships

Locally, regional and further with public private partnerships specifically like

**Rideco** for app development.

[On-Demand Transit - RideCo](#)

see appendix for links to ride co. and other websites.

### **TAAC Recommendations.**

- Provide administrative support to groups like the Seniors, Rangers, and Community Cupboard, especially where connecting with the Regional District, food security and sharing freight charges.
- Find new ways to try to quantify the small-town care and specialized needs of citizens including collaboration with wheels for wellness.
- Continue the pursuit of a village van in next year's budget as a way to continue investment with the pilot ride service for the community Climate Action and Age Friendliness.

9-passenger (new providing warranty) van recommended

Donations...

- Approach dealership van purchase maintenance (LOGO on Van)

- Approach other business Tire shops, Muffler Springs, Oil change, Food stores, BC Hydro, Mascon ETC. promoting their logo placed on Van and Web site where available.
- Pursue available Remote Transportation Grants
- Seniors Society should be a partner in order to pursue available Seniors Grants & Age Friendly grants readily available to Seniors Society.

### **Tahsis Age Friendly Accessibility Committee Report**

The first year of the Tahsis Age Friendly Action Standing Committee has certainly been an interesting one. We all learned to use virtual meeting tools and find ways to support our neighbours and overcome challenges. As a way to draw a picture of the priorities (FOOD, CARE & TRANSPORT) submitted to the Village of Tahsis Council, from the TAAC just after the first meeting I hope to go into a more in-depth study of what our amazing volunteers have been working on.

#### **Transportation**

#### **The UBC report on rural health averages \$777 in transport cost to access health care.**

In the last meeting of the TAAC we focused on how best to move forward on an informal ride share service with the resources we currently have at our disposal. We discussed where we are at with current road conditions, icy, snowy, boxes in potholes, culverts, hitchhikers and how best to deal with parts of the population that are not taking precautions. A question that was brought up by the group was how can we make people safer and more comfortable?

Mobility concerns are both visible and invisible. In my research, I have learned that 25% of the general population of any town struggles with ableism and disability. Everyone can appreciate placemaking efforts like ramps, wheelchair friendly benches and inclusion. Many people have a hard time getting out when seeking healthcare. Even more experience a high cost of vehicle repairs because of the damage sustained to their vehicles on Head Bay Forest Service Road.

In discussions amongst committee members, we are quite aware of the costs involved in procuring supplies and accessing care. The costs are due to the distance and conditions of the main connector. Current Covid19 conditions have resulted in distinct hesitancy to give rides to strangers.

#### **Care**

The Food Program helps by being able to discreetly check up on our vulnerable citizens as well as a way to chip away at covid loneliness.

There are only two registered home care aids in Tahsis, and a great need for private care, which is difficult to measure at the best of times. I would be remiss

if I did not use this TAAC Report to Council to bring up the elephant in the room. Our local caregivers are experiencing burnout. I know that I am, but I do not think I am alone in this. The pressure of adapting to the ever changing circumstances is putting strain on neighbours and relationships. I am afraid that many complex needs are not being addressed, and unfortunately, I am unsure of how best to help.

Part of the housing survey that Councillor Llewellyn has been working on with a student from Vancouver Island University is a path to follow. Addressing some of the many structural challenges with housing stock starts by collecting information. It requires an immense personal investment not everyone is in a position to make. As with many of the Village of Tahsis owned properties many safety concerns are becoming compounded.

As part of my Federation of Canadian Municipalities Climate Leaders sessions, I was put together in a breakout zoom meeting with other elected citizens from British Columbia. We were tasked with a communications exercise whereby we were discussing how we might approach different sections of the public about a change of land to a flood prone area. The most delicate and hands on approach was for the hypothetical home owners who were in the direct path of flood risk. This educational opportunity helped me to grasp that in cases where the needs are the greatest, everyone involved is served by providing support to the most vulnerable among us.

## **Food.**

There are many hard working groups trying to tackle food security challenges.

### **Good Food Box Program (FRESH) \$200 (in kind monthly labour)**

Administered locally by Ricki Moore, in collaboration with the Greenways Trust and the Strathcona Regional District. Originally it was distributed from the Rec Centre, on the third Thursday of each month. Since the beginning of 2021 it has been re-organized to be run out of Ricki Moore's home twice a month. The two prices are for the same size Good Food Box of fresh fruits and seasonal local island vegetables as available.

\$25 is the value of each bi-weekly delivery, yet there is a subsidized offering based on (-55K annual income) and is only \$10.

15 hours of volunteer labour per month, and over 1052 km logged from deliveries to local recipient households.



**Community Cupboard ( Local volunteers, time, muscle and vehicles) with the St. Vincent de Paul Society and St Joseph Catholic Church**

**(CANNED & DRY)** \$800 (in kind monthly)

This project team has been working on emergency food needs and support for vulnerable citizens in our community for well over four years and has seen an increase in demand since the epidemic started last year. Due to this increase in need and citizens' reliance on this program, volunteers who deliver items (such as cat and dog food) are experiencing burn out. The Community Cupboards core people have been actively recruiting new partnerships with other community groups who might be able to help them with weekly deliveries, usually taking place on Mondays. Traditionally the Community Cupboard would take two breaks during the year, Christmas and the summer months. Due to the increase in demand, this may not be possible. Also, due to the efforts of Bishop Gary and his team they have been successful in offering a broader range of food staples, including but not limited to.

Shelf Stable Milk	Diapers	Oatmeal	Sugar & Syrup
Canned Soup	Toilet Paper	Juice	Honey
Pasta	Baby Formula	Cookies	Chicken
Pancake Mix	Cereal	Coffee	

When non-perishable food items are brought into town at the expense of the volunteers, it is then unloaded in the church basement. From that point, every Sunday at 1:00 pm the volunteers gather to organize boxes into three groups for the Monday delivery.

<b>Singles at risk (often seniors)</b>	<b>Couples</b>	<b>Families</b>
Every week small bags	Alternating bi-weekly	Alternating bi-weekly

As far as volunteer time is concerned, I would estimate that 6 people do two hours of work each Sunday. 12 hours preparing the boxes for delivery, organizing and rotating the goods in the Church basement. On Monday a team of 2 people distribute the weekly boxes, family drop offs can take up to 3 hours. Recycling runs of cardboard and plastic are done weekly to keep the cupboard tidy. This totals in 20 hours of donated labour a week, making it approximately 80 hours a month.

**Weekly Breakdown**

	<b>Hours</b>	<b>Volunteers</b>	<b>Total Hours</b>
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Prepping	2	6	12
Delivery	3	2	6
Clean Up	1	2	2
<b>Total Weekly Hours</b>			20
20 hours x 4 weeks = \$800 (in kind monthly)			
Calculated at \$10 an hour (without a kilometer accounting, we don't always do 4 weeks a month)			

### **Knights of Columbus Christmas Hampers & Seniors Centre Food Bank Initiative (Seasonal)**

Once a year in November, we have a campaign to fundraise for Last Mile Delivery and Freight of the Knights of Columbus Christmas Hampers. It is worth noting that many recipients this year did not have phone numbers to be reached at, yet, the program was fully subscribed. Long standing partnerships with Fan-Tahsis Trucking and the Tahsis Building Supply have helped us offer a consistent place to access forms. This year we were able to secure a corporate donation from Greigg's Seafood who provided \$250 dedicated to freight, as well as salmon fillets.

Due to Covid 19 we encouraged people to pick up their own hampers from the Rec Centre, but many were unable to do so. This resulted in a small but mighty team of neighbourhood leaders doing many trips until all 50 hampers were delivered this year. The Seniors Centre ran a successful pilot program last year working with the Community Cupboard Distribution Network. The Village of Tahsis has agreed to act as a trustee for a grant applied for by the Seniors Centre for a continuation of this pilot project. I hope that some of these efforts can be integrated, as often the volunteers and recipients of the Food Aid are often one and the same. Another concern for the Senior's Society Covid Relief initiative is based on my observations, with the pilot that was done for months. A sort of temporary store that was originally mentioned by Senior Centre President Jack Taylor, would allow people to have a choice, thus reducing waste and unwanted items received. There is a need for public building space as the church basement is unfinished and in need of repairs and improvements.

### **Appendix**

Volunteer Driver application form  
Sayward and Port McNeil's VTN  
Legacy van project



#23 – 1705 Campbell Way  
Box 185, Port McNeill, B.C, VON 2R0  
Phone #250-956-3151/1-877-552-0341  
mwts@pwtransit.ca

**Volunteer Transportation Network Driver's Application**

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Last Name \_\_\_\_\_ First  
Name \_\_\_\_\_

Residential

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Box # \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth \_\_\_\_\_

Gender \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: (Home) \_\_\_\_\_ Cell# \_\_\_\_\_

Fax \_\_\_\_\_

Email

Address \_\_\_\_\_

—

Preferred method of communication: Home phone ☐ Cell ☐ Email ☐ Fax ☐

Driver's Licence # \_\_\_\_\_ Expiry \_\_\_\_\_ Plate number

\_\_\_\_\_

Licence Restrictions (if applicable)

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

How long have you been driving? years \_\_\_\_\_ months \_\_\_\_\_

Have you ever had your licence suspended, revoked or refused?

\_\_\_\_\_

If yes, please explain why

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Are you currently employed? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_ Full Time \_\_\_\_\_ Part  
Time \_\_\_\_\_

If employed, what is your occupation?

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Employer's Address:

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What type of work have you done in the past?

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Volunteer Transportation Network Driver's Application Form  
Page 2 of 5

**Please answer the following questions:**

Do you have any volunteer experience and if so, for which organizations?

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Please provide the details of your volunteer experience.

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What experience personal or professional have you had with seniors, youth or children?  
(i.e. caring for an elderly relative)

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It is known that people get involved with volunteer work for four basic reasons:

Social – to be with others

Emotional – to give to others

Intellectual – to learn more

Spiritual – to enhance & share with

others

What lead you to consider applying to be a volunteer with this program?

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Do you feel comfortable working with and helping people of different ages, ethnic or cultural backgrounds? Please explain.

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What are your special hobbies, skills and/or interests?

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Volunteer Transportation Network Driver's Application Form

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How did you hear of the Volunteer Transportation Network?

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What are your expectations of the Volunteer Transportation Network?

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What expectations do you have of the Volunteer Transportation Network Coordinator?

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**Volunteer Driver Availability:**

Please check off the days you are available and provide times you would be available for volunteer work.

Day	Starting From	Until When
Monday <input type="checkbox"/>		
Tuesday <input type="checkbox"/>		
Wednesday <input type="checkbox"/>		
Thursday <input type="checkbox"/>		
Friday <input type="checkbox"/>		
Saturday <input type="checkbox"/>		
Sunday <input type="checkbox"/>		

Are you willing and available for last minute calls? Yes ☐ No ☐

**References:**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone/cell

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Address

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Relationship

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Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone/cell

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Address

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Relationship

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Volunteer Transportation Network Driver's Application

Page 4 of 5

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone/cell

\_\_\_\_\_

Address

\_\_\_\_\_

Relationship

\_\_\_\_\_

**Emergency Contact Person(s):**

Last Name: \_\_\_\_\_ First Name:

\_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City

\_\_\_\_\_

Province \_\_\_\_\_ Postal Code \_\_\_\_\_ Home Phone

\_\_\_\_\_

Cell Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Work Phone

\_\_\_\_\_

Relationship

\_\_\_\_\_

Last Name: \_\_\_\_\_ First Name:

\_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City

\_\_\_\_\_

Province \_\_\_\_\_ Postal Code \_\_\_\_\_ Home Phone

\_\_\_\_\_

Cell Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Work Phone

\_\_\_\_\_

Relationship

\_\_\_\_\_

**Confidential Information:**

Do you have any health related concerns of which you would like us to be aware of? Yes

☐ No ☐

**In order to provide a safe and secure environment for children and vulnerable people, we believe it is necessary to include the following questions as part of our application process. The program will keep all information provided strictly confidential. (Police may access this information under warrant if requested) Answering yes to any of the questions may not preclude your involvement with this program. Thank you for your understanding.**

- Are there circumstances or traits in your lifestyle or background that would call into question your ability to work with children, youth or other vulnerable people? Yes ☐ No ☐
- Have you ever been arrested or convicted for the use or sale of drugs? Yes ☐ No ☐
- Have you ever been convicted of a criminal offence? Yes ☐ No ☐
- Do you have any pending criminal charges or convictions? Yes ☐ No ☐
- Have you ever been accused, arrested or convicted for any abuse related crime? Yes ☐ No ☐

Volunteer Transportation Network Driver's Application

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Have you ever been convicted of the following?

- A felony involving a vehicle? Yes ☐ No ☐
- Reckless driving while intoxicated or under the influence of...? Yes ☐ No ☐
- Driving without insurance? Yes ☐ No ☐
- In the last 5 years, have you ever been charged with two or more moving violations or "at fault" accidents? Yes ☐ No ☐

**If you have answered yes to any of the above questions, please explain on separate paper**

I understand the VTN Program will complete a minimum of two reference checks. I must complete a criminal record check through the Ministry of Justice. Submit an annual driver's abstract, a copy of my driver's licence and vehicle insurance at each renewal date. If the results are not satisfactory, I understand that I may be declined a position



with this program. I hereby declare that all of the above statements are true and correct to the best of my knowledge and I agree to become a volunteer for the VTN Program.

Volunteer Applicant \_\_\_\_\_

Signature

Print Name

After an interview has been conducted, you will be required to sign the VTN Position description and contract that outlines duties, expectations and support.

Thank you for considering the VTN Program, we appreciate your interest. Please send this completed application form by fax, mail or email to:

**Volunteer Transportation Network**  
**Box 185, Port McNeill, B.C, VON 2R0**  
**[mwts@pwtransit.ca](mailto:mwts@pwtransit.ca)**  
**Phone #250-956-3151/1-877-552-0341**

---

**Privacy:** The Volunteer Transportation Network will never provide your personal information to any third party without your prior written approval.



Dear:

Sayward Age Friendly was established in 2013. Since this time, the focus has been to create a friendly, comfortable and safe place for local seniors to socialize, participate in activities and attend workshops devoted to seniors.

Sayward is a budding retirement location 78 kilometres north of Campbell River, with 55% of the population over the age of 55. Life in a small community such as Sayward presents challenges for seniors. Feedback from our program participants indicates that lack of public transportation ranks highest on the list of challenges. Seniors find it difficult to attend medical appointments, carry out everyday shopping needs or attend local activities and cultural events due to this lack of transportation.

To address this foremost challenge, the Age Friendly Program has set a goal to purchase a van.

Sayward Age Friendly has received a grant of \$8000 from the Government of Canada however we must raise considerably more dollars to turn this transportation vision into reality.

We are offering citizens and the business community the opportunity to leave a legacy to the senior citizens of Sayward and to the Community as a whole. The Age Friendly Van will be highly visible and the perfect place for you to promote your business or leave a family legacy. A donation to the "Van Project" will offer the opportunity display your business name and logo or family name as Sponsors of quality of life for Seniors.

We have created the attached reward schedule. Please choose the category in your comfort level and be recognized for your legacy donation.

Your participation gives our aging population the ability to live more active, fulfilling lives; will help prevent isolation of seniors and will promote a socially inclusive community.

Thank-you in advance for your generosity and support of this important project.

Darlene Zapp  
Kelsey Centre Facility Manager  
652 H'Kusam Way, PO Box 182  
Sayward B.C.  
V0P 1R0

## **Sayward "Van Project" Legacy Program**

### **Platinum - \$501+**

- Your Business name and logo or family name on the back of the bus
- One year of business card ads in the Sayward News
- 1 feature story in the Sayward News
- Name displayed on the "Donation Wall of Fame" located at Kelsey Centre

### **Gold- \$251-\$500**

- Your family name or business name on a decal on the side of the van
- 6 months of business card ads in the Sayward News
- Name displayed on the "Donation Wall of Fame" located at Kelsey Centre
- A Plaque of Recognition

### **Silver- \$101 - \$250**

- Your family name or business name on the list of sponsors on the hood or front of the van
- 1 business card size ad in the Sayward News
- Name displayed on the "Donation Wall of Fame" located at Kelsey Centre
- A Plaque of Recognition

### **Bronze- up to \$100**

- Name displayed on the "Donation Wall of Fame" located at Kelsey Centre
- A Plaque of Recognition

Please remember.....

The VTN is not a low cost taxi service for anyone to use at any time.

We support our local private taxi providers and are not an alternative.

Clients must register before accessing the VTN Program

To register for the VTN Program, contact the VTN Coordinator at the Mount Waddington Transit office at 250-956-3151.



The VTN Program provides service in Port Hardy, Port McNeill, Fort Rupert, Coal Harbour, Woss, and Sointula. VTN driver training in Alert Bay is coming soon.

### VTN CONTACT INFORMATION

250-956-3151

E-mail – [mwts@pwtransit.ca](mailto:mwts@pwtransit.ca)

Volunteer Transportation Network

#23 – 1705 Campbell Way

Port McNeill, BC, V0N 2R0



## **Volunteer Transportation Network**

#23 – 1705 Campbell Way  
PO Box 185 Port McNeill, B.C. V0N 2R0  
Tel: (250) 956-3151  
E-mail - mwts@pwtransit.ca

### **Your Local Transportation Network**



**Serving the North Island community to community since 2007**

### **Volunteer Transportation Network**

The purpose of the VTN is to help enhance the quality of life, contribute to the whole health and greater independence for individuals and families as a part of the overall transit strategy for the North Island region.

The VTN Program a transportation option that is integrated with the HandyDART Program and the regional conventional transit system.

**VTN service is offered to eligible clients residing within the Regional District of Mount Waddington where there is no other alternative transportation option available.**

**VTN Clients must submit a trip request a minimum of 48 hours before the scheduled appointment.**

**If you are living with a mobility challenge, the VTN Program now has a wheelchair accessible bus available to eligible VTN clients.**



### **What can the VTN be used for?**

The VTN service provides eligible clients access to a variety of services

Examples of these are but not limited to:

- Medical and Dental appointments
- Access to Government or social service agencies
- Important provincial court proceedings
- Attend interviews, training and employment related appointments
- Enhance educational opportunities
- Attend prenatal or parental instruction classes
- Visits to relatives or friends in care facilities
- Become involved with community social and recreational facilities
- Access to the food bank, groceries, prescription pick up and other necessities.

### **Who can use the VTN and what is the cost?**

Once a client has registered with the VTN program either from a “referral source” or as an individual, clients can contact the office directly to request service subject to the following conditions.

- Clients must be a resident within the boundaries of the Mount Waddington Regional District on Vancouver Island
- Clients who do not have access to any alternative means of transportation including family members
- Clients who have a physical infirmity or disability, either permanent or temporary who are not able to drive or have no alternative transportation available.
- Clients who are referred to the VTN program from a “referral source.”

The VTN Program operates on a fee-for-service basis (donation) where either the referral source will donate for the trip or the client or family member will be asked to provide a donation.

The VTN program continues to seek ongoing donations from businesses, service clubs, and other funding sources to keep the service operating.

Please remember.....  
the VTN is not a low cost taxi service for anyone to use at  
any time.

We support our local private taxi providers and are not an alternative.

Clients must register before accessing the VTN Program

To register for the VTN Program, contact the Mount Waddington  
Transit office at 250-956-3151.  
VTN registration forms and volunteer driver application forms are  
available at the Mount Waddington Transit office.

The VTN Program provides service in Port Hardy, Port  
McNeill, Fort Rupert, Coal Harbour, Woss, Sointula. VTN  
driver training is coming to Port Alice & Alert Bay soon!

### VTN CONTACT INFORMATION

250-956-3151

Fax - 250-956-4484

E-mail – [mwts@pwtransit.ca](mailto:mwts@pwtransit.ca)

Volunteer Transportation Network  
23-1705 Campbell Way  
Port McNeill, BC, V0N 2R0



## Volunteer Transportation Network Drivers

375 Shelley Cres.  
PO Box 185 Port McNeill, B.C. V0N 2R0  
Tel: (250) 956-3151  
E-mail [mwts@pwtransit.ca](mailto:mwts@pwtransit.ca)



**Proudly serving the North Island, community to community, since 2007!**

### **Volunteer Transportation Network (VTN)**

The purpose of the VTN is to help enhance the quality of life and contribute to the whole health and greater independence for individuals and families as a part of the overall transit strategy for the North Island region.

The VTN Program is a transportation option that is integrated with the HandyDART Program and the regional conventional transit system.

**VTN service is offered to eligible clients residing within the Regional District of Mount Waddington where there is no other alternative transportation option available.**

**VTN drivers use their personal vehicles to transport clients but if you are living with a mobility challenge, the VTN program now has a wheelchair accessible lift van available to eligible VTN clients.**





### **Volunteer drivers**

The VTN program provides service to many North Island residents who do not drive or who are no longer physically able to drive. The VTN provides a door-to-door transportation service to and from a scheduled destination.

Becoming a volunteer driver provides an opportunity to give back to your community-  
become a part of the solution!

### **How can you become a VTN driver?**

- VTN drivers must complete the VTN driver application form.
- A current driver's abstract must be submitted with the driver's application form.
- A criminal record check will be required.
- Once the application, the driver's abstract and criminal record check is submitted, drivers are required to attend a VTN drivers workshop.

**In 2010, the VTN program received the Community Capacity Building Award from the Canadian Cancer Society!**

### **VTN Driver's Workshop**

New VTN drivers are required to attend the driver's workshop before transporting VTN clients.

A representative from the local RCMP Detachment and the BC Ambulance Service each facilitate a portion of the workshop.

The workshop allows new VTN drivers an opportunity to discuss the issues of driver liability, insurance requirements and the Good Samaritan Act. The workshop also provides new drivers with basic first aid knowledge.

The workshop includes driver training and operation of the wheel chair accessible lift van which is dispatched for VTN clients living with mobility challenges.

The workshop includes a small amount of paperwork that you will be required to track and submit on the VTN client trip sheets.

During the workshop new drivers will receive a visibility vest, and a small survival kit which also includes a basic first aid kit.

VTN trip sheets are submitted to the VTN Coordinator at the end of every month. Volunteer drivers receive a monthly **reimbursement**.



### Eligibility Guidelines for Volunteer Transportation Network

- a. Live within the boundaries of the North Island.
- b. Have no alternative transport available.
- c. Referred to the Program by an agency, doctor, family, friend, school principal.
- d. Able to provide appointment information (address, date and time).
- e. Capable of giving the driver clear directions to your appointment.
- f. Ready and available for pick up at accessible location.
- g. Willing to share a drive where scheduling permits.

#### Applicant Information (Please print clearly)

**STRICTLY**

#### CONFIDENTIAL

Last Name: \_\_\_\_\_ First: \_\_\_\_\_ Init: \_\_\_\_\_  
Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_ Gender \_\_\_\_\_  
(mm / dd / yyyy)  
Apt. /Unit #: \_\_\_\_\_ Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Intercom #: \_\_\_\_\_  
City: \_\_\_\_\_ Prov: \_\_\_\_\_ Postal Code: \_\_\_\_\_  
Is this a permanent resident? ☐ YES ☐ NO (explain)

Resident Location Description (apartment, difficult location, etc.)

Mailing address if different from above (Please provide)

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Fax: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell: \_\_\_\_\_

Email ..... Message: ..... Pager:

.....

Preferred communication:

#### Needed and Provided by VTN Client:

Accompany  
seats.

\*Must provide car

Assistance

Crutches

Walker

Wheelchair

Oxygen

Car Entrance Required:

Driver gender request:  
Funding Provided by Client:  
Funding Provided by Referring Agency:  
Any Medical conditions

---

**Signature of Client:**

**Date:**

I .....authorize **VT Network** to determine the eligibility for authorized transportation and, if needed, to consult the agency representative, medical specialist, or family doctor named below. I understand and agree that the decision of **Volunteer Transportation Network** shall be final.

**Signature of Client:**

**Date:**

**This section to be completed by the referring agency or person (*print clearly*)**

**Verification of Eligibility for Volunteer Transportation Network**

**Please Note:** Before completing this verification, refer to the eligibility guidelines.

Has the applicant use of any alternative transportation?

◆ **YES:** explain      ◆ **NO:**

Family Doctor:

Phone:

**This client needs person-to-person transfer**

Referred By: (agency or individual)

Position:

Contact Person:

Address:

City:

Postal Code:

Telephone:

Fax:

I \_\_\_\_\_ (*Contact Person*) hereby verify that the above named applicant meets the eligibility criteria to register for the **Volunteer Transportation Network**.

Signature

Date

Signature of **VT Network** Coordinator:

Date:

**Privacy:** We will never provide your personal information to any third party without your prior written approval.



Tahsis Seniors Volunteer Ride Service

**Volunteer Transportation Network Driver's Application**

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Last Name \_\_\_\_\_ First  
Name \_\_\_\_\_

Residential

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Box # \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth \_\_\_\_\_

Gender \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: (Home) \_\_\_\_\_ Cell# \_\_\_\_\_

Fax \_\_\_\_\_

Email

Address \_\_\_\_\_

—

Preferred method of communication: Home phone ☐ Cell ☐ Email ☐ Fax ☐

Driver's Licence # \_\_\_\_\_ Expiry \_\_\_\_\_ Plate number

\_\_\_\_\_

Licence Restrictions (if applicable)

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

How long have you been driving? years \_\_\_\_\_ months \_\_\_\_\_

Have you ever had your licence suspended, revoked or refused?

\_\_\_\_\_

If yes, please explain why

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Are you currently employed? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_ Full Time \_\_\_\_\_ Part  
Time \_\_\_\_\_

If employed, what is your occupation?

\_\_\_\_\_

Employer's Address:

\_\_\_\_\_

What type of work have you done in the past?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Volunteer Transportation Network Driver's Application Form

Page 2 of 5

**Please answer the following questions:**

Do you have any volunteer experience and if so, for which organizations?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Please provide the details of your volunteer experience.

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

What experience personal or professional have you had with seniors, youth or children?  
(i.e. caring for an elderly relative)

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

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It is known that people get involved with volunteer work for four basic reasons:

Social – to be with others	Emotional – to give to others
Intellectual – to learn more	Spiritual – to enhance & share with others

What lead you to consider applying to be a volunteer with this program?

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Do you feel comfortable working with and helping people of different ages, ethnic or cultural backgrounds? Please explain.

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What are your special hobbies, skills and/or interests?

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Volunteer Transportation Network Driver's Application Form  
Page 3 of 5

How did you hear of the Volunteer Transportation Network?

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What are your expectations of the Volunteer Transportation Network?

What expectations do you have of the Volunteer Transportation Network Coordinator?

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**Volunteer Driver Availability:**

Please check off the days you are available and provide times you would be available for volunteer work.

Day	Starting From	Until When
Monday <input type="checkbox"/>		
Tuesday <input type="checkbox"/>		
Wednesday <input type="checkbox"/>		
Thursday <input type="checkbox"/>		
Friday <input type="checkbox"/>		
Saturday <input type="checkbox"/>		
Sunday <input type="checkbox"/>		

Are you willing and available for last minute calls? Yes ☐ No ☐

**References:**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone/cell

---

Address

---

Relationship

---

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone/cell

---

Address

---

Relationship

---



Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone/cell  
\_\_\_\_\_

Address  
\_\_\_\_\_

Relationship  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Emergency Contact Person(s):**

Last Name: \_\_\_\_\_ First Name:  
\_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City  
\_\_\_\_\_

Province \_\_\_\_\_ Postal Code \_\_\_\_\_ Home Phone  
\_\_\_\_\_

Cell Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Work Phone  
\_\_\_\_\_

Relationship  
\_\_\_\_\_

Last Name: \_\_\_\_\_ First Name:  
\_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City  
\_\_\_\_\_

Province \_\_\_\_\_ Postal Code \_\_\_\_\_ Home Phone  
\_\_\_\_\_

Cell Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Work Phone  
\_\_\_\_\_

Relationship  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Confidential Information:**

Do you have any health related concerns of which you would like us to be aware of? Yes

☐ No ☐

**In order to provide a safe and secure environment for children and vulnerable people,  
we believe it is necessary to include the following questions as part of our application**

**process. The program will keep all information provided strictly confidential. (Police may access this information under warrant if requested) Answering yes to any of the questions may not preclude your involvement with this program. Thank you for your understanding.**

- Are there circumstances or traits in your lifestyle or background that would call into question your ability to work with children, youth or other vulnerable people? Yes ☐ No ☐
- Have you ever been arrested or convicted for the use or sale of drugs? Yes ☐ No ☐
- Have you ever been convicted of a criminal offence? Yes ☐ No ☐
- Do you have any pending criminal charges or convictions? Yes ☐ No ☐
- Have you ever been accused, arrested or convicted for any abuse related crime? Yes ☐ No ☐

Volunteer Transportation Network Driver's Application  
Page 5 of 5

Have you ever been convicted of the following?

- A felony involving a vehicle? Yes ☐ No ☐
- Reckless driving while intoxicated or under the influence of...? Yes ☐ No ☐
- Driving without insurance? Yes ☐ No ☐
- In the last 5 years, have you ever been charged with two or more moving violations or "at fault" accidents? Yes ☐ No ☐

**If you have answered yes to any of the above questions, please explain on separate paper**

I understand the VTN Program will complete a minimum of two reference checks. I must complete a criminal record check through the Ministry of Justice. Submit an annual driver's abstract, a copy of my driver's licence and vehicle insurance at each renewal date. If the results are not satisfactory, I understand that I may be declined a position with this program. I hereby declare that all of the above statements are true and correct to the best of my knowledge and I agree to become a volunteer for the VTN Program.

Volunteer Applicant \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

Print Name

After an interview has been conducted, you will be required to sign the VTN Position description and contract that outlines duties, expectations and support.

Thank you for considering the VTN Program, we appreciate your interest. Please send this completed application form by fax, mail or email to:

**johnra@shaw.ca or return to the recreation or seniors centre**

---

**Privacy:** The Volunteer Transportation Network will never provide your personal information to any third party without your prior written approval.



## Links

<a href="#">On-Demand Transit - RideCo</a>
<a href="#">community-gardens.ca - The Council (google.com)</a>
<a href="#">About RIDE WELL - Business - Wellington County</a>
<a href="#">Tahsis, BC   Official Home Page for Village of Tahsis</a>
<a href="#">Agriculture Economic Development program   Ontario.ca</a>
<a href="#">Rural and Smaller Communities Councillor Handbook - Google Docs</a>
<a href="https://docs.google.com/document/d/180ljdqd57UfnU6tzhwwmADDbWj2qdKCslDQkl92lldQ/edit#heading=h.3whfbd85geb5">https://docs.google.com/document/d/180ljdqd57UfnU6tzhwwmADDbWj2qdKCslDQkl92lldQ/edit#heading=h.3whfbd85geb5</a>
<a href="https://www.ubcm.ca/EN/main/resources/ubcm-fcm-small-communities-travel-fund.html">https://www.ubcm.ca/EN/main/resources/ubcm-fcm-small-communities-travel-fund.html</a>
<a href="#">HANDOUTS – Bank Of Ideas</a>
<a href="#">Climate Change - Wellington County</a>
<a href="#">Leadership Essentials Certificate   Courses - Continuing Studies - Simon Fraser University (sfu.ca)</a>
<a href="#">Leadership Essentials - Continuing Studies - Simon Fraser University (sfu.ca)</a>
<a href="#">1•10•Zero - A City Councillor's Climate Action Handbook - Google Docs</a>
<a href="#">Climate Caucus</a>
<a href="#">Wastewater from water treatment system used for wetlands, wildlife and community space   Federation of Canadian Municipalities (fcm.ca)</a>
<a href="#">Former industrial lands cleaned up and ready to bring about district revitalization   Federation of Canadian Municipalities (fcm.ca)</a>

<a href="#">Innovative municipal financing removes barriers to energy-efficiency upgrades for homeowners   Federation of Canadian Municipalities (fcm.ca)</a>
<a href="#">ARI's cardboard heating pellet project awarded \$95,000 federal grant - NNSL MEDIA</a>
<a href="#">100% Renewable Kootenays - EcoSociety</a>
<a href="#">Angela Francis: How to get everyone to care about a green economy   TED Talk</a>
<a href="#">Help Cities Lead</a>
<a href="#">Climate Caucus</a>
<a href="#">Community Efficiency Financing   Federation of Canadian Municipalities (fcm.ca)</a>
<a href="#">Canada's Net Zero Future   Canadian Institute for Climate Choices</a>
<a href="#">Canadian Environmental Law Association (CELA) Primer: Small Modular Nuclear Reactors (SMRs)</a>
<a href="#">Nuclear Power   Project Drawdown</a>
<a href="#">Case study: Building an electric vehicle charging network in the Kootenays, BC   Federation of Canadian Municipalities (fcm.ca)</a>
<a href="https://www.nootkasound.info/post/announcing-nootka-sound-watershed-society-intern-pskf-volunteer">https://www.nootkasound.info/post/announcing-nootka-sound-watershed-society-intern-pskf-volunteer</a>
other related to health & wealth
<a href="#">UBCM   Policy Documents and Resources</a>
<a href="#">Share Your Story — PERSIST (wepersist.ca)</a>

April 28, 2021

*Sent via email/PDF*

Mayor Martin Davis and Council  
Village of Tahsis  
977 South Maquinna Drive  
Tahsis, BC, V0P 1X0

**RE: 2020 CEPF: Emergency Support Services – ESS Modernization Project**

Dear Mayor Davis and Council,

Thank you for providing a final report and financial summary for the above noted project. We have reviewed your submission and all reporting requirements have been met.

The final report notes a total eligible expenditure of \$19,416.39. Based on this, a payment in the amount of \$15,641.00 will follow shortly by electronic funds transfer. This transfer represents full payment of the grant and is based on 100% of the total reported expenditure to a maximum of the approved grant (\$15,641.00).

I would like to congratulate the Village of Tahsis for undertaking this project and responding to the opportunity to develop ESS capacity to increase the resiliency of BC communities.

If you have any questions, please contact Local Government Program Services at (250) 387-4470 or by email at [cepf@ubcm.ca](mailto:cepf@ubcm.ca).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rebecca Bishop", is written over a light blue circular background.

Rebecca Bishop  
CEPF Program Officer

cc: Mark Tatchell, Chief Administrative Officer

*The Emergency Support Services stream is funded by the Province of BC*

# A NEW FUTURE FOR OLD FORESTS

A Strategic Review of How  
British Columbia Manages  
for Old Forests Within its  
Ancient Ecosystems

## OUTCOMES

Healthy  
EcosystemsEffective  
ManagementPublic  
Support

## PRODUCTS

Compliance  
with existing  
targets &  
guidelinesIntegrated  
provincial-local  
goals &  
prioritiesInnovative  
silviculture  
systemsInclusive  
stable  
governanceUpdated  
targets &  
guidelinesUpdated  
classification  
& inventoryProtected,  
Converted &  
Consistent  
zoningImproved  
public  
informationIndigenous  
involvementAddress  
immediate  
threatsMonitoring,  
evaluation &  
updatesTransition  
planningTransition  
support**Over-Arching Ecosystem Health Legislation**Provincial Policy on Old  
Forest & Implementation Plan

Public Engagement

**BC-Indigenous G2G Relationship**

## CORE DRIVERS

GUIDING  
PRINCIPLESFocus on  
ecosystem  
healthUse  
scientific  
methodsInvolve  
the publicMaintain  
local  
flexibilityFoster a  
paradigm  
shiftManage  
for multiple  
benefits



April 30, 2020

Honourable Doug Donaldson  
Minister of Forests, Lands,  
Natural Resource Operations  
and Rural Development  
Room 248 Parliament Buildings  
Victoria, BC V8V 1X4

Dear Minister,

We are pleased to submit this report detailing the results of our independent strategic review of old growth forest management in British Columbia. We have been honoured to co-chair this work, and to have had the opportunity to engage with and hear from British Columbians directly about how they value old forests, and how they believe they should be managed.

In addition to scientific studies and data, people shared their personal observations, perspectives, and ideas about what needs to be done. In many cases, their information and ideas were about broader land use policies, or sometimes they focused on how to manage a specific plot of land. We particularly appreciated the constructive approach taken by nearly every participant in the dialogue, and the common sentiment that we need to find better ways to manage old forests for a broad spectrum of benefits and reasons.

Our recommendations are shaped by a recognition that society is undergoing a paradigm shift in its relationship with the environment, and the way we manage our old forests needs to adapt accordingly. In the government's upcoming deliberations about how to implement our recommendations, we encourage you to engage with Indigenous leaders and organizations from the outset, and to involve local communities and stakeholders throughout the process.

We also encourage you to consider our recommendations as a whole. Had previous old forest strategies and recommendations been fully implemented, we would likely not be facing the challenges around old growth to the extent we are today, i.e., high risk to loss of biodiversity in many ecosystems, risk to potential economic benefits due to uncertainty and conflict, and widespread lack of confidence in the system of managing forests.

We would finally like to thank you and your government for putting your trust in us to carry out this review. We have done our best to capture the passion and many good suggestions that were provided in the hopes that the results of our deliberations will help you as your government determines the future management of old forests in British Columbia.



**Al Gorley, RPF**  
*Co-Chair*



**Garry Merkel, RPF**  
*Co-Chair*





Ponderosa pine  
Photo by Deb MacKillop



## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Many people care about appropriately conserving and managing British Columbia's old forest ecosystems. We spoke directly with nearly 800 people and heard from thousands more through our survey, written submissions and emails. We thank everyone for sharing their knowledge and opinions. Viewpoints were often expressed with passion and a sincere interest in old forests and land stewardship. In addition to scientific studies and data, people shared their personal observations, perspectives, and ideas about what needs to be done. In many cases, the information and good ideas we received were about broader land use policies, or sometimes they focused on how to manage a specific plot of land. We particularly appreciated the constructive approach taken by nearly every participant in the dialogue, and the common sentiment that we need to find better ways to manage old forests for a broad spectrum of benefits and reasons.

The written input we received has been provided to the provincial government, with the survey results, a specially commissioned technical report, and a summary of the written submissions is also provided in a What We Heard report. Please note that original versions of the written submissions we received are available on the Province's [Old Growth Strategic Review](#) website. This report does not cite every comment or idea we received, but we have attempted to bring together the essence of what we learned in our recommendations and implementation suggestions.

As many of you reminded us, it is important to recognize that old forests are more than old or big trees. They are a product of ancient and unique ecosystems, and their characteristics vary greatly across the province. They can only be effectively managed in the context of broader public priorities, including the interests of current and future generations.

We would also like to thank the people who directly supported our work on this endeavour:

- Project management: Steve Kachanoski (BC Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development)
- Logistics and record keeping: Sacha Chin and Trevor Pancoust (Pace Group Communications)
- Report preparation and editing: Greg Descantes (Pace Group Communications)
- Report graphic design: Myron Advertising + Design
- Survey design and results: Elevate Consulting



Al Gorley and Garry Merkel

Photo by Sacha Chin

## FOREWORD

Almost three decades ago, over a hundred people from various walks of life, including government, worked for 18 months to find consensus on *An Old Growth Strategy for British Columbia* (B.C. Ministry of Forests, May 1992): In that report the development team said:

*“Members of the public, public interest groups, professional resource managers and representatives of industry have expressed increasing concern about management of old growth forests in British Columbia. Not only does the forest industry depend heavily on old growth for its current wood supply, but many new demands are being placed on the remaining old growth to satisfy a broad range of forest values. **In parts of the province, meanwhile, opportunities to reserve representative samples of old growth are dwindling rapidly** (emphasis added). These pressures are leading to increased instances of conflict among supporters of competing land uses.”*

Although many subsequent measures were taken under the auspices of land-use planning and the forest practices code (some of which carried forward to the current legislation), many critical aspects of the strategy laid out in that report were either discarded or only partly implemented. Had that strategy been fully implemented, we would likely not be facing the challenges around old growth to the extent we are today:

- High risk to loss of biodiversity in many ecosystems.
- Risk to potential economic benefits due to uncertainty and conflict.
- Widespread lack of confidence in the system of managing forests.

While some of the immediate old forest issues we face can be addressed within the existing policy framework, continuing to apply the approaches that brought us to this point will not provide a sustainable solution. Our underlying assumption is that the government feels it is in the public interest to conserve long-term ecosystem health by maintaining forest biodiversity, so this priority will therefore be the foundational goal of any new strategy. We also assume that a new strategy and supporting policies and programs will be developed through dialogue with Indigenous governments, communities, and stakeholders in a manner that reflects the ecological, historical, and socio-economic uniqueness of each region.

Many of the people we heard from during our engagement process expressed optimism for a positive change to managing old forests, however we also heard a considerable amount of skepticism. We frequently heard about examples where current and past governments were perceived as having not followed through on initiatives or recommendations, including: full implementation of the previous Old Growth Strategy (1992); monitoring and updating land-use plans; reviewing, monitoring and updating biodiversity guidance; and implementing the [recommendations](#) of the Forest Practices Board (2012) on old growth management, and the Auditor General’s (2013) [report](#) on biodiversity, to name just a few.

Therefore, we have suggested that if the government accepts our recommendations, it develop a formal implementation plan to accompany its public response. We advise that this be developed in collaboration with Indigenous governments, and in consultation with many others. We hope this approach provides an avenue to simultaneously build good policy and practices, a stable timber industry as well as public trust.

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## DEFINITIONS

**Aspatial** – Used to describe targets set for the amount of old forest to be retained within a management area as a whole, but not at a specifically define location.

**Biodiversity Conservation** – To maintain ecosystem, species and genetic diversity, and the processes that shape them, in the face of human development.

**Climax condition or climax vegetation communities** – A forest community of plants, animals, and fungi which, through the process of ecological succession in an area over time, have reached a state where they are subject to very little overall change.

**Forest Stewardship Plan** – A plan which guides forest operations for a timber tenure required under the *Forest and Range Practices Act* which is prepared by a forest licensee and approved by government.

**Land Use Plans** – Plans sanctioned by the provincial government, including those arising from the Commission of Resources and the Environment (CORE), Land and Resource Management Plans (LRMPs), and those developed through government-to-government processes such as for the Great Bear Rainforest and Haida Gwaii.

**Legal / Non-legal OGMA** – Individual Old Growth Management Areas that are either legally established or are not legally established but still identified in the planning process.

**Natural range of variability** – Describes the disturbance processes and ecosystem variability that these disturbances create, typically defined by the period before European settlement.

**Old growth** – A generic term to describe forests with old trees. In British Columbia, for management purposes, this is usually described according to the age of the trees (usually 250+ years on the coast and 140+ years in the interior).

**Primary forest** – Forests of native tree species, where there are no clearly visible indications of human activities and the ecological processes are not significantly disturbed.

**Second growth forest** – Forests regenerated on native forests that were cleared by natural or human causes.

**Seral stage** - An intermediate stage found in ecological succession in an ecosystem advancing towards its climax community. In many cases more than one seral stage evolves until climax conditions are attained.

**Site Index** – An indicator of site productivity described by the height that a stand of trees reach in a given time, e.g.,  $SI_{50}$  means the height at 50 years.

**Site series** – A finer stratification of a biogeoclimatic sub-zone based on soil moisture and nutrients.

**Spatial vs Aspatial** – OGMAs that are identified spatially on maps (spatial) or are tracked in overall statistics but not specifically identified on a map (aspatial).

## ACRONYMS

**AAC** – Allowable Annual Cut: The number of cubic meters that are allowed for harvest each year in a given area.

**BEC** – Biogeoclimatic Ecological Classification: A system of classification that categorizes the landscape into zones, each with its own with unique biological, geological and climatic properties.

**CORE** – [Commission on Resources and Environment](#): A government-appointed commission that was in place from 1992-1996 and lead a variety of land initiatives including various regional land use plans.

**ENGO** – Environmental Non-Government Organization

**FRPA** – Forest and Range Practises Act: Legislation (2002) that regulates forest practises in British Columbia.

**FSP** – Forest Stewardship Plan

**LRMP** – Land and Resource Management Plan: A local land use plan that engages a number of local stakeholders in the preparation and ongoing monitoring and updates to that plan.

**NGO** – Non-Government Organization

**NRV** – Natural Range of Variability

**OGMA** – Old Growth Management Area: An area that is set aside and specially managed for old forest values.

**LU** – Landscape Unit: The base area for operational forest planning.

**LUP** – Land Use Plan

**SI** – Site Index

**THLB** – Timber Harvesting Land Base: The area that is operationally feasible to be accessed for timber harvesting.

**TSA** – Timber Supply Area: An administrative area that is used to set the AAC.

**TSR** – Timber Supply Review: The process for establishing the AAC in a TSA.

**VQO** – Visual Quality Objective: A mechanism for protecting the visual quality of a forested landscape.



## TERMS OF REFERENCE AND PROCESS

On July 17, 2019, the Government of British Columbia announced that we, Al Gorley and Garry Merkel, would be appointed as an independent panel to undertake a province-wide [Old Growth Strategic Review](#) and provide a report to the Minister of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development by April 30, 2020. The purpose is to inform the development of broad public policy regarding old growth forests. The government committed to releasing the report to the public within six months of us submitting it.

In British Columbia, the term “old growth” is officially defined by the age of trees in a forest using specific thresholds (often over 250 years on the coast and 140 years in the Interior). However, we did not limit ourselves to that timber-based definition because it would not have adequately captured the many values, interests and circumstances surrounding conservation and management of old forests.

We were asked to examine the subject from a variety of perspectives, including employment, economic, social, cultural, environmental and climate change, and to consider the interplay between them. To ensure we were aware of these perspectives, we undertook a four-month process of engagement which was substantially completed on January 31, 2020. We did not characterize our outreach as “consultation” because that will be the job of government after it receives our recommendations. Our aim was to learn as much as we could from a wide spectrum of people throughout the province so that we could hopefully make as fulsome a set of recommendations as possible. We also wanted to make sure every British Columbian had an opportunity to express their views.

Without limiting who we heard from, our commitment was to ensure we connected with:

- Indigenous governments and communities
- Local governments and communities
- The forest industry
- The tourism and recreation industries
- Environmental non-government organizations
- Professional associations
- Professionals, academics, and other experts
- Forest and resource stewardship organizations
- Stakeholder groups
- Members of the public

Engagement Techniques	
<b>In-person, teleconference, and videoconference</b>	We participated in over 200 meetings in 45 communities with close to 800 people. To ensure we received input from a wide variety of perspectives, we reached out directly to some groups and individuals, and through our Province of BC website invited everyone interested to request a meeting. Due to the time available, we were unable to accommodate all meeting requests. We kept informal notes of these meetings to help us write this report, but they will not be published. A list of in-person meeting locations can be found in our <i>What We Heard</i> report.
<b>Written submissions</b>	We invited individuals and organizations to make formal written submissions. We received more than 300 submissions along with more than 400 published articles, scientific papers, and reports. With a few exceptions where confidentiality was requested, we have asked that these submissions be accessible on the government's website. A synopsis of the written submissions is available in our <i>What We Heard</i> report.
<b>Survey responses and emails</b>	We encouraged people to complete our on-line survey, which was open for just over three months, or to send us an email. We received 18,523 survey responses, and approximately 9,000 emails to our electronic mailbox. The results of the survey are summarized and available with this report. The original submissions are also available on the government's website.
<b>Technical and scientific briefings</b>	<p>We received an initial technical briefing from a group of over 30 government staff to ensure we were informed about the status of current forest management processes and initiatives relevant to our task. Several follow-up briefings were also held to address specific information requirements.</p> <p>We also commissioned a report from the Department of Forest Resources Management at the University of British Columbia to tell us how other jurisdictions manage old forests and what we can learn from them. That document is available in the <i>What We Heard</i> report.</p>

The variety and number of contributors exceeded our expectations. We heard from and met with elementary school children, high-school and college students, leading researchers, small and large business from all areas of the timber and non-timber forest sector, practising and retired professionals, elders, parents and grandparents, forest and service sector workers, environmental advocates, self-described average citizens, government employees, and political leaders to name a few. Many people talked about the broader system for managing old forests, whereas others offered up specific local examples to explain their point of view.



# Executive Summary



Old forests, especially those with very large trees, are the product of ancient ecosystems, icons of British Columbia's landscape, and a key aspect of the province's unique identity. In addition to their intrinsic value, the timber they provide is important to the provincial economy, and a primary source of income in many communities. These same forests anchor ecosystems that are critical to the wellbeing of many species of plants and animals, including people, now and in the future. The conditions that exist in many of these forests and ecosystems are also simply non-renewable in any reasonable time frame.

Facing diminishing available timber supplies, ecosystems at risk of biodiversity loss in several areas, and significant public concern, the Government of British Columbia announced that an independent panel (Al Gorley and Garry Merkel) would carry out a province-wide Old Growth Strategic Review to inform the development of new management policies and strategies.

In order to understand the range of perspectives (employment, economic, social, cultural, environmental, climate change and more) and consider the interplay between them, we undertook a four-month engagement process to hear from as wide a spectrum of people and organizations as possible throughout BC. This was achieved through a combination of meetings, written submissions, and an online survey. The review looked beyond the timber-based definition of "old growth" so we could adequately capture the many values, interests and circumstances surrounding the conservation and management of old forests. This is one of three reports, and contains a situation overview, our recommendations, and implementation advice. There are two companion documents: *A New Future for Old Forests: Summary Report and Old Growth Strategic Review: What We Heard*. All three reports and the written submissions we received are posted on the Province's [Old Growth Strategic Review website](#).

Our strategic review of the management of old forests led us to conclude that despite the good intentions and efforts of many people, including government personnel associated with forest management development and implementation, the overall system of forest management has not supported the effective implementation or achievement of the stated and legislated public objectives for old forests. This has not come about because of any one group or decision, but through a pattern of many choices made over several decades, within an outdated paradigm.

While our report cannot possibly reflect the full breadth and depth of the information provided to us, our key observations are:

1. Ecosystems with large, old trees are important to British Columbians for many different reasons.
2. Retaining and managing forests of old trees is a key strategy for maintaining biological diversity and cannot be done in isolation.
3. The extent and condition of ecosystems with old trees, relative to natural condition, is highly variable across the province.
4. The economy is heavily dependent on trees harvested from primary forests of old trees.
5. The current system for retaining old forest and managing their attributes has issues arising from incomplete implementation of previous strategies, social trade-offs and a changing landscape.
6. There are opportunities to create greater certainty for forest-dependent communities by formally zoning timber harvesting areas; generating more sustainable and longer-term non-timber economic benefits from old forests; and developing innovative silviculture systems.
7. Climate change will become an increasingly bigger factor in choices about forest management.
8. Information around the types, condition and current status of old forests and information provided to the public about old forests is highly variable across the province.
9. There is widespread support for the provincial government and Indigenous governments to collaboratively create updated strategies and policies for the management of old forests.

There is a near-unanimous agreement that managing the health of old ecosystems, especially those with old trees provides many benefits. We believe the fundamentals to success for the Province's forest management system are ecosystem health, effective forest management and public support. Our review identified weaknesses in each of these areas. To adequately manage and protect BC's old forest biodiversity, attributes, values and benefits for future generations, these weaknesses will have to be addressed. Our recommendations are shaped by that understanding, and the recognition that society is undergoing a paradigm shift in its relationship and interaction with the environment, and the way we manage our old forests needs to adapt accordingly.

## Recommendations

### On conditions required for change:

1. Engage the full involvement of Indigenous leaders and organizations to review this report and any subsequent policy or strategy development and implementation.
2. Declare conservation of ecosystem health and biodiversity of British Columbia's forests as an overarching priority and enact legislation that legally establishes this priority for all sectors.
3. Adopt a three-zone forest management framework to guide forest planning and decision-making.
4. Adopt a more inclusive and stable governance model that gives local communities and stakeholders a greater role in forest management decisions that affect them.
5. Provide the public with timely and objective information about forest conditions and trends.

### For immediate response:

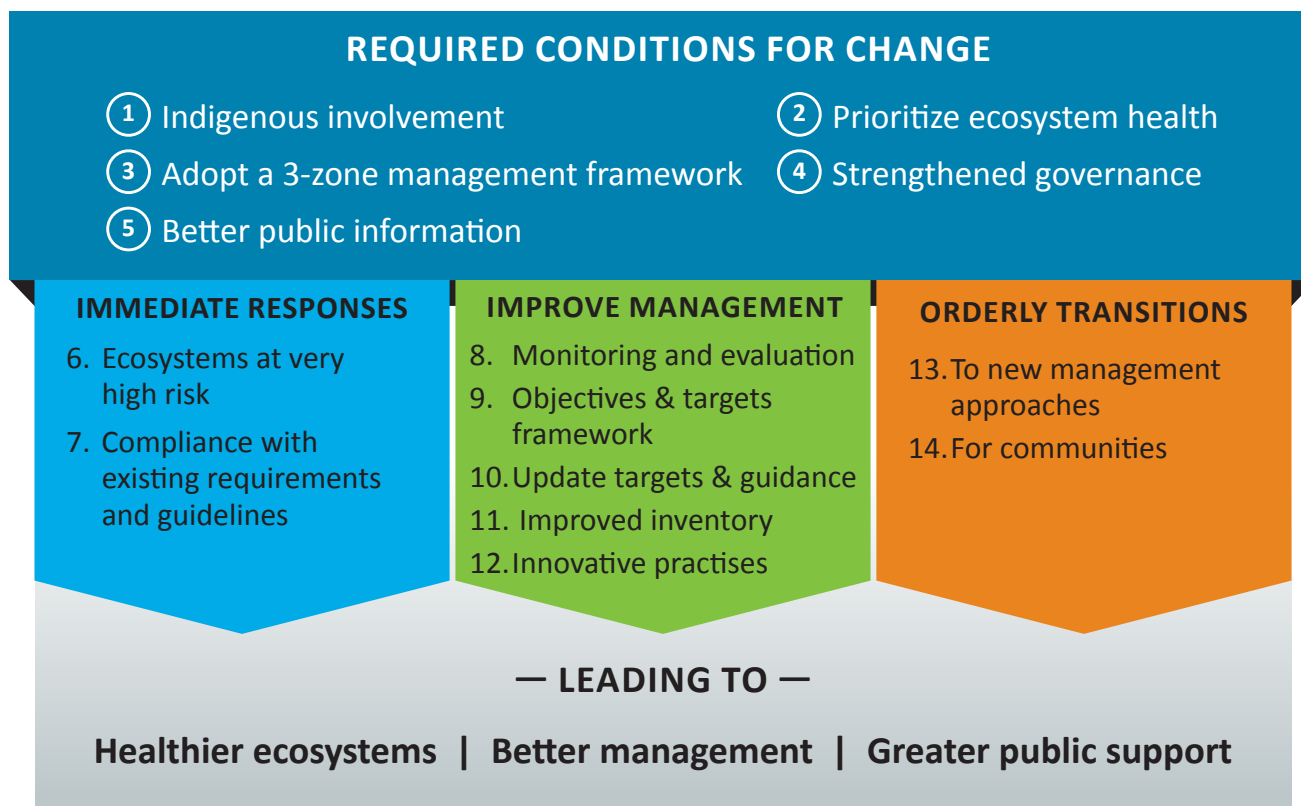
6. Until a new strategy is implemented, defer development in old forests where ecosystems are at very high and near-term risk of irreversible biodiversity loss.
7. Bring management of old forests into compliance with existing provincial targets and guidelines for maintaining biological diversity.

### For improving management:

8. Establish and fund a more robust monitoring and evaluation system for updating management of old forests.
9. Establish a standardized system and guidance that integrates provincial goals and priorities to local objectives and targets.
10. Update the targets for retention and management of old and ancient forest.
11. Improve the mapping and classification of old forests to recognize multiple values.
12. Create a silviculture innovation program aimed at developing harvesting alternatives to clearcutting that maintain old forest values.

## For orderly transitions:

13. Once developed, implement the new policies and strategies for for the management of old forests through mandatory provincial and local transition plans that define, schedule and monitor the process.
14. Support forest sector workers and communities as they adapt to changes resulting from a new forest management system.





# Introduction



## INTRODUCTION

Old forests, especially those with very large trees, are the product of ancient ecosystems, an icon of British Columbia's landscape, and a key aspect of the province's unique identity. In addition to their intrinsic value, the timber they provide is an economic mainstay, and was once the province's main economic driver. The same forests anchor ecosystems that are critical to the wellbeing of many species of plants and animals, including people, now and in the future.

In recent years, the government has been under pressure to protect old forests from degradation by industrial development. At the same time, there is pressure to maintain viable resource industries at a scale that can compete in global markets. This has led to increasing tension and uncertainty about what will happen to both the forest and the industry. There have been large-scale public demonstrations demanding an end to logging "old growth" and others demanding the government protect jobs by protecting "the working forest" in the face of diminishing timber supplies. The challenge for government is further complicated by the tremendous diversity of the province. Not only are forest types different, but the history of development and economic dependence of communities on forestry varies vastly from one part of the province to another.

The purpose of this report is to inform the development of provincial policies and strategies regarding old forests. In British Columbia the term "old growth" is officially defined by the age of trees in a forest using specific thresholds (often over 250 years on the coast and 140 years in the interior). However, we have not limited ourselves to that definition because it would not have adequately captured the many values, interests and circumstances surrounding the conservation and management of old forests.

It is important to acknowledge that old forests do not exist in a vacuum. Effective management of old forests can only be properly addressed in the context of their role within the larger ecosystem, and as one component of the larger management system. While our review focussed on how we manage old forests, a significant number of people we heard from during our engagement process told us they have lost confidence in our broader forest management system. Many communities expressed strong concerns about the negative effects of current practices on their forests, ecosystems, water supplies, community safety and other forest-related businesses with little benefit in return. Others told us they are very frustrated because they think that too much harvestable timber is being set aside or made cost-prohibitive, leading to the loss of jobs and essential revenue to the community. Recognizing all these concerns, we feel that orientation of the broader forest management policy, as well as some specific interdependent components, also need to be addressed and we have identified them accordingly.

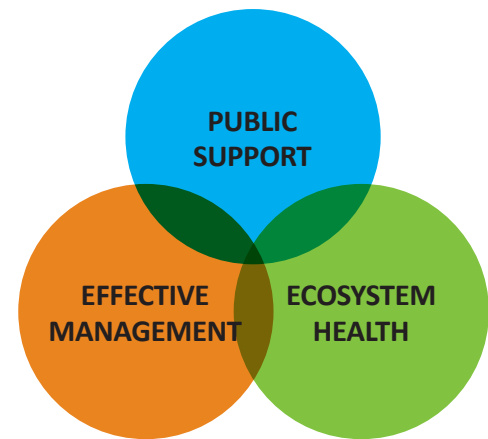
We received many submissions that identified threats to old forests and their values, and a sense of urgency was often expressed. We also received a number of submissions telling us that old forests are well managed and should be left to the professionals. While some of this is likely the result of different perspectives, interests and beliefs, it also depends a lot on location and scale. One notable observation is that very few groups or individuals fully trusted the information they see on forest management and the state of old forests, regardless of the source.

The panel believes that the fundamentals of success for the Province's forest management system are ecosystem health, effective forest management and public support. Not effectively addressing any one of these elements creates an almost certain risk of failure.



“If we take care of the land  
— the land will take care of us!”

A comment made to the Panel many times  
throughout the engagement process



**Ecosystem Health:** Ecosystems provide a multitude of services essential to the health of all living things, including humans. Ecosystems are very complex and have many individual components which all have some interdependence at a local or landscape level. We will never fully understand ecosystems or how much they can be put under stress before they collapse. Science gives us some direction, but we need to continually improve our understanding and translate that understanding into practise while leaving room for error in the face of uncertainty.

**Effective Management:** An effective management system has clear and transparent publicly driven goals and objectives; programs and methods designed to achieve them; resources, authority, and management controls necessary to implement them; and monitoring of efficiency and effectiveness to adapt and improve over time.

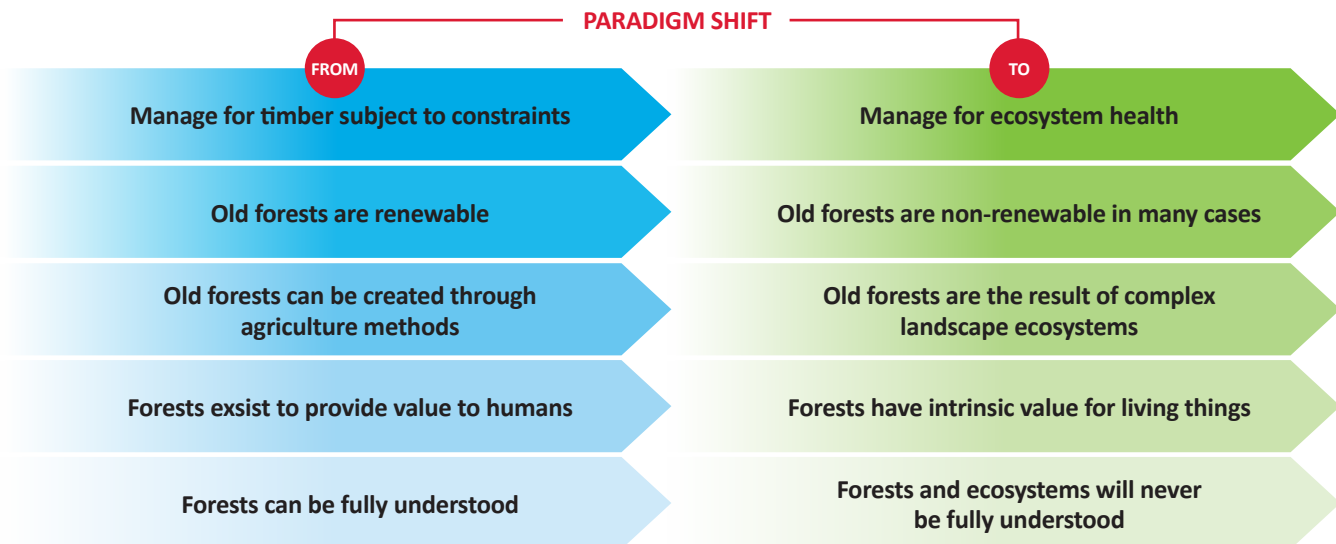
**Public Support:** We believe that deep and meaningful public engagement and a highly informed public are important factors in gaining public support and associated forest management stability. The confidence and trust of the general public is the biggest determinant in how much freedom government and industry have to manage our forests. If the public feels that the system is not looking after their interests, the predictable response is increased mistrust and opposition to many activities carried out by that system, demands for increased participation and control over decision-making, along with large swings in support for political parties. These reactions are intensified when communities feel that values and conditions important to their survival are threatened — a theme that we heard from a wide range of individuals and groups.



These fundamental requirements for success underly our conclusions and recommendations.

Many of the recommendations in this report are also shaped by our recognition that society is undergoing a paradigm shift, and public policy related to forest management will need to adapt accordingly:

1. BC's Indigenous communities will be key players as one of the most important participants in our future forest management system.
2. Moving to an effective management system for old forests will require a shift in its underlying assumptions. Many other countries are experiencing a similar shift, some proactively and some reactively, largely because of public pressure. Some aspects of this new paradigm are illustrated in the adjacent diagram.
3. There is no one-size-fits-all solution. A new system can establish updated standards, but the application of those standards will need to vary throughout the province depending on ecosystem type, existing and potential ecosystem impacts, local socio-economic conditions and other factors.
4. The full suite of proven scientific methods, e.g., reliable vetted information, targeted research, adaptive management, monitoring and effective technology transfer (research to practise), are essential foundational elements. Properly incorporated, these elements provide a known, reliable, and replicable foundations upon which to build.





# Situation Description

Beetle killed Interior pine forest.  
Photo by Will MacKenzie



## SITUATION DESCRIPTION

This section describes several of the major factors affecting management of old forests in British Columbia, as we have come to understand them. What we have written here cannot possibly reflect the full breadth and depth of the information provided to us, but we have attempted to capture the highlights. Additional detail can be found in our companion [What We Heard](#) document, and in the many written submissions and technical papers posted on the project [website](#). We encourage individuals desiring a more complete understanding of the situation to access that material.

### One of several interrelated government initiatives.

In undertaking this review, we quickly became aware of several other government initiatives that are in various stages of completion (See figure below). Many of these touch on some of the same general issues as our review, i.e., How do we create more effective systems to manage forest lands throughout the province, and how do we manage the social, economic and environmental transition to these new systems of land management? We attempted to gain a general familiarity with these and other related ongoing initiatives so as to avoid creating unnecessary confusion or inadvertently getting at cross purposes.

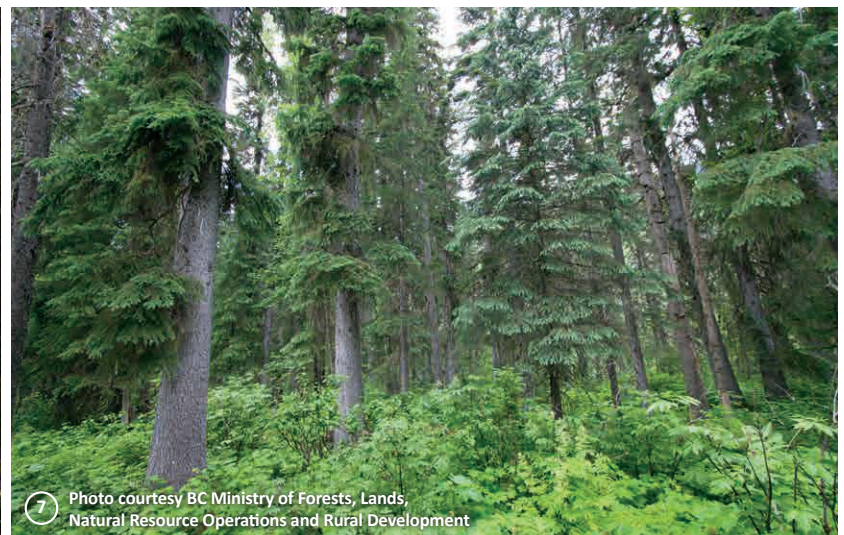


### “Old growth” means many things.

The definitions used for forest inventories and planning are based on the age of the dominant trees in a forest ecosystem (often over 250 years on the coast and 140 years in the Interior). However, those definitions were of little relevance to most people outside the forestry sector, and often seen as too narrow by those within it.



In many ways, old growth is in the eye of the beholder. If we mean old forest, then we need to recognize that nearly all of British Columbia's forests (and a host of species and ecosystems services) have evolved within ecosystems that have been developing since glaciation, around 10,000 years ago, and although the trees die and regrow, most areas have continuously been occupied by forest. In other parts of the world, these would be called "ancient forests" regardless of the age of the trees. If we are talking simply about old trees, then a sub-alpine forest comprised of 200-year-old, 20-meter-tall hemlock or balsam is every bit as much old-growth as the giant spruce, cedar, and fir on coastal lowlands. The photos below illustrate a few types of old forests in British Columbia.



1. Southern Interior Ponderosa Pine  
2. Interior Lodgepole Pine

3. Mountain Hemlock  
4. Southern Interior Cottonwood

5. Northern White Spruce bog  
6. Coastal mixed age and species

7. Interior Engelmann Spruce,  
Sub-Alpine Fir



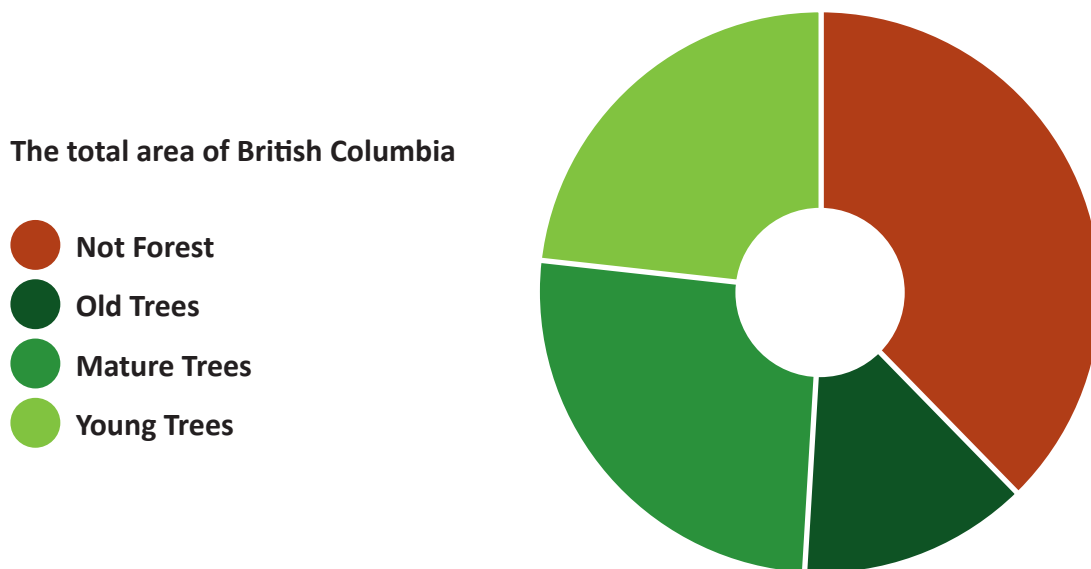
strategy for managing the risk to biological diversity from industrial development, particularly logging.

Although scientists and professionals have developed working definitions for old growth, often based on the relative age of the dominant tree species, or sometimes on physical characteristics and ecological function, no single approach has been universally applicable. For example, according to An Old Growth Strategy for British Columbia (B.C. Ministry of Forests, May 1992): “*Old growth forests are natural stands of old and young trees and their associated plants, animals, and ecological relationships which have remained essentially undisturbed by human activities*”. The authors of that strategy recognized their definition required considerable refinement to reflect the diversity of the province’s forests, a notion repeated by others in subsequent years. The issue may be best described by an article in the *Journal of Forestry* (2004), which said: “*An ecological understanding of old growth requires a multi-scale perspective, ranging from individual trees to regions. A consensus on a single general ecological definition of old growth will never be reached, but that should not preclude the development of specific definitions need by managers.*”

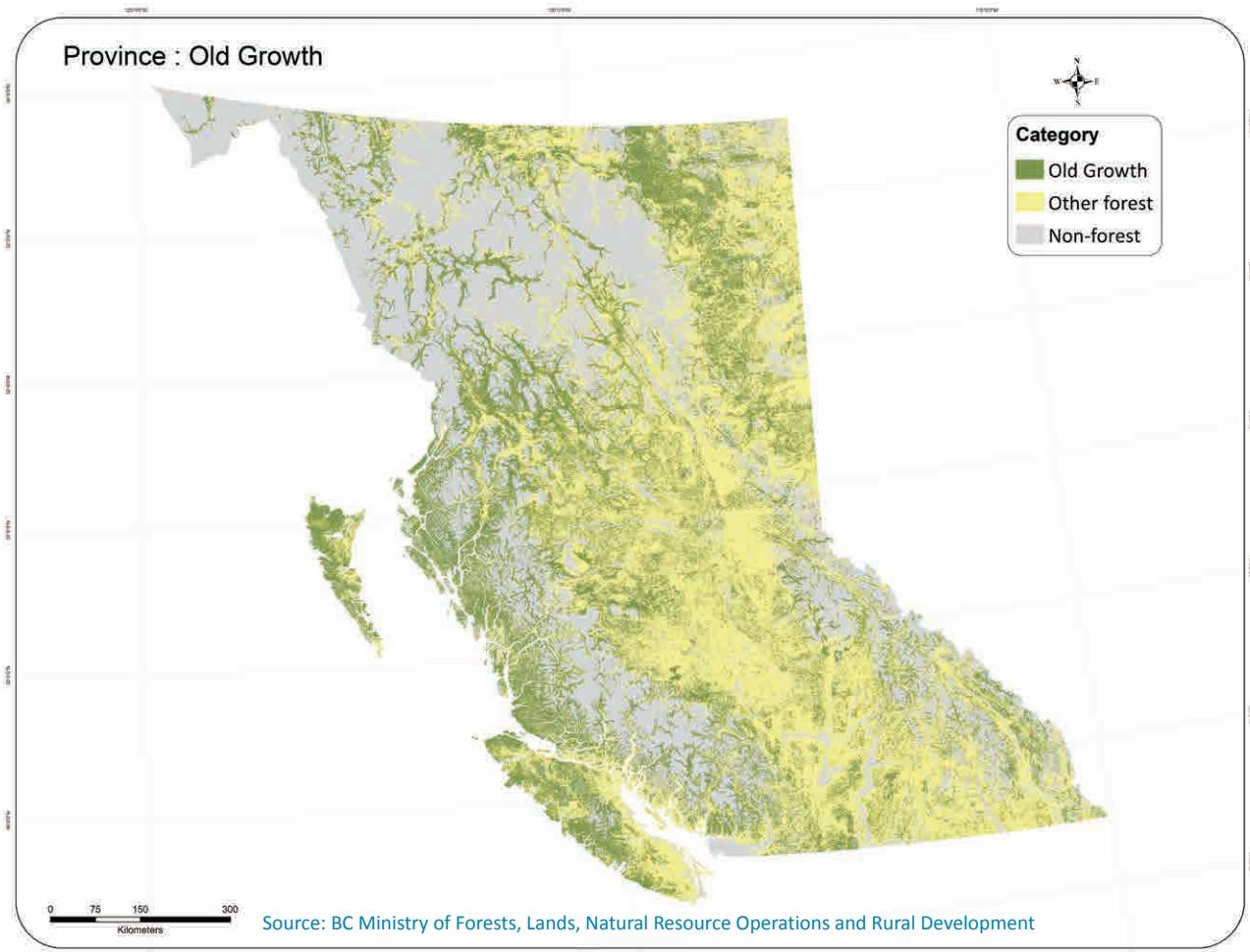
We heard from significant numbers of people who think of old growth as: exceptionally large trees worthy of travelling some distance to see; old or large trees near their home or school; accessible areas where they can enjoy a forest that doesn’t have obvious evidence of human disturbance; forests that feel old; areas of mostly older dead and dying trees; and forests with big trees that can be made into high-value products. Others didn’t differentiate by age or other characteristics specifically but were more interested in the ecosystem services mature forests provide, especially in relation to climate change, hydrology, and wildlife habitat. Many also made some reference to the value of old growth to conserving biological diversity. A common description was that it is original forest in its natural state, not altered by human activity. In our view, none of them are wrong. Through our recommendations we encourage more clarity in classifying and communicating about old forests, by being more specific about the management objectives and desirable attributes for a particular area of forest.

### The amount of forest with old trees.

The total area of British Columbia is nearly 95 million hectares, of which 60% is forest. Based on the government’s forest inventory definitions, about 23%, or 13.2 million hectares is “old growth”.



Forests with “mature” trees, but not classified as old growth constitute another 46% or 26 million hectares. Except at a very broad scale, the overall provincial statistics are of only limited value because there are vast differences in the amount and character of forest ecosystems with old trees across regions and on individual landscapes (naturally and because of human disturbance). And since the province is so biologically, ecologically and climatically diverse, with many different ecological zones, this means the distribution and representation of various types of forest is very uneven. The map below provides an overview of where old trees exist in the province.



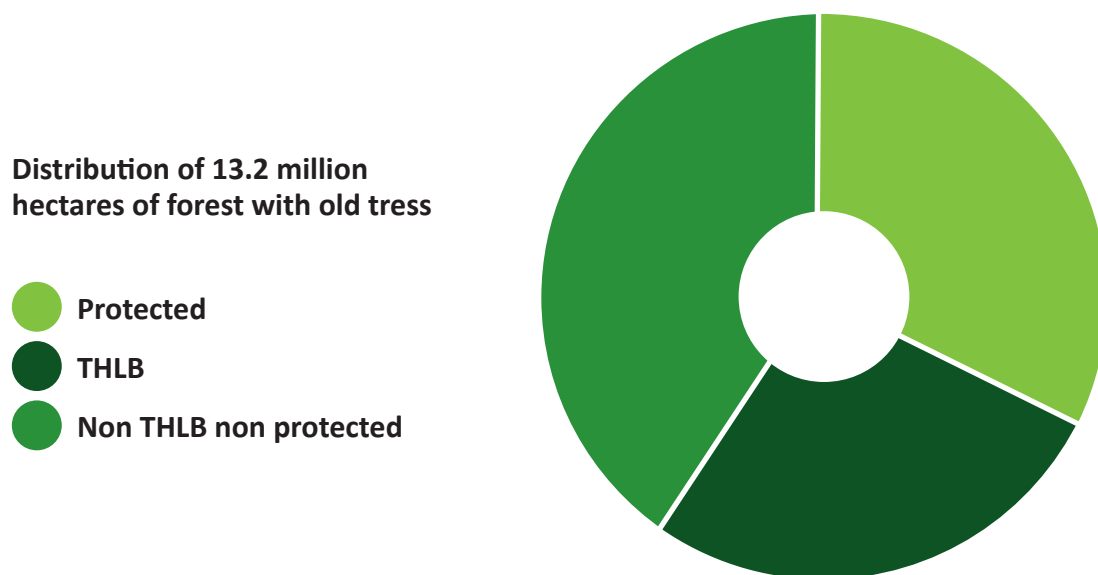
We have not attempted to include specific information about the amount, distribution, and quality of old forest at the regional or local level in this report, but our recommendations will encourage the government to proactively make more information publicly available at relevant scales.

About 4.5 million hectares, or 5% of the province is private land. Of that, approximately 818,000 hectares are in the Managed Forest Land Program. Although only a small portion of the total land area, this is important regionally, and is concentrated in the Kootenay area and southeastern Vancouver Island. Our review focused on public lands; but we heard various concerns that practices on private lands do influence adjacent public forest conservation and management objectives and are not integrated with the overall forest management system.

An important consideration, especially for managing risk to biological diversity, is how much of an area has old trees now relative to what would occur naturally — a proportion that varies by ecosystem and historical natural disturbance. Not all old forest is the same, and old does not necessarily mean big trees.

As much as 80% of the area of old forests consists of relatively small trees growing on lower productivity sites, such as Black Spruce bogs in the North, high elevation sub-alpine forests, or Cedar-Hemlock forests on the outer coast. Those forests remain in relatively great abundance, and are important ecologically, but they are not what many people typically envision as “old growth”, and although they may be disturbed by some industrial activities such as mining or oil and gas development, many are not likely to be extensively logged in the foreseeable future. Less abundant are ecosystems that are more productive from a timber perspective and have not already been heavily logged.

Of the 13.2 million hectares of old forest, 33% (4.4 million ha) is protected and 67% (8.8million ha) is not. Protected means the old forest is in parks, ecological reserves, ungulate winter range no-harvest areas, private conservation lands, regional water supply, wildlife management areas, OGMAs (legal and non-legal) and retention VQOs. Of the old forest that is not protected, 38% is within the THLB, while 62% is not as it is assumed to be currently inoperable.



One of the challenges we found early in the engagement process was how information about these statistics is communicated. We consistently heard concerns about the information available to the public. The issues were not so much about data, which has become much more widely available in recent years, but about how it is interpreted and communicated, and by whom. We have seen numerous examples of information put into the public realm that is fact-based but lacking in context or explanation of assumptions or scale.

Many people said they felt the government is largely absent in the discussion about old forest management. This perception is a problem, because the void leads some to believe that the government is bending to corporate interests, while others fear the government will acquiesce to the demands of environmental advocacy groups. If there was unanimity in the comments we received, it was around the need for the provincial government to take a stronger leadership role in facilitating an informed discussion about what is in the best long-term interest of the public, with a strong emphasis on Indigenous communities. In the past, the Province published State of the Forest reports through the Chief Forester’s office. The last such report was in 2010. On its website, the government does provide reports on environmental indicators, but not on forest conditions or on old forests specifically. The Forest Practices Board investigates and reports publicly on specific forest practices, but not on forest conditions.



British Columbians expressed a strong desire to participate in informed decisions about how old forests are managed. This was especially the case for those who will be most directly affected by changes to forest management strategies. We believe the public is not only looking for factual information, but also for objective analysis and context that explains what the collective statistics, indicators and trends are telling us.

## Forests with old trees have many values

Forests with old and ancient trees contain unique combinations of attributes that grow from ecosystems that have formed over centuries or millennia. These attributes can rarely, if ever, be replicated in younger or compromised ecosystems, even if they contain old trees. It is also important to understand that the age and characteristics of old forests vary greatly between ecosystem types and therefore their descriptions and values are relative. In other words, a forest on the coast may have several species and many ages of trees, whereas drier Interior forests may have only one or two species and be relatively evenly aged. Of course, forest values go far beyond just the trees, as forests also contain other plants, insects and animals, many of which require old forest to survive.

Some of the many values found in forests with old and ancient trees are:

- Unique conditions and processes that are important to conservation of biodiversity;
- Unique species, many of which are still undiscovered;
- Banks of genetic material for future use or adaptation strategies;
- High value timber with qualities not found in younger forests;
- Resistance to fire;
- Interception and storage of water;
- High carbon storage and sequestration capacity;
- Botanical forest products, including medicinal, edible, decorative, and ceremonial plants;
- Fish and wildlife habitats, including essential attributes for nesting or denning, thermal protection and hiding from predators;
- Spiritual and cultural uses, including carvings, canoes, and ceremonial poles;
- Aesthetics such as resident viewing and tourism;
- Commercial and non-commercial recreation; and
- Knowing they are there for their own sake — intrinsic value.

Many of these values can be realized concurrently on the same landscape, or even in the same forest stand, but accessing them can also put them in conflict. The degree of risk depends on how much of the old forest is disturbed and what attributes remain and in what state.

Many people identified specific highly diverse and complex ecosystems that support very large, old trees, and have persisted in a relatively stable climax condition for centuries. These “ancient forests” are globally unique, rare, and contain species as yet undiscovered, and many of these ecosystems and old forests are simply non-renewable within any reasonable time frame. They promote protecting these areas from human disturbance to conserve a wide range of benefits, and particularly for their intrinsic value.

## Economic Benefits.

Note that while we have provided examples of statistical information for the forestry and tourism sectors, we caution against direct comparisons as the information sources and their assumptions may vary. We also acknowledge that not all economic benefits are captured here, such as trapping, mushroom collecting, decorative plants, and others that are important sources of income for some individuals.

### 1. Timber harvesting

For over 100 years, the timber industry has been a central part of the provincial economy, exporting large quantities of lumber, pulp and other wood products to world markets, providing jobs in communities throughout British Columbia, and generating government revenue through stumpage fees and taxes. The industry depends heavily on cutting trees in old primary forests, and although its relative contribution to the overall provincial economy has declined in recent years, many communities, including an increasing number of Indigenous communities rely heavily on the jobs and revenue it generates.

According to statistics compiled in 2016 [report](#) for the Council of Forest Industries, harvesting of timber in British Columbia generates over 100,000 direct and indirect jobs, contributes \$12.9 billion to provincial GDP, and generates over \$2.5 billion to provincial tax revenues. Many of the jobs are spread across 140 forestry-dependent communities and urban centres, including Vancouver and the lower mainland.

According to Statistics Canada, forest product exports have made up 30% to 36% of B.C.'s commodity export value since the recession in 2009, and in 2018 was 32%. While service exports have been growing, commodities still make up the bulk of exports, making the forest sector an important source of foreign currency.

In BC, most of the industry is configured to harvest and manufacture existing primary old forest. There is a substantial interdependency between sub-sectors of the industry: harvesting; primary, secondary and tertiary manufacturing; transportation; and services. There are also regional interdependencies, with fibre moving between geographic locations at different stages of processing. For example, logs may be harvested in one area, sawn into lumber in another, with the byproduct chips being shipped to a pulp mill somewhere else. Some of the lumber may be shipped to a different region altogether for further manufacture.

According to [provincial government data](#), the non-lumber sector made up 46% of wood product manufacturing sales and more than 47% of wood manufacturing employment in 2018. The non-lumber industries include shingles and shakes, wood preservation, veneer, plywood and engineered wood products, millwork, container and pallet manufacturing, and other activities. The majority of non-lumber goods are consumed domestically, whereas the majority of lumber is exported (82% in 2018).

Concerns around log export and fibre utilization were raised in a number of outreach sessions. Several groups expressed frustration about logs being exported rather than used locally, valuable waste being left in the woods and the amount of old forest residue that is being burned because it is cheaper to burn it than use it. Some licensees and contractors told us that being forced to take poor quality timber, especially in isolated locations, would make their business uneconomical and cause them to shut down. We also heard from a few businesspeople that they could support a viable business if they could get access to these materials but are restricted by either the license holder or government regulations. We did not address this directly in this report however do note that it is an important matter with respect to continued social license.

## 2. Tourism and recreation

According to a [report in 2017](#) by Destination British Columbia, tourism employs 137,00 people and contributes \$9 billion to provincial GDP. Export revenue is reported to be \$5.4 billion and provincial tax revenue \$1.2 billion. The BC tourism industry is largely anchored in the “Super, Natural British Columbia” brand which invites visitors to enjoy activities in our wild and remote landscapes. While we have not seen province-wide data that states what portion of the economic impact of tourism and recreation is attributable to old forests, and perhaps it isn’t possible to know, we know old forests play a key role in tourism. Some individual tourism businesses have done studies on the economic value of old forests for tourism compared to timber in their specific area of operation. We are also aware of a recent (unpublished) study done in the area near Port Renfrew that found the net economic benefit is projected to be higher when the trees are left standing for tourism, than if they are logged.

Information provided by the Adventure Tourism Coalition states that adventure tourism directly or indirectly supports 32,000 families and generated \$3.2 billion in visitor spending in 2018. A 2014 analysis of coastal tourism opportunities provides some insight to the dependence of the sector on forests; 78% of surveyed marine tourism operators indicated that their business is “somewhat or very dependent on the natural environment,” and 37% cited views as the primary motivator for nearly all their clients.

There are many other examples of economic interdependence between tourism activities and old or mature forests, including:

- Hunting, fishing, and guiding
- Wildlife viewing
- Mountain biking
- Backcountry hiking, skiing, and snowmobiling
- Canoeing, camping, and horseback tours
- Touring

Perhaps the most obvious examples of tourism dependence on old forests are those activities centred around unusually large trees reasonably close to public access. The best known of these on the coast is probably Cathedral Grove in McMillan Provincial Park near Port Alberni, or in the Interior, the Ancient Forest Recreation Trail east of Prince George. Public and visitor interest in seeing and experiencing these and other big-tree forests is increasing and is being promoted.

## 3. Natural infrastructure.

Not an entirely new concept to many communities, this is an emerging area of economics and we feel it bears mention, particularly because of climate change. According to the [World Resources Institute](#): *“Natural ecosystems like forests and wetlands provide essential services to water utilities, businesses, and communities — from water flow regulation and flood control to water purification and water temperature regulation. To ensure these ecosystem functions and associated benefits continue, communities can strategically secure networks of natural lands, working landscapes, and other open spaces as ‘natural infrastructure.’ While concrete-and-steel built infrastructure will continue to play a critical role in water storage and treatment, investing in natural infrastructure can reduce or avoid costs and enhance water services and security as part of an integrated system to cost-effectively deliver safe drinking water.”* Some communities are already starting to incorporate the concept of natural infrastructure in community plans.

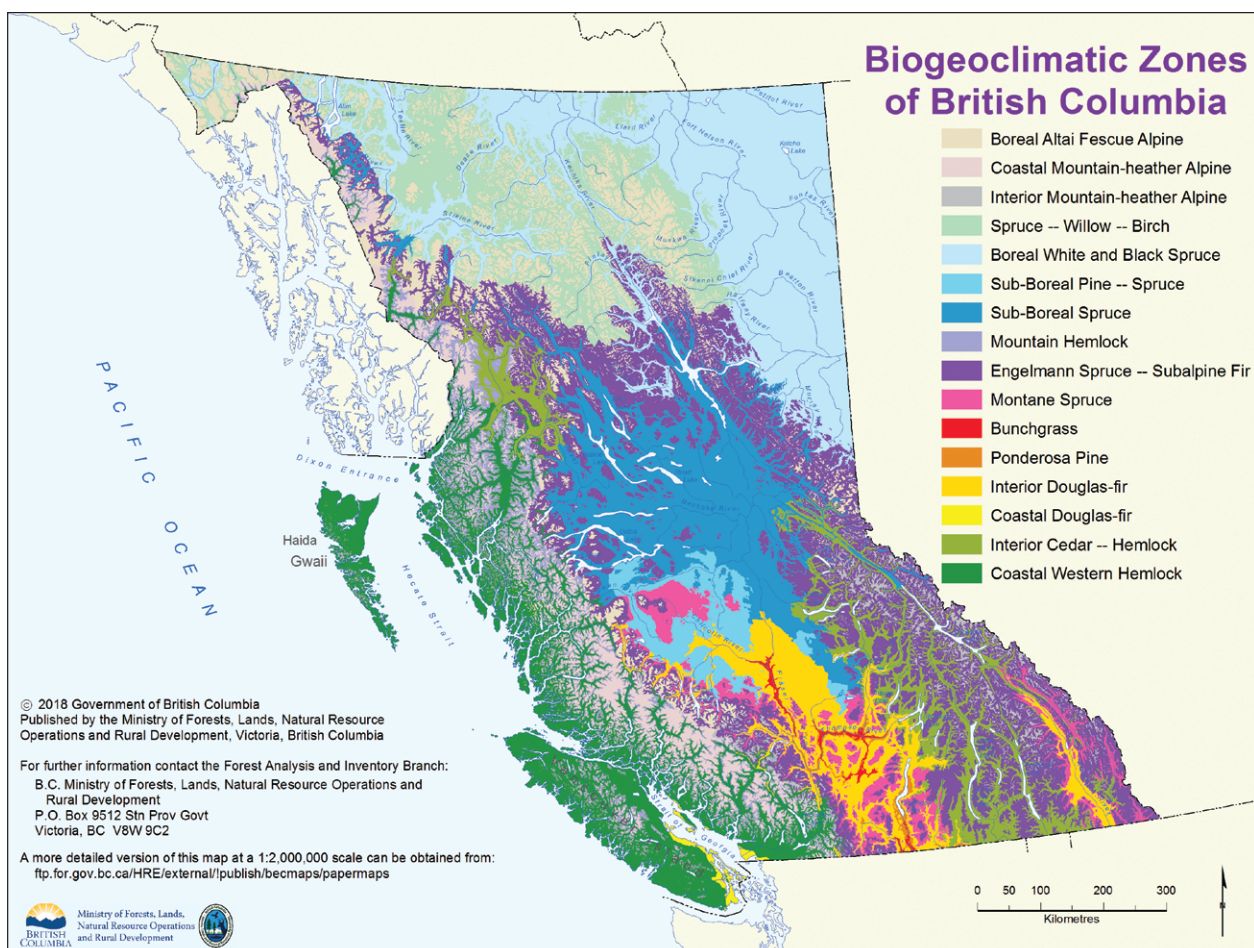
## Biological Diversity

Old forest conservation in BC has focused mainly on maintaining biological diversity. A key assumption guiding our current forest management system is that, if biological diversity is maintained, other values will often be accommodated concurrently. This assumption is imperfect, however, since the preferred wildlife habitat, tourism site, or other old forest value being considered is often not physically located where the biodiversity representation is needed.

To describe our diverse ecosystems, British Columbia uses the Biogeoclimatic Ecosystem Classification (BEC) system to stratify the province into zones based on climax vegetation communities that reflect the combined ecological effects of climate and soil.

This is a hierarchical system, with each of the province's 16 major zones divided into climatically distinct sub-zones, some of which are further divided according to climatic variations within the sub-zone. The variety of growing sites that occur in each sub-zone or variant are described using site classification, based on soil moisture and nutrients (site series).

In addition to the variety of ecosystems (as defined by BEC), forests exist in various stages of succession (seral stages) as the trees advance from young to middle age, mature and eventually climax community stages. In some cases, a climax community has persisted without any widespread disturbance for many centuries, resulting in unique, ancient forests. Each site classification may host a different mix of plants, animals, and insects, at each seral stage. Science tells us that if we want to have the greatest chance of conserving our natural biological diversity, we need to keep enough old forest to have a viable, representative sample of every BEC zone at the site-series level.

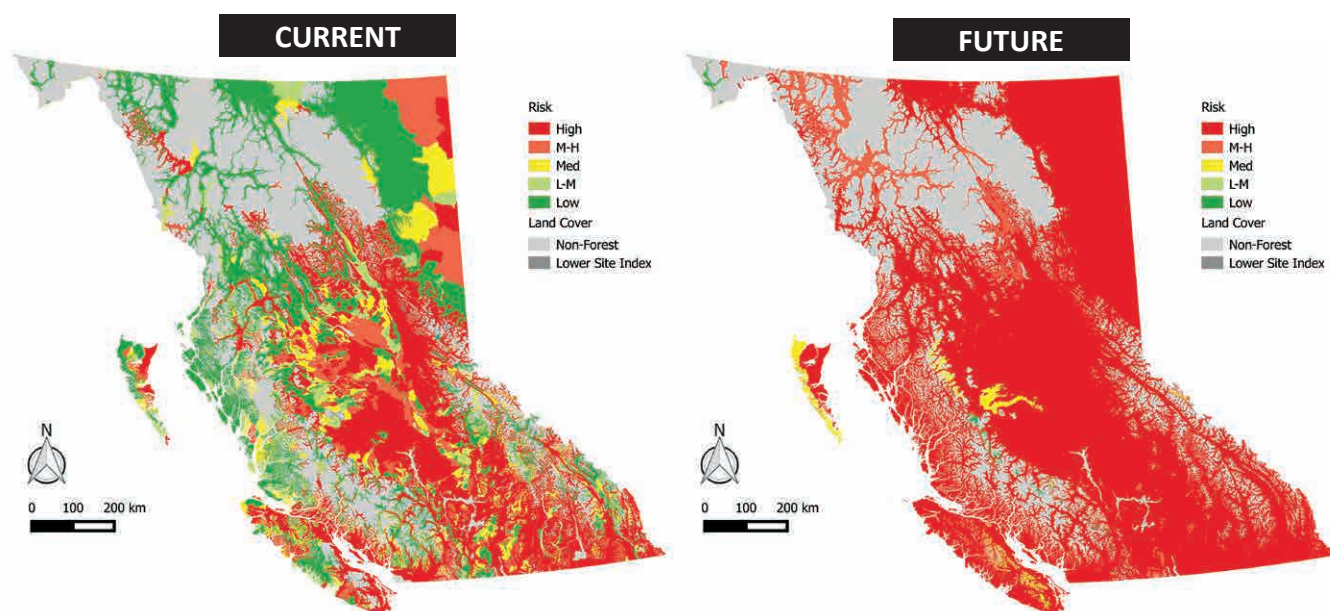


Source: BC Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development



Knowing how much to maintain as forest with old trees is guided by the notion that mimicking nature is the approach that presents the least risk to biodiversity. The concept used to measure this is called “natural range of variability” (NRV). This is typically based on a description of ecosystems as they existed before major changes brought about by extensive industrial or agricultural activity. Conservation science provides us with a general risk rating, telling us that if we retain 70% or more of the natural abundance of forest with old trees the risk of species loss, compromised ecosystem services, and losing ecosystem resilience is low. If we retain below 30%, the risk is high. At between 30% and 70%, the risk varies by ecosystem.

Consistent with what we heard from several provincial government staff, a recent report submitted to the panel by a group of independent scientists illustrates that we are in situations of high risk to biodiversity in many areas in the province, particularly in high-productivity, low elevation ecosystems. More troubling is the future projection where almost all of the province will be in high biodiversity risk once our current management approach harvests most of the available old forest. The time to complete this transition depends on the available old forest and various industry and economic factors in each region.



Source: Price, K., R.F. Holt and D. Daust. 2020. BC's Old Growth Forest: A Last Stand for Biodiversity

Their research also provided the following list of BEC zones that contain less than 10% of their original old forests - CDFmm (all CDF), CWHxm1,2, dm,CHxw, mk3,4, mw1,2,3,4,IDFxc, xh1,2,4, xk, xm, xs, xx2, dc, dk1,2,3,4,5, dm1,2, mw1,2, PPxh1,2,3 (all PP), SBPSmk, SBSwk1,2,3a, and possibly: ESSFvx2, dc1, mh, mv1,2,3,4, wc3,4, wh3, wk1 and wm1,2,3,4. They note that there is some uncertainty because of potential misclassification of age in some of these units, and also recommend that these areas be deferred from further development until we have brought them back enough to meet current legislated targets.

Several practitioners also raised the issue of our current management system combining old forests and using their aggregated data when making assessments for managing biodiversity risk and planning for old forest retention. One example was parks and protected areas, where an initial net down estimate is removed at the landscape level and then netted out again at the detailed operations level, resulting in double counting. A related concern is that many parks and protected areas contain low-productivity old forests, which are deducted from total old growth aggregate targets without identifying which ecosystem they represent. These types of aggregation calculations overlook distribution and spatial considerations that are crucial in managing for effective ecosystem health.

## Managing for forests with old trees

On public lands, which comprise about 95% of the province, Land Use Plans (LUPs) provide the basic framework for management of forest lands, of which old forest is only one component. While LUPs vary by area and when they were completed, most use some sort of system of land-use priorities to guide management. This includes parks and protected areas which, while often not specifically designed for the purpose of managing forests, do include significant areas of forest with old trees.

Three distinct areas (Clayoquot Sound, Haida Gwaii and the Great Bear Rainforest) are managed under ecosystem-based management regimes, and although we heard about implementation challenges in those areas, the required level of conservation in ecosystems with forests of old trees is much higher than in other areas of the province. Therefore, we have focused our discussion on management outside of those areas.

Most public forested areas outside parks and protected areas are available for logging through various types of licences issued by the Province. Most licences make the holder responsible for planning where to log within the license area, subject to constraints set out under the *Forest and Range Practices Act* (FRPA). Other activities such as oil and gas development, mining, or tourism development are subject to different legislation and requirements.

Under current regulations governing forest licensees, the objective set by government for wildlife and biodiversity at the landscape level is, to the extent practicable, design areas on which timber harvesting is to be carried out that resemble, both spatially and temporally, the patterns of natural disturbance that occur within the landscape “without unduly reducing the supply of timber from British Columbia’s forests”. The objective set by government for wildlife and biodiversity at the stand level is to retain wildlife trees, “without unduly reducing the supply of timber from British Columbia’s forests”. We note potential changes to FRPA are being considered by the Province, which should remove this overall constraint.

Forest licensees are required to submit a Forest Stewardship Plan (FSP) describing how they will meet these and other objectives. Once an FSP is approved by government, timber harvesting can be authorized provided it is consistent with the plan. We heard consistent concerns about a lack of monitoring to see whether these guidelines are being met, and if they are effective. We also heard that where monitoring has occurred, the commitments approved in the FSPs are too vague to enforce.

The [Biodiversity Guidebook](#) was completed in 1995 as part of implementing the *Forest Practices Code Act*. The guidebook was developed using the best available science at the time, with an expectation that it would be refined as new knowledge was obtained. The original team of senior ecologists drafted the Guidebook using what they felt were the minimum requirements considered to have a good probability of maintaining biodiversity within a landscape unit. Many of the scientists we talked with during our engagement process told us that the original guidance provided by the Guidebook is still sound. However, the [Landscape Unit Planning Guide](#) (1999), introduced the concept of biodiversity emphasis options (different levels of risk). This resulted in a deduction from old forest retention targets to account for old forest presumed to already be protected in parks and it limited targets for representation to the BEC variant, rather than the finer site series level. We heard that, from the outset, implementation has fallen so far short of the original guidance that it could not be expected to meet the goals established at that time.

Since 1995, the policy direction has been to limit the impact of biodiversity conservation on timber supply to approximately 4% across the province, and to locate old forest retention areas preferentially in areas with a low priority for harvest. While this seems logical from a timber supply perspective, it weakens the original intent, by biasing representation to lower productivity ecosystems, often at higher elevations.

This trade-off between risk to biological diversity and protecting timber supply is an example of government policy attempting to balancing competing interests. Although old growth targets are a compromise, there was a clear expectation and commitment by government that the risks would be reviewed and future adjustments would occur, if required. We are not aware of a review and adjustment happening, but we believe the circumstances are sufficiently changed, that it needs to be done now.

Old forest retention in BC is administered in one of three ways:

1. Legal, spatially-defined Old Growth Management Areas (OGMAs).
2. Non-legal, spatially-defined OGMAs.
3. Aspatial old forest management.

During our engagement process, we heard a great deal of concern about how these approaches are being implemented. In some ways, the details about the size and condition of OGMAs, how they are located, and rules for incursions and amendments have diverted attention from their original purpose, as a tool in the broader biological diversity conservation strategy. Several forest managers expressed the opinion that the term OGMA is misleading because they are actually used to retain intact areas rather than for proactive management.

Although these retention mechanisms may be working in some areas, examples of the complaints we heard are illustrated in the figure below.

### OGMA Concerns

- Poor or unjustifiable location (e.g., doesn't contain old trees, fire hazard)
- Too small
- Not flexible enough to accommodate forest dynamics
- Flexibility abused for roads or development
- Should all be spatial and legally delineated
- Should all be aspatial
- Should all be spatial but not legally delineated
- Unclear objectives
- Inconsistent or unclear rules regarding implementation, or retaining/replacing OGMAs destroyed by wildfire or bark beetles
- poor mapping or inadequate detail in the forest inventory to identify key areas.
- inadequate change reporting

One notable concern was from recent research on edge effect in OGMAs that were established to maintain intact old forests. It showed that old forest dependent species had disappeared, and many old forest functions were often compromised, on average, up to 100 meters from the edge of the adjacent opening (logging, roads, etc.) depending on the OGMA shape, topography and the nature of adjacent openings or other features. When this edge effect was applied to sample local areas, soon to be published research submitted to the panel found that there were almost no intact old forests that retained their original function in those areas.

We also found that, despite having been already reduced to protect timber supply, old growth targets are not being met in some areas. It's difficult know how widespread the problem is because only a few areas have been monitored to determine if targets are being met. In some of these areas, forest licensees said they are challenged to find enough unconstrained timber to harvest their allowable cut. Something clearly isn't working when neither objective is being met.

What was committed/planned/assumed/recommended...	What we have now...
Adaptive management through continuous monitoring and regular updates	No substantial monitoring or updates since implementation in 1995
Periodic reviews of the entire old growth and biodiversity management system	None to date
Maintain old forest (both the mature and overmature age classes) at acceptable targets	OGMAs focus primarily on overmature in most of the province (mature is not included)
Tracking implementation and achievement of mature and overmature targets	No consistent system to track compliance with targets except in areas of the province where government staff have led special projects
Biodiversity targets for retention of old forests was set at various levels above the minimum threshold of 30%	Some areas were lowered by subsequent political decisions — some lower than the minimum threshold
Old growth would contain old forests, and preferably some of the best.	Many OGMAs do not contain old forests and some contain forests less than 40 years old

Despite commitments made to formally evaluate their effectiveness as a policy tool on an ongoing basis, no review of the OGMA system has taken place since it was implemented more than 20 years ago. Furthermore, there has been no formal, consistent monitoring program to determine whether there is compliance with the current targets, or if they are achieving the intended results. That makes it impossible for the public to know if it is getting good value. The government has small pockets of work underway that may help to alleviate some of these problems. For example, over the last decade, effort has been put into developing methods to assess cumulative effects, including for old growth and biodiversity values. Also, following a special investigation by the Forest Practices Board in 2012 the government formed a working group to address the Board's recommendations. Our impression is that, while these initiatives could lead to some improvements, they have not been a high priority for government and are not presently well enough resourced to have any meaningful impact on management of old forests, at least in the near future.

While the foremost goal of science and practices to conserve and manage forests with old trees is maintaining biodiversity, there are many other objectives that can also be achieved. Managing for most values is quite site-specific. The amount of forest with old trees and the conditions we require depend on the objective. For example, if we're protecting the character of a spiritual or historical site, it may only be necessary to delineate a small area, but it has to be at a very particular location. If the objective is protecting mule deer winter range, we may be able to distribute areas in several suitable places on the landscape. If our objective is preserving visual quality, our actions will be based on attributes as they appear from certain viewpoints or travel corridors.

It is often possible to manage the same area for a multitude of old forest values, provided the objectives are clear and compromises are not so great that critical values (e.g., biological diversity or water quality) are put at high risk in order to accommodate values where we have more discretion (e.g., timber or tourism). This suggests the need for the Province to have clear priorities and objectives for managing old forest values at all scales.



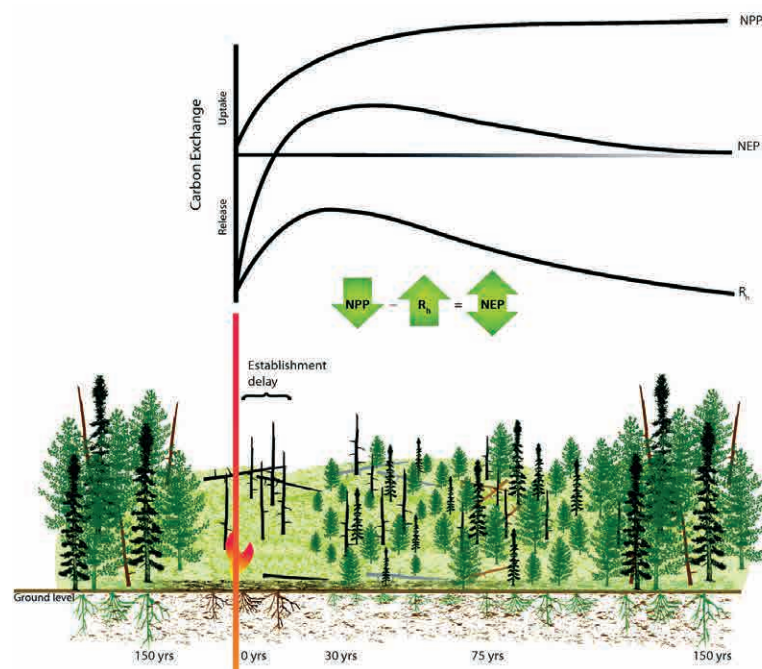
## Carbon balance and climate

Many people we heard from linked forests with old trees to climate change, often with conflicting perceptions about its value for absorbing and storing carbon.

The impact of the forest on net atmospheric carbon is complicated. We heard evidence for and against old forests as carbon sinks (taking up more carbon than they release). The answer can vary considerably depending on the circumstances and the timeframe. Forests accumulate carbon in new plant material when they are green and growing. The carbon is returned to the atmosphere when plant material decomposes and combusts (whether it burns in the forest or as wood products).

Carbon can be stored in trees, soil, and long-lived wood products for decades, or even centuries. This storage is considered an important factor in the effort to curb climate change. Of course, we need to keep in mind that not all old forest is the same: in coastal Douglas Fir or cedar-hemlock forests, trees are very long lived and have a relatively low risk of natural disturbances, while many interior forests have shorter lived tree species, and more frequent large natural disturbances (e.g., fire). In other areas, such as the Interior NDT4 Douglas Fir forests can be maintained in a relatively stable old-forest condition through frequent low-intensity fires that burn the understory and keep the forest spaced.

The ability of a forest to absorb and store carbon is age dependent.



**NPP** net amount of carbon that enters the ecosystem.  
**Rh** respiration from decay  
**NEP** net ecosystem production – total amount of organic carbon

Source: Kurz et al, Carbon in Canada's boreal forest — A synthesis, Environmental Reviews Vol. 21, 2013 (Courtesy NRC Research Press)

- Immediately after disturbance it is a carbon source because post-disturbance organic materials are decaying more quickly, and very young trees are not accumulating high biomass volumes.
- Young forests that begin to accumulate high biomass volumes are strong carbon sinks because they are quickly accumulating biomass.
- The amount of carbon sequestered declines with old age but the amount of carbon stored is very high.
- The timing of maximum amount that is stored and the maximum sink differs.

Timber harvesting causes short-term emissions from the activity itself (e.g., from equipment to harvest, transport and manufacture), and when forest debris (e.g., slash) is burned. We can expect harvested stands to be net carbon sources for several years, until the capacity of new trees to capture carbon overtakes the emissions from the forest floor, soil, and decay of woody debris. The relative carbon impact of harvesting the primary forest depends upon a number of factors, including:

1. Condition of the primary forest at the time of harvest (storing, sequestering, or emitting carbon);
2. The method of harvesting, level of wood utilization, and method of slash disposal;
3. Longevity of the products the wood is used for (e.g., pellets or paper compared to lumber or timbers);
4. How quickly and completely new trees occupy the site and grow;
5. How long the new trees are allowed to grow before being harvested again (rotation age); and
6. The substitution value of using wood over an alternative (e.g., concrete, steel, or plastic).

A report prepared in 2019 entitled [Forestry and Carbon in BC](#) suggests that a managed secondary forest could-in principle-recapture the lost forest carbon if allowed to regrow long enough to fully recover its carbon stock, which could be achieved more quickly and easily in most interior forests than in coastal or interior wetbelt forests. It also emphasized that underlying carbon budget calculations are complex and depend on assumptions about a future with much uncertainty.

Another team of BC researchers recently [wrote](#), *“Every old-growth forest is made up of a unique history of management choices and disturbances. Furthermore, their carbon storage value is dependent on future climatic changes specific to the region in question. There seems to be sufficient evidence indicating that many old-growth forests already protected in BC are likely carbon sinks.”* And *“more research is needed into which old growth forests are carbon sinks and which are sources, and under what conditions.”*



Many of the old trees in the forest on the left are dead or dying and it would likely be better from a carbon management perspective to recover the salvageable wood and establish a crop of young trees. The old trees in the forest on the right, on the other hand, are relatively healthy, and are still absorbing and storing significant quantities of carbon.

In addition to the function of forests with old trees in the carbon cycle, old trees also play a role in mitigating the impacts of climate change on ecosystems, human communities and infrastructure. For example:

- Regulation of air temperatures (cooler in summer, warmer in winter) and local climate that can be critical to the health of other plant communities, wildlife, and humans.
- Regulation of water temperature, evaporation, cleanliness, flow volume and timing.
- Resistance to fire due to cooler, moister internal forest conditions.

These mitigation functions require having enough mature and old trees in a forest to carry out the hydrological functions and provide canopy. How much primary forest needs to be retained in an older-tree state to influence micro-climates will depend on the local circumstances and objectives.

## History of forest conversion

Until the early 1900s, BC's old forests were so extensive that few people would likely have anticipated the circumstances we are in today. The early years of industrial timber harvesting were limited by access — there were few roads, so cutting took place in areas where timber could be manufactured close-by or economically moved by water. Most of the forest was left alone. The scope and scale of harvesting increased considerably through the middle of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, reaching nearly every region of the province. This led to public concern that the timber supply was exhaustible, and the encouragement of “tree farming”.

The result was a policy of “sustained yield”, the idea being, that over a period of about 80-120 years, subject to economics, the natural (primary) forest would be logged and converted to managed (farmed) forest, mostly by clearcutting. The subsequent crops of timber would be harvested at their economic culmination age (depending on species, usually 60 – 100 years), thus creating an even, perpetual supply of timber. It is important to note that this is not a typical agrarian model. The intent has always been to conduct forestry with indigenous species on the sites where they would naturally occur.

Under this model of conversion to managed forest, we would expect to transition over a period of time from harvestable primary forest to areas that have another crop ready after harvesting. However, many regions will have a decline in harvest for several decades because of a disproportional amount of young forest. In some regions of the province, mainly on the South Coast, conversion has been underway long enough, and trees grow fast enough that some of the timber being harvested now is from previously converted areas, or “second growth”. In some of these, the transition from harvesting old primary forest to second growth will likely be complete within 20 to 30 years. However, in other areas it will be several decades before previously harvested areas are ready to cut again. This means that the situation is highly variable across the province. (We note that some of the areas where harvesting only began at a large scale in the late 1960s or early 1970s have accelerated conversion due to salvaging Mountain Pine Beetle-killed timber and some of these areas have neither an abundance of remaining old forest nor second growth approaching harvestable age).

Areas with the best timber and typically closest to access were often the first to be converted, and few remain in their natural state. These are not only the best timber growing sites, they are also high in biological diversity, often critical to water and fish, and many other values. A [recent study](#) tells us: “*Sites with the potential to grow very large trees (Site Index >25) cover less than 3% of the province. Old forests on these sites have dwindled considerably due to intense harvest so that only 2.7% of this 3% is currently old.*” We found near unanimous agreement for conserving more of these areas.



Many things have changed since the inception of sustained yield, but it remains the underlying premise for most of our forest management system, except perhaps in the areas under ecosystem-based management regimes. Beginning sometime in the 1980s and following global trends, the public became more aware of the importance of forests for a wide range of ecological values. This led to the creation of more parks and other conservation areas through the Protected Areas Strategy and various forms of land use plans, thus reducing the areas available for conversion to managed forest. It also gave rise to new constraints on forest practices to protect a variety of “non-timber” values, such as water, wildlife, visual quality, and biological diversity — including old forest, within the areas still open to harvesting.

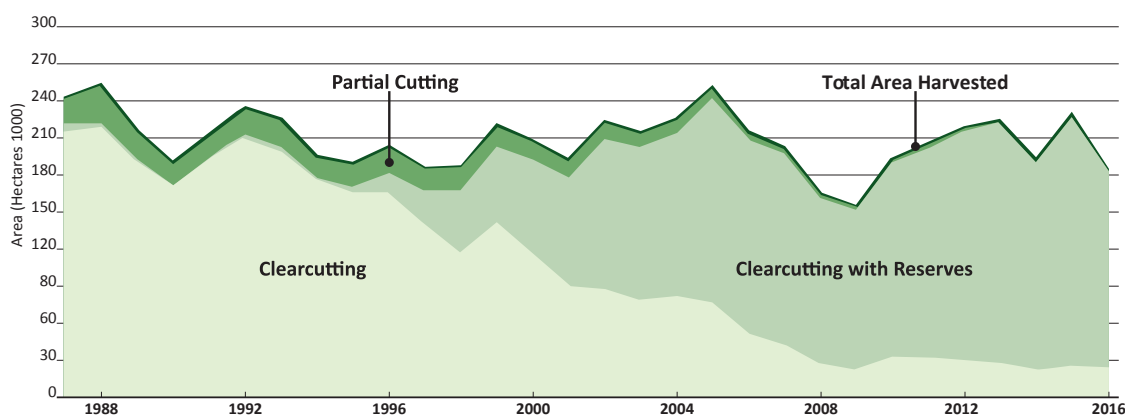
## Harvesting methods

Traditionally, most forest harvesting in BC was done by clearcutting, which is the most efficient and least expensive method. Generally speaking, clearcutting removes all trees from an area of one hectare or more, and greater than two tree heights in width, in a single harvesting operation. A new even-aged stand is obtained by planting, natural or advanced regeneration, or by direct seeding. It is most appropriate in forest ecosystems where tree species require an abundance of sunlight or naturally grow in large, even-age stands. Social concerns about large clearcuts have led to a decrease in their average size from 45 hectares on public lands in 1989 to 30 hectares in 2006. We were told that, in some areas, the average size is now 2-3 hectares, but we are also aware of extensive clearcuts carried out in salvage areas during the last several years, and of cutting adjacent to recently harvested areas before they reach the full green-up (continuous clearcut).

Clearcutting with reserves began in the early 1990s and is a variation of the conventional clearcutting silvicultural system in which trees are retained, either uniformly or in small groups. The trees retained may be combinations of small and large trees. They may be chosen to provide wildlife habitat, nesting and den trees, future sources of snags or coarse woody debris, or some level of visual quality.

In 1995, a system of variable retention was adopted for some coastal harvesting as an alternative to conventional clearcutting. This system has two approaches: distributed, where retained individual trees are distributed relatively evenly across the area; or aggregate, where groups of trees are retained to maintain structural diversity over the cutblock. The generally accepted parameters for variable retention are that the retained trees distributed throughout the cutblock, must remain for at least one rotation and be configured to leave more than half the total cutblock area within one tree height from the base of a tree or group of trees including the edge of the cutblock. Note that many scientists and industry advocates of variable retention argue that clearcut with reserves generally does not meet the parameters for variable retention.

Partial cutting is a general term for silvicultural systems (which includes variable retention) in which some trees are left standing after logging. Compared to other systems, the distribution of remaining trees will typically be fairly even across the cut area. Depending on the management objectives, the selection of trees to be retained may be based on their value to a future timber crop, mimicking natural processes to maintain biodiversity, wildlife habitat, aesthetics, or some other purpose.



Source: Trends in Silviculture in B.C. (1987-2016). Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development, 2018

Until the mid-1990s, most harvesting on public lands in British Columbia involved conventional clearcutting. Government reports show that from 1970 to 1998, clearcutting systems were applied on 87% of the area harvested on public lands. By 2015-2016, harvesting on public lands was by clearcutting with reserves (85%), clearcutting (11%), retention cutting (3%) and other cutting methods (1%). One of the challenges for the public is often to differentiate between conventional clearcutting and clearcutting with reserves, especially in some of the salvage areas in the Interior, where very large contiguous areas have been logged and reserves constitute only small forest remnants.

More use of systems that emulate natural ecological processes may allow us to continue harvesting timber from forests with old trees without converting them to unnaturally uniform managed stands. However, that approach is influenced by a complex combination of numerous factors, such as: government leadership and support, timber value, operating costs, stumpage rates, desired profitability, terrain, technology, blowdown risk, stand condition, forest health, worker safety, expertise, and other land use objectives for the area.

***Scientists and professionals use a broad system of natural disturbance types (NDT) to differentiate these processes:***

- NDT1:** Ecosystems with rare stand-initiating events
- NDT2:** Ecosystems with infrequent stand-initiating events
- NDT3:** Ecosystems with frequent stand-initiating events
- NDT4:** Ecosystems with frequent stand-maintaining fires
- NDT5:** Alpine tundra and subalpine parkland

We heard from several forest managers who said they would like to change their harvest systems to better reflect natural processes but are constrained by these factors, or by the Province's forest practices and timber pricing policies. We also heard about various partial cutting silviculture systems having been applied in the past, but many have been discontinued, except in the case of a few select companies. The results of these experiments need to be better understood.

Generally speaking, under the present system, an area is either reserved from harvesting or available to be converted to managed forest. We heard from many people who are frustrated that the managed forest lacks many of the previously existing natural attributes and they oppose further conversion. We also heard from many forest managers about the costs of uncertainty due to incremental reductions in area available for harvesting. Concerns about this have led many forest-dependent communities to repeatedly call for the designation of a "working forest" to provide greater certainty for on-going access to timber.

The 1992 Old Growth Strategy proposed a conservation framework with:

- A system of reserves to conserve old growth values;
- Commodity emphasis areas supporting sustainable economic activity;
- Special management areas where forest practices maintain old growth attributes.

The current management system has gone part way to this three-zone conservation framework by assigning biodiversity emphasis areas for the setting of old growth targets, but there is no definitive, legally established zoning as was originally envisioned. We believe there is an opportunity to bring greater certainty to the management system, achieve a more optimal mix of public benefits, and encourage innovation, by formalizing this three-zone concept.

## The role of the provincial government

We heard a lot of dissatisfaction with government from people on all sides of the issues. While some of that is inevitable in an exercise like ours, this was largely non-partisan, focused on policy and priorities, and had a lot of commonality. We observed widespread concern that the government lacks an “on the ground” presence and needs to have a more active role in ensuring the public’s interests are met. The views were not always specific to management of old forests but were offered in that context.

We frequently heard:

1. We need a clear and legally supported long-term vision and set of priorities for our forests.
2. The vision and priorities need to be supported by a principles-based management framework that will meet the needs of the province and provide the flexibility to accommodate the diversity of ecosystems and communities. The principle of proximity, (those who are most directly affected by a decision should have a proportional say) should be embedded in the framework.
3. Government policies for forestry tenures, stumpage, and forest practices discourage the innovation necessary to meet the optimum mix of public values.
4. The management framework needs to be supported by efficient and adequate policies and resources (capacity) to enable implementation.
5. The province has to take a much more active role at all levels to ensure the public’s interests are being met. This includes oversight, monitoring, enforcement, and objectively and regularly informing the public about forest conditions and trends.
6. Where the government has direct control (e.g., BC Timber Sales) it should show leadership in developing and demonstrating best practices for sustainably managing forest values.
7. The government’s rules for regulating the industry should not oscillate between “command and control” and “hands off” based on the ideology of the government of the day.
8. The government should facilitate a planned and orderly transition from harvesting primary forests to second growth, on timelines suited to specific areas.

## Indigenous involvement

Support for Indigenous involvement was heard from every sector and the majority of people who submitted input to the panel. This is obviously top of mind for a variety of legal, social, and environmental reasons: legal with the Crown’s duty of consultation and accommodation plus the recent passing of the province’s Declaration of the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act; social with the Province’s commitment to a New Relationship; and environmental where many are looking to Indigenous communities for guidance on how to establish land management that achieves a higher standard of land care.

The panel heard a mix of Indigenous perspectives, ranging from calls for increased involvement of Indigenous communities in the timber industry and continued access to old forests for harvesting, through to increased protection for the range of other values from the forest. One common theme was the necessity for increased involvement of local Indigenous communities in the planning and oversight of forest use in their local areas.

Many of the Indigenous groups that were interviewed are actively involved in planning in their own forest management areas and many have developed very innovative, practical, and effective approaches to the management of old forests. These approaches were developed and are continually monitored with close involvement of the local Indigenous community, particularly the Elders in those communities. However, at a provincial level, the capacity of Indigenous communities to do this is very uneven and in some areas underdeveloped. We believe supporting the development of capacity and extending learning amongst Indigenous communities presents an opportunity to support effective forest management and advance reconciliation.

## Public and community involvement

Just as we heard almost universal support for government collaboration with Indigenous communities, we also heard from local governments and stakeholders who said that they want more meaningful roles in forest planning and decision-making. We believe their current level of involvement contributes to a significant amount of uncertainty and discontent.

In previous sections, we touched on concerns about a lack of trusted information and process for the public to engage in a meaningful dialogue about forest management, including for forests with old trees. We did encounter a small number of areas in the province where community and stakeholder groups are engaged with government and industry on an ongoing basis, however this was the exception. Yet almost every local government, community organization, and often individuals, expressed a need for a place to learn, exchange ideas and perspectives, and develop useful input to forest management.

In several areas, we heard about the positive experiences with land use planning committees, and the benefits of bringing together experts and civil society with a variety of interests in a collaborative forum where provincial and local priorities could be addressed. Despite an expressed intent, when plans were completed (most during the 1990s), to maintain monitoring committees and have a periodic plan updates, government support declined, and most were disbanded. In some cases, government-facilitated groups were replaced by public advisory groups struck under the auspices of various market certification programs. Convened by forest licensees, these groups helped fill the gap, but many of them ceased operating when companies changed certification systems.

## Lessons from other jurisdictions

The panel explored experience from other areas in the world to see if there were any lessons that could be learned around the management of old forests from those areas. Some of the main points were:

- Every jurisdiction's reasons for moving towards the management of old forests were different but most of the areas that adopted a system of significant old forest protection did so as a response to overwhelming public pressure that included either civil disobedience or legal actions;
- Many of the jurisdictions that responded to public pressure went through public policy swings that alternated between favoring the timber industry and favoring protection groups before landing on protection;

- Well-organized ENGOs were deeply involved in almost every jurisdiction's shifts to greater protection;
- The term "old growth" is relatively recent term used primarily in North America: Other jurisdictions use a variety of terms such as old forest, primeval forest, primary forest, virgin forest, ancient forest, wildwood, etc.;
- The trend towards greater protection for old forests had less to do with the age of the timber industry and the associated forest management system in each country and more to do with increased public understanding of issues related to biodiversity, ecosystems and climate change, the use of civil disobedience and legal tactics, and increased public involvement in forest management (generally within with the last few decades);
- Some jurisdictions went to protection measures applied only to old forests while others went to a more comprehensive zoning system to identify measures for lands are protected, managed for ecosystem health or intensively managed for timber production;
- Some countries that have gone through multiple rotations under intensive management are dealing with significant biodiversity loss and associated forest health issues; and
- Many jurisdictions have committed to detailed forest monitoring although in practise many defaulted on those requirements.

Compared to much of the world, our situation in BC is somewhat unique in that:

1. Large-scale commercial cutting of primary forests in BC began less than 100 years ago in southern and coastal regions, and 50 years ago or less in much of the central and northern interior;
2. The vast majority of cutting has been done with the expectation of managing the area for a perpetual crop of timber, rather than forest removal;
3. We have maintained a policy of reforestation with native species that are ecologically suited to the area logged.

This means that although much of the forest is altered from its natural condition, most of the original components still exist somewhere on the landscape. We can't go back and replace the primary forest, but we do have the opportunity to maintain viable examples of the remaining ecological attributes, and possibly restore others.

## Summary of key points

### 1. Ecosystems with large, old trees are important to British Columbians for many different reasons.

- The term "old growth" has become a generic label for forests or trees that hold a variety of different values beyond the definitions used in timber management. OG means different things to many people and has a diverse array of sometimes conflicting values, all of which warrant consideration.
- Old forest values and objectives need to be clearly articulated, with less emphasis on the generic "Old Growth" label.

### 2. Retaining and managing forests of old trees is a key strategy for maintaining biological diversity and cannot be done in isolation.

- The ability of ecosystems to support species, including humans, and adapt to change is dependent upon their resilience, which comes largely from the natural diversity they harbour.
- Old forests are part of complex multi-scaled, interdependent ecosystems, and are also impacted by complex interdependent forest management policies.



- The total amount of old forest in the province is not as important as the distribution and ecosystem representativeness.
- There are many impacts to old forest arising from various activities in almost every resource sector.

### **3. The extent and condition of ecosystems with old trees, relative to natural condition, is highly variable across the province.**

- The risk to biodiversity is extremely high in some ecosystems and there is a wide-spread call to protect them.
- The forests' ecological conditions, history of natural and human disturbances, and social, cultural, and economic importance are too variable to suggest a single sweeping approach, although there is strong support for a common management framework.
- In many areas, we are not meeting the intent of the biodiversity conservation strategy adopted 25 years ago.
- The approaches to managing old forest have to be adaptable to the ecosystem and natural disturbance regimes.

### **4. The economy is heavily dependent on trees harvested from primary forests of old trees.**

- The degree of economic reliance differs amongst regions and individual communities. For example, some have undergone a transition to greater reliance on tourism, or other sectors, while many others have not.
- In some areas, a transition to second-growth forests is well underway, while in most of the province that transition will require decades of forest growth.
- There is widespread support for assisting workers and communities negatively affected by reduced access to timber supplies, for whatever reason.

### **5. The current system for retaining old forest and managing their attributes has issues.**

- The original intent of the science-based guidance has not been fully implemented.
- The approaches to managing, tracking, and reporting on old forest retention and management requirements are inconsistent and, in some cases, absent.
- Old Growth Management Areas (OGMAs) are applied inconsistently and sometimes ineffectively.
- The use of clearcutting silviculture systems limits the ability to manage for old forest attributes and conserve biological diversity, especially in ecosystems that don't naturally experience large stand-replacing disturbances.

### **6. Opportunities have been identified to provide greater economic certainty about the blend of benefits from old forests:**

- Formalizing designation of forest areas outside reserves to be either managed primarily for commercial production (conversion) or managed for key ecosystem attributes with compatible forestry practices.
- Analysis and pursuit of an optimal blend of public benefits from a wide range of uses (timber, tourism, natural infrastructure, botanical forest products, recreation, etc.).
- Transition to silviculture systems that more closely emulate natural process on remaining unconverted forest.

### **7. Climate change will become an increasingly bigger factor in choices about forest management.**

- The role of old forests in climate change is complex.
- Mitigating climate change through carbon sequestration and storage needs to be fully analyzed and integrated into forest management decision-making.

**8. Information around the types, condition and current status of old forests is highly variable across the province.**

- There is no regular, objective public reporting about forest condition and trends.
- Classification based on timber inventory criteria, which does not necessarily reflect other old forest values.
- The existing inventory is not well suited to stand-level identification of many old forest attributes.

**9. There is widespread support for the provincial government and Indigenous governments to collaboratively create updated strategies and policies for the management of old forests that include:**

- Transparent expressions of the public's long-term interests, priorities, and policies;
- Ongoing public involvement in planning and strategic decisions, supported by objective and comprehensive information regarding related issues, risks and opportunities;
- Economic analysis tools to inform public discussion and choices;
- Clear and measurable objectives at meaningful scales, supported by well-resourced enforcement and evaluation of long-term effectiveness;
- Oversight that ensures public interests are considered and incorporated in forest planning and practices, monitoring, compliance and enforcement;
- Ongoing research, innovation and information sharing to foster continual learning and expand the province's collective forest management expertise;
- Adequate monitoring and objective reporting of forest conditions and trends, including the cumulative effects on all values and transparent communication of risks and benefits; and
- The means and authority to address risks to critical values.



## KEY FINDINGS

Based on the situation overview and key points above we find that, while there may be debate about how much old forest we have and where, there is a near-unanimous agreement that managing and protecting ecosystems for forests with old trees provides many benefits. However, there are serious concerns about the ability of our current management policies and implementation of old forest strategies to achieve that in the long-term. We observed what we believe to be fundamental weaknesses in the system relating to the core foundations for forest management success identified earlier in this report: ecosystem health; public support; and effective management.

**1. Ecosystem Health:** The priorities that currently drive our forest management system are backwards. Rather than determine what must be done to maintain ecosystem health and resilience, and then what social and economic benefits we can derive within that guidance, we often do the opposite. We consistently refer to measures required to protect ecosystem values as “constraints” on timber. An example is the policy for implementation of biodiversity conservation, which has a fixed ceiling on timber supply impact, reinforced by the objectives in the *Forest and Range Practices Act*. Many members of the public and government staff expressed concerns about this bias in the current system.

**2. Effective Management:** Many aspects of the system are seriously lacking and are not anchored in sound management theory. In particular, our system does not measure the performance of policy implementation relative to clear and measurable objectives and then adapt accordingly. The panel is also not convinced that government has demonstrated a serious, and sustained commitment to applying science-based methods to implementing management policies for conserving and managing old forest.

Significant recent examples of this are: in 2012, the Forest Practices Board conducted a special investigation resulting in six recommendations about tracking, monitoring, enforcing, and evaluating implementation of old growth management areas, and in 2013, the Auditor General conducted an audit to assess the effectiveness of key tools for managing biodiversity in BC. Although these investigations concluded there was a lack of adequate measuring and reporting within our current forest management system, little has changed as a result of those reports.

**3. Public Support:** Much of the public is not well informed or engaged regarding old forests and forest management. This appears to be contributing to a pervasive lack of supportive for the current system. We frequently heard from individuals, organizations and communities that they have no reliable source of information about the condition and trends in local forests, and little influence over decisions that directly affect them. Over the past several years, direct ongoing involvement of communities in forest management has declined. A lack of confidence in the system was also reflected in concerns about a lack of clear long-term priorities, inconsistent policies for land users, and a lack of government oversight.



## Recommendations



## RECOMMENDATIONS

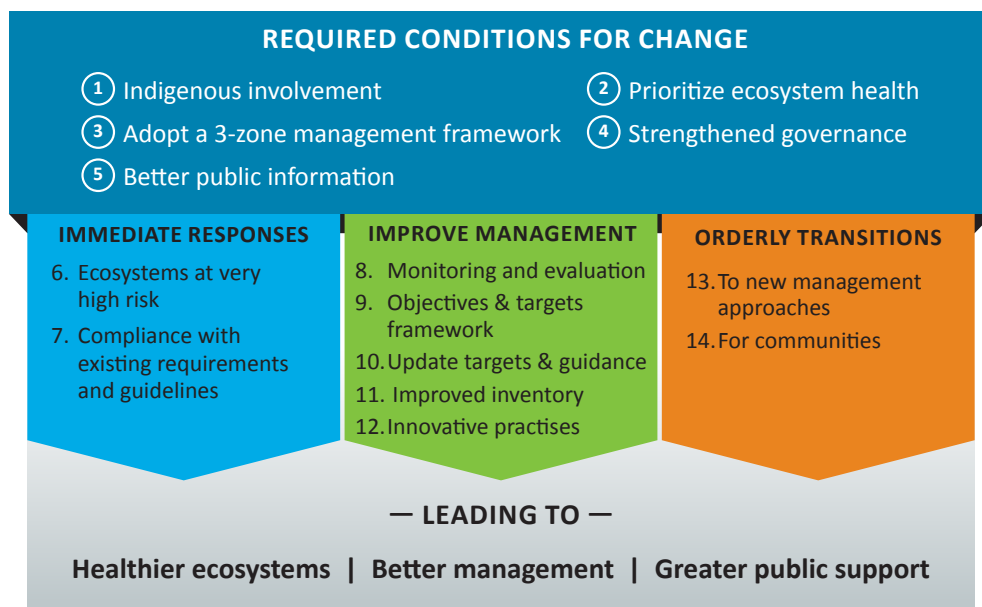
Our recommendations address the conditions we believe are needed for successful long-term management of old forests, the actions needed now to prevent irreversible loss of biodiversity, improvements to the management processes, and transition requirements to ensure change happens. The implementation advice supporting each recommendation is offered as a starting point for the government to consider, with the understanding that other approaches will likely emerge through dialogue with Indigenous leaders, input from stakeholders, and analysis by government staff.

Old forests do not exist in isolation. They are part of a complex ecosystem that has evolved over thousands of years. Similarly, our forest management system has also evolved over the long term, often in response to changing economic conditions and community needs. While we recognize that it is sometimes necessary to deal with a specific management component such as old forests, this must be done with the whole system in mind. To do otherwise would be a fundamental error. Therefore, our recommendations, although developed with a focus on old forests, by necessity extend to the broader forest management system in order to support healthy ecosystems, and by extension, healthy people, as well as old forests.

In our introduction, we identified a paradigm shift in the way we approach managing forests. We found widespread support for a new way of thinking during the engagement phase of our review. We believe that if our recommendations are implemented with this new paradigm in mind, they will be more likely to succeed, and will contribute to facilitating the desired paradigm shift over time.

As illustrated in the figure below, we have structured these recommendations to start with those that we believe are necessary to create the proper conditions for management of old forests in the future and important to ensuring the subsequent recommendations achieve their intended results for the long-term. The remaining recommendations focus on responding immediately to curbing biodiversity loss, improving the management system, and transition requirements. We believe that implementing these recommendations will lead to healthier ecosystems, better long-term land management and greater public support for forest management.

We recognize that these recommendations will be refined and adjusted through engagement with Indigenous communities and stakeholders, and with additional technical and scientific input.





# Required conditions for change

## 1. Indigenous Involvement

Engage the full involvement of Indigenous leaders and organizations to review this report and any subsequent policy or strategy development and implementation.



### Rationale:

The panel understands that Indigenous involvement is built into almost every provincial land-based activity, especially a policy review of this scale, however we feel it is worth reinforcing because it is essential to creating conditions for successful and sustainable implementation of both the shorter- and longer-term actions proposed.

- 1. Widespread support and expectation:** The panel heard support or acknowledgement of this priority from every sector and the majority of those who provided input to the panel.
- 2. Legal imperative:** BC has legal consultation and accommodation obligations with respect to possible infringements on Indigenous rights, which is now even more strongly affirmed with the BC government's recent passing of the *Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act*.
- 3. Social Imperative:** The Province has committed to a New Relationship where the Indigenous population has the opportunity to achieve the same economic, environmental and social societal goals as the rest of the population in the province.
- 4. Environmental Imperative:** Recognizing Indigenous commitment to environmental stewardship, which has extended for millennia, many are looking to Indigenous communities for guidance on how to establish a land management regime that achieves a higher standard of land care.
- 5. Address the Gap:** Indigenous peoples were not involved creating most of the higher-level plans and orders that dominate the management of old forests. This is a significant source of frustration among Indigenous communities and could also mean that most of these historic plans and orders do not conform to the Province's current legal consultation and accommodation requirements or DRIPA legislation.
- 6. Sustenance Dependence:** Many Indigenous communities still depend on the natural resources of their traditional territories for a significant portion of their sustenance and livelihood.
- 7. Practical Working Models:** Indigenous communities are becoming more active in most economic and management aspects of the forest sector and are leading many interesting and potentially valuable on-the-ground approaches to land stewardship and management of old forests.
- 8. Develop Readiness:** Many Indigenous communities need support to develop their internal readiness to accept a leadership position in forest management and the Province also needs to build its internal readiness so that it can effectively participate in these new government-to-government relationships.

### Implementation Advice:

1. As soon as practicable, engage provincial Indigenous governments in developing a policy response to these recommendations.
2. In collaboration with Indigenous leadership, develop provincial guidelines for implementation:
  - a. Develop criteria for establishing government-to-government planning relationships between the Province and Indigenous groups, including appropriate involvement and associated criteria for third-party participation in these planning relationships;
  - b. Establish planning units that conform to local Indigenous group's territories while still adhering to ecologically and administratively practical planning units; and
  - c. Establish mechanisms for local Indigenous groups to meet provincial targets and standards for biodiversity protection, and ecosystem representation, etc.
3. Establish support programs for Indigenous groups to build their land/forest management expertise and capacity including:
  - a. Direct support to establish G2G land management relationships in accordance with point 2.a above;
  - b. Programs to support the development of internal management capacity; and
  - c. Opportunities to share experiences among Indigenous groups.
4. Develop focused training for government staff to support the establishment of appropriate G2G relationships and develop provincial government capacity to meet its responsibilities under these relationships.

## 2. Prioritizing Ecosystem Health and Resilience

**Declare the conservation and management of ecosystem health and biodiversity of British Columbia's forests as an overarching priority and enact legislation that legally establishes this priority for all sectors.**



### Rationale:

Conserving and managing old forests is a cornerstone of the Province's biodiversity conservation strategy. We believe that strategy has underperformed in several areas due to competing pressures.

- 1. Outdated Thinking:** An overriding theme heard throughout our engagement phase was that we need to change the way that we think about our forests and that we need to preserve the integrity of our natural systems as much as possible, particularly the old forests component. Individuals with international experience and our own research on other jurisdictions indicate that this sentiment is consistent with global trends.
- 2. Focus on the right priorities:** Managing forests in a way that does not unduly compromise timber supply puts our focus on the wrong thing. This treats ecosystem resilience and reducing biodiversity risk as constraints, which, over time, are constantly being eroded by compromises. Making choices about risk to biodiversity in return for another defined benefit might be a necessity but those choices need to be made with the overarching goal of maintaining ecosystem health in mind.

**3. Ecosystem Risk:** Several scientists project that under our current management strategy, much of the province, especially the areas covered with productive forest, will be in a high biodiversity risk situation in the near future. It is time to reorient and integrate the system towards an overarching priority that applies to all incursions in the forest, i.e., to maintain ecosystem health by managing biodiversity risk. Without this reorientation, we are losing old forests and possibly ecosystems that are non-renewable.

**4. Complete Implementation:** The original old forest management strategy contemplated a number of components that were never fully implemented or were addressed ad hoc, e.g., seral stage distribution, site series representation, landscape connectivity, and adaptive management, which has compromised the effectiveness of that strategy.

**5. Multiple Sectors:** There is only one land and every land-based sector has some potential to compromise that land, some to the point of undermining provincial ecosystem health goals, if they do not adhere to a common standard. Aligning all sectors towards an overarching goal improves our chances of achieving our ecosystem health goals, reduces conflict between sectors and fosters a common target for everyone involved.

### Implementation Advice:

1. The province should declare that managing for ecosystem health and minimizing biodiversity risk are key priorities of its provincial land management framework.
2. This priority should be reinforced through overarching legislation that:
  - a. Formalizes this priority and sets a broad framework to work towards that commitment (similar to the DRIPA construct);
  - b. Includes principles that will guide the overall shift to this new framework, e.g.:
    - i. Province-Indigenous government-to-government foundation;
    - ii. Science-based;
    - iii. Monitoring, evaluation and regular updates;
    - iv. Planning and oversight involving a range of interests; and
    - v. Accountability, particularly to the public; and
  - c. Establishes a commitment to align all other land-related provincial legislation, management systems and processes to this overarching goal.

## 3. A Formalized Three-Zone Forest Management Framework

**Adopt a three-zone forest management framework to guide forest planning and decision-making.**



### Rationale:

We believe that the Province can better focus its management efforts if it partitions the forest into three overarching and distinct management zones. The concept is already partially used to apply biodiversity emphasis zones for setting old forest targets but needs to be formalized and communicated. Other jurisdictions have moved in this direction to try and create greater certainty for both conservation and economic activities.

We suggest the following categories (the names can change but we feel their substance should remain relatively the same.)

- 1. Protected:** These are forests that will be largely left alone, although there may be some management activities within them to maintain ecosystem health and manage risk from fire, disease or insects (depending on their designation and associated jurisdiction). One example of a Protected area that might allow some management activities are fire-maintained forests, where fire regularly removes the understory while maintaining the overstory. If fire is excluded from these areas and no other intervention is allowed, then they tend to become dense pockets of unhealthy forests that support the development of pest or pathogens or have increased susceptibility to catastrophic wildfire.
- 2. Converted:** Converted forests are those that we have already or intend to change from their natural state to intensive management areas as industrial timberlands. Although these lands do not provide all the same services as old and ancient primary forests, they can still provide a number of important ecosystem services in addition to timber, such as water, recreation, carbon sequestration, wildlife, tourism, etc.), especially since many are close to communities. Conversion areas may have multiple objectives compatible with industrial timber production.
- 3. Consistent:** These are forests and forest landscapes that are managed for ecosystem health and biodiversity risk by using planning and practises that result in forest landscapes that are reasonably consistent with the attributes of the original forests and forest landscapes. We recognize that we can never fully replicate what nature creates over time, but with careful management we can plan and use practises at a forest or forest landscape level that are reasonably consistent to what the original forest or forest ecosystem would have created.

The following are reasons that we feel that we need to move in this direction.

- 1. Reduced confusion:** Despite the existence of land use plans, there is significant confusion or misperception about which forests should be managed for which goals, particularly outside parks and protected areas. Partitioning the forest, focussing on goals for each partition and having clear rules about if and when partitions can contribute to another partition's goals (e.g., protected areas contributing to ecosystem health) or when an area can move from one partition to another can significantly reduce this confusion.
- 2. Reduced conflict:** Our current system also entrenches the idea that we need to either completely protect or allow use of an area. This all-or-nothing mentality oversimplifies management, does not allow us to focus on the right thing for the right area, fosters an "us versus them" behavior and ultimately narrows our focus as land stewards. To paraphrase an Indigenous Elder's perspective, "The reason that we create parks is because we don't trust ourselves to look after land." Many people expressed frustration about second growth forests that are managed like plantations because they think these forests should be more like their iconic undisturbed counterparts. Having them zoned as "Converted" provides clear direction on the goals for these areas and transparency for the public.
- 3. More focused management:** We have forests that are already in the Converted category but we still try to manage them as part of an ecosystem to reduce biodiversity risk, we have forests that are protected for ecosystem biodiversity reasons but are promoting landscape ecosystem health problems because of our no-touch policy, and we have mixed biodiversity targets across the province which in many cases may not be able to achieve their intended ecosystem resilience goals because of their location and ongoing levels of disturbance.

### Implementation Advice:

1. Use a collaborative process under the umbrella of a Provincial-Indigenous government-to-government framework to support ongoing designation of these areas.
2. Develop criteria for:
  - a. Slotting parcels of land into each of the three management zones (e.g., Areas that are already under intensive management and in close proximity to population centers are high candidates for Converted Forests);
  - b. How Protected Forests or Converted Forests might contribute to Consistent Forest objectives; and
  - c. Moving areas from one zone to another.
3. Prioritize the designation process in management units (e.g., TSAs and TFLs) that have already logged a high percentage of their operable land and are facing the greatest risk to ecological and economic values. Areas with existing plans and legal orders like Clayoquot Sound, Haida Gwaii, and the Great Bear Rain Forest may be deferred from this process for now.
4. Where possible, coordinate the designation of forest areas with active land use planning, but do not wait for the renewal of land use planning to designate zones in high priority management units.
5. Where applicable, consider the implications to public safety and infrastructure (e.g., wildfire, floods).
6. In addition to the any other information required, support the collaborative decision-making process and stakeholder input by:
  - a. Conducting objective, government-led multi-value assessments in remaining areas of primary old and ancient forest;
  - b. Identifying special features (e.g., large, and unique trees or stands, unique ecosystems) that are close to communities and presently or foreseeably provide important recreational, cultural, spiritual, or educational opportunities; and
  - c. Developing and analyzing various risk-benefit scenarios and options, including the probabilities.
7. Establish the zones formally through legislation.
8. Establish mandatory transition plans to implement changes on a scheduled basis, specific to the management unit(s) involved.

## 4. A More Inclusive and Stabilizing Approach to Governance

**Adopt a more inclusive and stable governance model that gives local communities and stakeholders a greater role in forest management decisions that affect them.**



### Rationale:

British Columbia needs a forest management governance system that is more inclusive and grounded in the long-term vision of local communities in order to create strategies that are more consistent with long-term ecosystem timeframes. This is needed for the following reasons:



- 1. Stability:** We are managing ecosystems that often take thousands of years to form with policies that can change based on election cycles. We have seen how frequent changes in priorities due to the ideologies of different governing parties can cause uncertainty and loss of continuity. Frequent changes in management direction and emphasis do not align well with most forest management activities. While changes will be inevitable, they should be based more on science-based adaptive management than short-term pressures. We believe the combination of collaborative management with Indigenous communities and formal ongoing participation of local communities, within a provincial science-based framework, can provide a stabilizing effect on policy by ensuring the local and provincial impacts of change are thoroughly considered and understood before decisions are made.
- 2. Accumulation of Wisdom:** There is often high turn-over amongst forest managers, especially in government, and frequently the professionals working in a forest do not reside in local communities. This results in varying levels of knowledge about local forests and community interests and can put communities and forest managers at cross purposes.  
  
Managing forests to achieve a spectrum of community and provincial interests requires an understanding that benefits from local knowledge, continuity, and accumulated wisdom. Involving more people in the process of informing and making decisions increases the opportunity to retain and pass on knowledge.
- 3. Proper Link to Public Policy:** Forest management has less to do with forests and more to do with translating public expectations around forests into policy that drives how we manage those forests. A governance system that more effectively integrates public knowledge and priorities also integrates a much closer link to support developing effective and timely policy.
- 4. Public Trust:** The panel heard consistently from across the province that local communities do not have confidence that the government or large corporations will manage their forests properly, and that they want to better understand what's happening in their forests and be more involved in managing them. This was particularly true among Indigenous communities, many of whom are already assuming that role in their respective territories.

### Implementation Advice:

1. The governance system should exist under the umbrella of Provincial–Indigenous government-to-government relationships.
2. Redefine planning areas considering:
  - a. Existing administrative boundaries, e.g., TSAs, LUs;
  - b. Indigenous territories (likely multiple Indigenous groups in one planning area);
  - c. Biogeoclimatic Ecosystem Classification (BEC) / ecosystem boundaries;
  - d. Administrative practicality; and
  - e. Other factors.
3. Establish local forest boards/planning tables that may be formalized through the overarching legislation described earlier (Recommendation 2).
4. Local forest boards for each planning area could include a range of groups, potentially including:
  - a. Scientific experts;
  - b. Land planners;
  - c. General public;
  - d. Resource professionals (foresters, biologists, ecologists, hydrologists); and
  - e. All land-based sectors (e.g., mining, oil & gas, tourism, highways, etc.).
5. Responsibilities of local forest boards may include:
  - a. Tailoring provincial goals and priorities to their planning area;

- b. Monitoring adherence to and reporting on their region's status and progress towards provincial goals and priorities;
  - c. Overseeing transition to an updated management system;
  - d. Participating in and possibly overseeing implementation of regional land use planning processes;
  - e. Establishing and monitoring (possibly involved with approving changes) in regional partitions, e.g., Protected, Converted, Consistent; and
  - f. Supporting public reporting.
6. Provide local forest board with appropriate support to meet their responsibilities including:
    - a. Mapping;
    - b. Scenario development;
    - c. Training & education of participants;
    - d. Scientific methods; and
    - e. Others?
  7. Adopt formal Terms of Reference for each local forest board that conform the overarching legislation and provincial guidelines.
  8. Although this recommendation has much broader application, it could be used as a mechanism to help implement other aspects of this report.

## 5. Public Information

**Provide the public with timely and objective information about forest conditions and trends.**



### Rationale:

As we indicated earlier in this report, we frequently found local governments, organizations, and individuals that wanted to be better informed about the condition of old forests but were not sure where to go for accurate and objective information.

- 1. Build Trust & Reduce Bias:** As stated before, very few people we heard from said they trust information regarding the condition of BC's forests. Many feel the information provided to the public around BC's forests is biased, regardless of its source.
- 2. Reduce Polarization:** There are very strongly held views regarding how best to manage BC's forests and those views are largely based on where people are getting their information. Although opposing viewpoints may never be fully reconciled, we can reduce the level of conflict and improve the quality of dialogue with greater access to unbiased science-based information.
- 3. Foster Engagement & Wisdom:** Having an informed public can foster increased public engagement and hopefully bring more wisdom and stability to the forest management process.

### Implementation Advice:

1. Provide the public with proactive reporting on forest condition through an objective, professional voice, free from political influence. Options for this may include:

- a. Formally expanding the role of the Forest Practices Board;
  - b. Creating a statutory provision for independent reporting by a senior public servant with an ombudsperson-type role;
  - c. Reporting through an independent scientific panel; or
  - d. Establishing a new office.
2. Significantly enhance public reporting on forest conditions by producing regularly scheduled updates, including:
  - a. Local scale reports, perhaps building on the Multiple Resource Values Assessment (MRVA) approach;
  - b. Regional scale or value-themed reports (e.g., biodiversity), possibly by expanding the work already underway through the Cumulative Effects Assessment initiative; and
  - c. Periodic Provincial Forest Condition reports (e.g., every five years).
3. Where available, utilize existing internal data gathering and analysis processes to inform reporting that is specifically aimed at the public.
4. Ensure reports provide context and relevant commentary to make them meaningful to the public. (Answer the contextual “so what?” question).
5. Have this new public reporting function provide an annual report on its activities and how it achieved its goals during that year.

## Immediate Responses

### 6. Immediate Response to Ecosystems at Very High Risk

**Until a new strategy is implemented, defer development in old forests where ecosystems are at very high and near-term risk of irreversible biodiversity loss.**



#### Rationale:

There are some areas of the province where failure to act now could lead to the permanent loss of rare or unique ecosystem components contained in old and ancient forests. Many of these areas are the primary subject of a public call for protection of old forests. They tend to be iconic stands in relatively close proximity to public access or population centers and have a number of other economic, ecosystem services and intrinsic values that are important to a wide range of the general public. A system of new, more sustainable, and effective approaches to managing biodiversity and other old-forest values will take some time to fully develop and implement. In the meantime, any of these stands that are intended for harvesting or other significant disturbance should be deferred from development.

### Implementation Advice:

1. Act on this recommendation as quickly as possible.
2. Use the information already compiled by FLNRORD staff, supplemented by other information available in the scientific community, to identify the ecosystems at highest risk to permanent biodiversity loss.
3. Consider the following old forest areas (and possibly others) for short-term deferrals:
  - a. Any BEC variant with less than 10% old forest remaining today;
  - b. Old forest in any BEC – Landscape Unit combination that has less than 10% old forest today;
  - c. Ancient forests (e.g., forests >500 years on the coast and wet ICH) and forests > 300 years in ecosystems with higher disturbance intervals;
  - d. Areas with a high potential to contribute towards larger ecosystem resilience; and
  - e. Areas with a Site Index of >20m.
4. Determine which of those areas are subject to harvesting or other significant disturbances within the next two years. We would expect the FLNRORD staff to have this information or be able to collect it from licensees.
5. Establish a prioritized and spatialized list of potential deferral areas and verify them on the ground and with recognized experts.
6. Use various mechanisms as needed for deferrals, for example:
  - a. Instruct BCTS to cease development and defer selling timber in the areas;
  - b. Request authorized tenure holders to voluntarily defer development;
  - c. Decline to authorize new permits or licences in deferral areas; and
  - d. If necessary, establish regulatory provisions and incentives to enable deferrals.
7. Carry out an economic impact analysis of deferrals.
8. Establish a fair and equitable process to mitigate economic impacts to holders of small area-based timber tenures (e.g., replacement area or compensation).
9. Provide a public progress report on how these priority areas have been addressed at the end of the first year after this report.
10. After two years, confirm which temporary deferral areas will be subject to protection or further management measures.
  - a. For each identified area, determine whether biodiversity conservation requires full exclusion from development or special management.
  - b. Establish legal protection for areas confirmed to be critical for biodiversity conservation.

## 7. Compliance with Existing Requirements

**Bring management of old forests into compliance with existing provincial targets and guidelines for maintaining biological diversity.**



### Rationale:

The existing targets for retention of old forest reflect policy decisions that balanced risk to biodiversity with economic considerations more than two decades ago. While we feel these should be revisited

and updated to reflect current circumstances (see recommendation 10), we have been shown by government staff and scientists that some regions are below the approved targets, and at higher biodiversity risk than current policy allows. We also learned that some of the existing provisions are not enforceable because legal commitments are vague and an approved FSP takes precedence over discretionary decision-making.

- 1. Reputation:** The province's reputation as a forest land steward is at risk if it has failed to comply with or enforce its own legal orders and targets, even if this is largely because it didn't implement an adequate system to track those targets. This is not about effectiveness or changing management approaches – it is simply about knowing what is happening and taking corrective actions.
- 2. Unknown Compliance:** Although there are existing guidelines and legal orders and targets for protection of old forest, we don't have an adequate system of tracking compliance with, and enforcing those requirements.
- 3. Urgency:** Many of the existing targets already reflect a negotiated compromise, where a high risk to biodiversity was accepted in favour of economic benefits. These targets are already below scientifically accepted minimums and failure to achieve them increases the risk of moving into critical biodiversity risk situations and possible irreversible losses.
- 4. Setting a Base:** An accurate assessment of where we are at with respect to our targets and how we are managing OGMA's now is essential to future decision-making.

#### Implementation Advice:

1. Determine a schedule for completing this work starting with priority areas, e.g., Kootenay, Vancouver Island and Central Interior regions, moving towards less urgent areas over time, e.g., Muskwa-Kechika, Haida Gwaii, Clayoquot and the Great Bear Rain Forest.
2. Using the current work occurring under the auspices of the Cumulative Effects Assessment initiative (e.g., October 2018 Biodiversity Analysis for Arrow and Kootenay) as an example or template, complete an evaluation for all priority regions of the province by the end of 2020 and the entire province by the end of 2021 to answer the questions:
  - a. Are legal targets being met with the OGMA layer?
  - b. Is there enough old forest to meet aspatial old seral targets?
3. Where the analysis shows non-compliance, take the necessary steps to bring the area into compliance as soon as practicable, including:
  - a. Deferring development in any BEC variant/Landscape Unit/Site series old forests that are below targets (including existing development permits);
  - b. Amending OGMA's where necessary to ensure that they contain old forest, have enough area to meet both mature and old targets, and are adequate (functional shape, size and level of incursions);
  - c. Clarifying, strengthening, and standardizing the OGMA amendment requirements and procedures;
  - d. Ensuring the provincial government has the necessary tools (tracking and regulatory) and capacity to enforce the requirements.



# Improve Management

## 8. Monitoring and Evaluation

**Establish and fund a more robust monitoring and evaluation system for updating management of old forests.**



### Rationale:

There is little value in setting objectives and targets if they are not monitored. Without monitoring we cannot know if they are being complied with or if they are effective. We heard from nearly every region of the province that there has been no formal monitoring plan for old growth management, even though the guidelines have been in place for more than two decades.

Sound, science-based management requires monitoring and evaluation of results. It also establishes the basis for adapting to what is learned, and to changing circumstances, which is especially important in view of the current pace of environmental change. Public confidence requires reporting and acting on those results.

This is a significant and relatively straightforward opportunity to improve management and demonstrate excellence.

### Implementation Advice:

1. Adopt a formal management discipline, such as adaptive management or continuous improvement, as the underpinning to monitoring, evaluation and update, but do not stall implementation of this objective choosing and adopting a discipline (note that scientists are generally more familiar with the adaptive management methodology).
2. Ensure that this system includes the core elements required for success, i.e.:
  - a. dedicated research function;
  - b. dedicated monitoring function;
  - c. link to operations;
  - d. regular updates; and
  - e. objectivity.
3. Publicly report on activities undertaken in response to previous recommendation to update the monitoring and evaluation of old forests such as the FPB (2012) report and the assessments underway through the Cumulative Effects Framework, as soon as practicable.
4. Establish a dedicated organization, possibly building on the existing FREP program by expanding its mandate and resources to:
  - a. Monitor implementation of and adherence to old forest orders, targets, and guidelines on an ongoing (scheduled periodic) basis across the province;
  - b. Evaluate the effectiveness of old forest (and seral stage) management at all scales; and
  - c. Update the management system for old forests based on the latest research and effectiveness audits on a periodic basis, e.g., minor updates every two years, major updates every six years.

5. Integrate government and external scientists, operations specialists, management experts and other specialists into this system to support information gathering and analysis, evaluation and providing options for updating the system.
6. Continue to develop and utilize standardize protocols for monitoring and evaluation of both compliance and effectiveness at achieving objectives (which may be multiple, including socio-economic).
7. Establish and maintain strong linkages between monitoring and evaluation results, research and inventory priorities, innovative practices trials (discussed elsewhere), periodic updates to practise guidelines and public reporting. This can be achieved through:
  - a. Information protocols;
  - b. Clear decision processes, authorities, and timelines; and
  - c. Others means.
8. Use the information collected from this system to enhance public reporting of results and management responses (also see recommendation on forest condition reporting).
9. Ensure that regional planning tables drive regional reporting.

## 9. Setting and Managing Objectives and Targets

**Establish a standardized system and guidance that integrates provincial goals and priorities to local objectives and targets.**

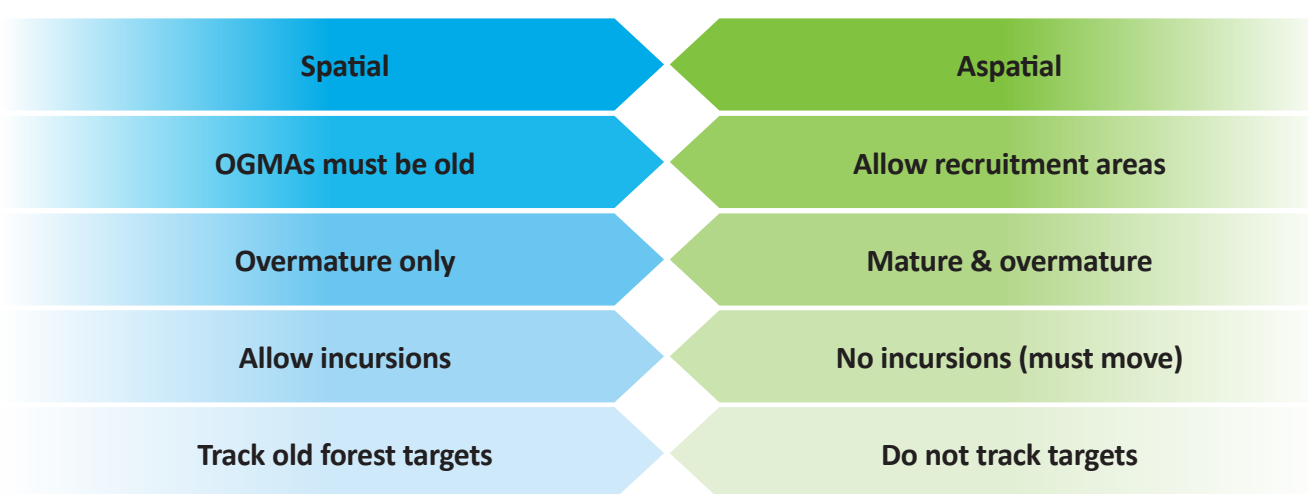


### Rationale:

- 1. Local flexibility within a clearly defined framework:** The current management system for old forests is applied inconsistently and often ineffectively across the province and is not achieving its original intent. Many areas have different methodologies, often arising from a higher-level plan, e.g., CORE, LRMP, or when they were applied. The figure below illustrates some aspects of the variation across the province. Local areas want flexibility and feel that the current system often sets inflexible rules that do not work in their local situation. However, almost all local areas did recognize (and support) that their local management strategies had to conform to some larger objectives and in a manner that allows the Province to track how each area was conforming and contributing to these larger objectives.
- 2. Changed circumstances:** The original guidance for the management of old forests set out in the Biodiversity Guidebook and the Landscape Planning Unit Guide two decades ago were not fully and consistently implemented. Since that time, some ecosystems have been heavily disturbed, circumstances have changed due to climate change, and risk to biodiversity has increased. The introduction of FRPA in 2002 reduced the ability of government managers to directly control and coordinate activities on the landscape, and many current managers and professionals were not involved in the creation of the current guidance and likely don't fully understand its intent.

**3. Incorporate what has been learned:** Many managers expressed frustration because they feel the OGMA approach is not working and that many OGMAs are ineffective and sometimes managed inconsistently with natural forest processes (e.g., Interior Douglas Fir NDT 4, where lack of management is resulting in a considerable increase in the risk for insects, disease and catastrophic wildfire). These managers need support to have an informed voice in the system, which will in turn make the overall system more effective. We have also seen modified approaches taken in some regions, such as the Great Bear Rain Forest and Haida Gwaii, which can inform update provincial approaches.

**4. Consistent Implementation:** A new government policy that prioritizes conservation and management of forest biodiversity will require the existing guidelines to be adjusted, and implementation of some of the original intent to be reinforced. Having an operational framework that regularly provides the latest guidance to front-line workers and effectively engages those workers in developing this new guidance, helps to ensure that the management of old forests is implemented consistently across the province on an ongoing basis. The following illustrates a sampling of the range of OGMA approaches.



#### Implementation Advice:

- Clearly define and communicate the government's overarching objective(s) and priorities for the management of old forests in guidance or standards that provide:
  - clear direction on the intent; and
  - provide flexibility for local adaptation.
- Establish a scientific and technical panel to provide oversight and advice to developing updated guidance, including government and external experts, and incorporating operational knowledge and experience.
- Establish a scheduled review and update process for guidance.
- Review the Biodiversity Guidebook (1995) and the Landscape Unit Planning Guide (1999) and determine whether it would be better to update or replace them. In doing so, decide where and how to place:
  - Biological diversity: Should be addressed for the whole landscape, including seral stage distribution and grasslands; and
  - Old forest: Focus on categories of old, ancient, and rare forests and the various values and objectives assigned to them.
- Provide for consistent processes and administrative requirements across the province, while accommodating the diversity of ecosystems, disturbance history (natural and anthropogenic), and community values, e.g.:

- a. Reporting requirements, i.e., content, geographic unit, timing;
  - b. How to buffer for unplanned events, e.g., wildfire, disease pests, slides, etc.;
  - c. Assign clear objectives to every OGMA);
  - d. Consistent, rigorous, objective and transparent processes for assessing options, including risk to ecological values and economic costs and benefits; and
  - e. Adopt a standardized, responsive process for amending (moving) spatial designations.
6. Incorporate an extension and education component tailored to practitioners, managers, and decision-makers.

## 10. Update Biodiversity Targets and Guidance

**Update the targets for retention and management of old and ancient forest.**



### Rationale:

Implementation of the aforementioned recommendations will ensure we are meeting current targets, establishing a more inclusive and informed governance process and providing updated guidance to managers. Establishing the recommended overarching commitment to ecosystem health will also require us to update our retention targets and improve our guidance for retention and management of old forests.

- 1. Ecosystem Health:** Scientific research provided to the panel projects that almost all of the province's most productive forest ecosystems are, or very shortly will be, in a high biodiversity risk scenario and the rest of the ecosystems will move into a similar situation under the current old forest policies and practices. This will result in lower ecosystem resilience, loss of species and compromised ecosystem services in many areas.
- 2. Use Best Science:** Developing new guidance is of little value if it is not incorporated into both our targets and practices. Current targets have been in place for up to 25 years and no longer reflect today's reality. It is time to reset them to incorporate the latest research and practises and recognize the impacts to old forests that have occurred in the intervening time.
- 3. Shifting Paradigm:** The survey conducted as part of our review and the panel's outreach process suggests there is widespread support for conserving and maintaining biodiversity and other old forest values. Many argue that increased retention of old forest is necessary to achieve this, and to provide a buffer against uncertainty. We heard concurrently the sentiment that families and communities that depend on harvesting and manufacturing timber from old forests need to be considered in any change.
- 4. Conserve Future Options/Choices:** Very old and ancient primary forests have evolved over a long time, including some that have not experienced significant stand-replacing events. As a result, these forests are repositories of biota and process we may not even know or understand. This makes them an extremely important buffer against species extinction, climate change, and lost future opportunities. Many of these irreplaceable forests are in the THLB and are subject to harvesting. Harvesting them would mean their inherent value and future options will also be lost.

### Implementation Advice:

1. Re-evaluate the assignment of biodiversity risk in light of overarching commitments to ecosystem health and managing biodiversity risk.
  - a. Develop a schedule that prioritizes areas where we have the greatest risk to biological diversity under the current targets and management regime.
  - b. Utilize information and advice from evaluation work and updated guidance to inform implementation.
  - c. Formally incorporate the importance of very old or ancient forests and ecosystems by adding new classifications and specific management targets and guidelines.
  - d. Be specific about whether the objectives of each area identified are required to be left undisturbed or managed to maintain attributes.
  - e. Address connectivity and multiple-scale objectives.
2. Where there is a deficit of old forest necessary to meet the updated targets, incorporate a formal recruitment strategy.
  - a. Conduct analysis of the expected socio-economic benefits and costs, both short and long term.
  - b. Involve local communities in making decisions and choosing options.
3. Verify that OGMA's have the intended attributes through LIDAR, ground-truthing, or other means.
4. Adopt a standard set of provincial guidelines for OGMA's in each OGMA category as illustrated in the figure below.

#### OGMA GUIDELINE CONSIDERATIONS

1. What is an old forest (OGMA), i.e., must be old, must be big, etc.
2. Guidelines for the size and shape for old forest areas to achieve the objectives of that area.
3. Types of management activities that are allowed in those areas, e.g., stand treatments to maintain NDT properties.
4. Incursions — when allowed, what type of incursion.
5. Requirements for unavoidable incursions (e.g., need replacement areas).
6. How to move an OGMA.

5. Eliminate generalizing, including ensuring that Protected and Conversion zones (see recommendation 3) are allocated to the proper BEC/LU/SI category.

## 11. Inventory and Old Forest Classification

**Improve the mapping and classification of old forests to recognize multiple values.**



### Rationale:

1. **Refine Guidance:** The current system uses age class as a proxy for old forest — over 140 years in the interior and over 250 years on the coast. Only using age class does not recognize the inherent complexity in old forests and the range of values that they contain. We cannot separate whether an area was categorized as an OGMA because of its biodiversity, spiritual, recreation or other values and



it is very difficult if not impossible to set parameters on how to manage the area to protect its values. Even full protection can fail if the value being protected requires some level of intervention, e.g., maintaining structure in old fire-maintained ecosystems.

- 2. Recognize Variation:** The mature and over-mature age classes were created from a timber perspective and are valuable from that perspective, however, these age classes need to be further refined when managing for genetic or biological diversity. A 250-year-old Douglas Fir stand that has regrown after a disturbance is completely different than a 250-year-old Douglas Fir stand in a 3,000-year-old undisturbed ecosystem in terms of genetic, scientific, ecological, ecosystem function and intrinsic values.
- 3. Protect Values:** Our current classification does not allow us to identify important values that we may all want to protect. It is impossible to differentiate between an area that has old big trees that has value for recreation and some minor habitat from another area that contains ancient genetic material that may help save landscapes or contain cures for diseases that help save mankind, or have critical habitat necessary for the survival of an important species.
- 4. Improve Management:** The quality and even existence of forest and BEC mapping in the province is highly variable ranging from very good (not excellent) to poor or non-existent. While this mapping has improved over time, most OGMA's and strategies for the management of old forests were implemented 25 years ago when much of this information was of a much poorer standard. Numerous errors have been found where old forests that were incorrectly labeled or mapped or in some cases don't even have old trees. Some regions have undergone adjustments, but many areas still have poor information or haven't updated their old forest strategies to the new information.

#### Implementation Advice:

1. Refine the Province's Natural Disturbance Types (NDTs) to a finer classification system. For example, one submission said that there could be as many as 8 refinements to fire regime NDTs.
2. Work with a team of inventory and habitat mapping specialists and scientific experts in the management of old forests and classification to develop a new classification system for old forests.
  - a. It might be something like habitat mapping, i.e., considers a number of factors to assign a classification.
  - b. Refine the OGMA name to reflect the objective, e.g., biodiversity, iconic, ancient, recreation, spiritual, etc.
3. Add new age classes to the current inventory system.
  - a. Recommend 250-500 years, 500-1,000 years and 1,000 years plus (confirm these new age class definitions with old forest experts).
4. Refine mapping of all old forest in the province:
  - a. 100+ years for the interior, 140+ years for the coast;
  - b. Do at a relatively detailed level;
  - c. Ideally this would adopt the use of LIDAR for these areas; and
  - d. Continually verifying that OGMA's have the intended attributes through LIDAR, ground-truthing, or other means.
5. Establish a program with industry to acquire their inventory information for public use.

## 12. Innovative Silviculture Systems

Create a silviculture innovation program aimed at developing harvesting alternatives to clearcutting that maintain old forest values.



### Rationale:

- 1. Improve Acceptance:** The clearcut (including clearcut with reserves) silviculture system is the mainstay of the BC forest industry because, as numerous industry representatives told the panel, it is the most cost-effective. However, this system is also the most contentious because it often significantly compromises many other values on the land (e.g., biodiversity, tourism, Indigenous sustenance use) and many ecosystem services. Most of the communities, local governments, local organizations and citizens we interviewed from across the province told us they were frustrated that their landscapes were being cleared, their local values were being compromised (particularly water supply) and they were getting little or no local return or compensation for these impacts. Areas that used gentler silviculture systems to mimic NDT patterns or enhance ecosystem services (e.g., water retention, visual, and habitat), were generally deemed more acceptable.
- 2. Ecosystem Health:** Managing for ecosystem health and low biodiversity risk requires maintaining a percentage of the ecosystem in as close to its original state as possible, but very few of BC's NDTs yield stands look or function like clearcut systems. Even the fire-dominated northern NDT 3 areas (frequent stand replacing events) yield landscapes that are a mixture of species, standing dead and live trees and varying structure. Managing for attributes that mimic the NDT type can support ecosystem health at a stand and a landscape level plus preserve the integrity of many ecosystem services.
- 3. Increase Access:** Using silviculture systems that are more gentle and manage for multiple values are generally more acceptable to the wider public because they tend to be gentler on the land, have a higher chance of protecting important community ecosystem services and result in forests that are more appealing because they look more like the pre-harvest forests. As the public gains trust with these systems, they should generally become more amenable to timber harvesting thus increasing access to the forest land base.
- 4. Reduce Conflict:** In much of British Columbia, the forest industry has played out as clearcut or no-cut, often with little attempt to manage for multiple values. This tends to foster an all or nothing approach, i.e., allow or don't allow industrial activity, which leads to tensions and compromises that may not be necessary if more balanced options were available. The variable retention system used on parts of the Coast starts to move away from this hard distinction, as do selective systems in the Interior Douglas Fir zone. While conventional clearcut harvesting (with appropriate measures to protect water, soil, and critical habitat) may still be appropriate in a few areas (e.g., second growth plantations), other approaches are needed to achieve additional public objectives across the land base.
- 5. Operational Efficiency:** There are pockets that use, and there have been sporadic attempts at creating, silviculture systems that manage for multiple values and are more acceptable to the public, but they generally didn't get the appropriate support, have a longer-term program framework and/or become adopted a wider scale. Having a dedicated program that designs, operationally tests,

measures, and reports on silviculture systems aimed at optimizing a suite of ecological and socio-economic objectives at an operational level increases options available to forest managers.

**6. Increase Overall Returns:** The current clearcut systems preserve relatively few valuable ecosystem services. There are examples of alternate systems such as Interior Douglas Fir on dry sites, where continuous shelterwood systems are needed because clearcut sites are generally too hot for seedling survival. Due to climate change, this same condition may also be true of Cedar-Hemlock sites in the near future. Alternate silviculture systems tend to preserve more of the inherent ecosystem services (e.g., Shelter for seedlings, filtered water, cooler streams for fish, carbon storage, habitat), make the area more conducive for other forest sector businesses, and reduce mitigation costs for other sectors, all of which in turn tend to increase overall net returns from those areas.

### Implementation Advice:

1. Implement a program that supports a collaboration of industry, operations practitioners and scientists to develop and implement a set of silviculture systems that are cost-effective and maintain or enhance other values, e.g., maintain each NDTs old forests as close as possible to their inherent states, water retention, habitat, etc.
2. Develop partnerships with:
  - a. Other governments (e.g., Forestry Canada and Indigenous);
  - b. Existing research organizations (e.g., FP Innovations, universities, non-profits);
  - c. Forest licensees (especially community forests and other area-based licensees);
  - d. BC Timber Sales program;
  - e. Local governments and water purveyors;
  - f. Wildlife management programs;
  - g. BC Climate Action Secretariat; and
  - h. Other potential public and private sector collaborators.
3. Test a series of silviculture systems and variations to achieve the previous goals, i.e., manage old forests to effectively achieve a defined suite of values and objectives, recruit and encourage old forest attributes where required to meet long-term objectives; and demonstrate and encourage new practises.
4. Once tested, make these proven silviculture systems the default requirement for each NDT and/or ecosystem type and provide clear guidance on when these systems might be varied because of local operational constraints.
5. Ensure that there is support for operations to effectively utilize these systems, such as:
  - a. Facilitate communication and collaboration across jurisdictions and disciplines;
  - b. Facilitate knowledge transfer to practitioners;
  - c. Involve local residents and stakeholders; and
  - d. Ensure that the stumpage system provides appropriate offsets to cover extra costs.

## Orderly Transition

### 13. Transition Planning at the Provincial and Local Levels

Once developed, implement the new policies and strategies for the management of old forests through mandatory provincial and local transition plans that define, schedule and monitor the process.

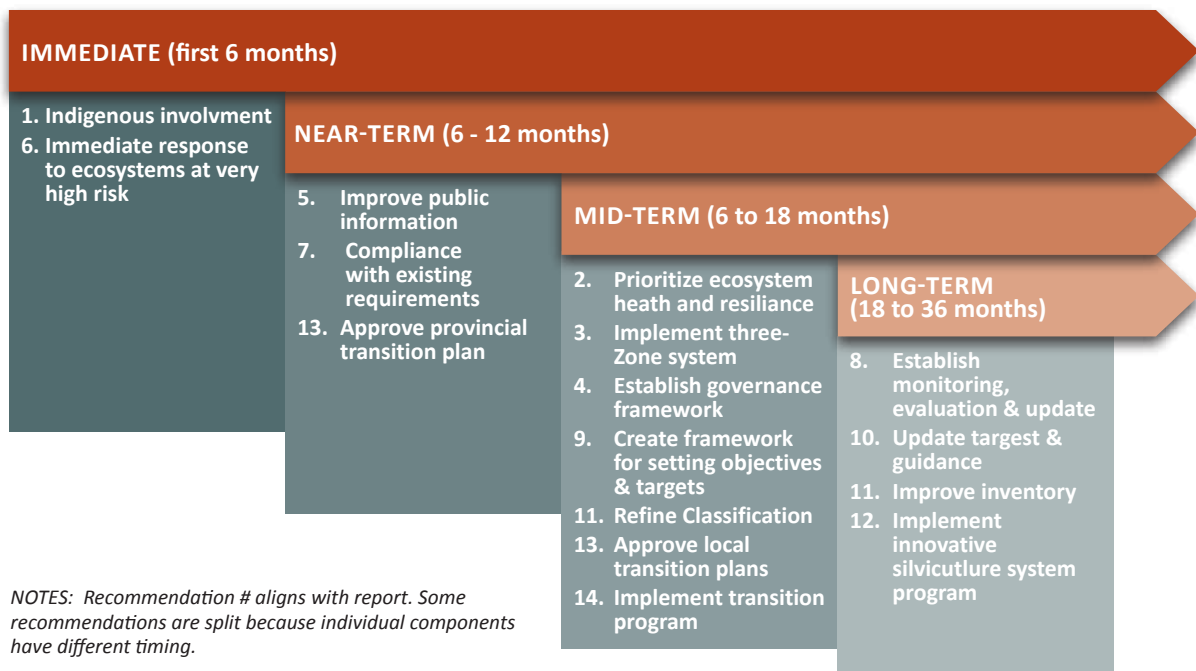
#### Rationale:

- 1. Credibility:** Past attempts at changing the management system for old forests have not been as effective as they could have been because they lacked formal implementation plans, comprehensive implementation, appropriate resourcing and effective public accountability mechanisms. In light of this history, there is significant skepticism about this current Old Growth Management review process. This can be mitigated to some degree by planning for results with mandatory, publicly accountable transition plans.
- 2. Avoid Unnecessary Harm:** In the absence of mandatory, publicly accountable transition plans, history has shown us that we tend to fall back to old habits, further compromise ecosystem health, continue to impact other forest values and create more negative socio-economic impacts.
- 3. Proactive:** The primary forest is finite and diminishing, and each area's transition requirements vary depending on how much primary forest currently exists, economic conditions (expansion or contraction of the THLB) and land-use decisions. Areas that proactively plan for this transition generally have more options than areas that only react to the situation when they run out of available timber.
- 4. Stability:** At a larger scale, these transitions are attempting to address destabilizing events, but it is possible to provide some level of stability by proactively planning ahead, being accountable for achieving targets in mutually supported mandatory plans and having the ability to adjust those plans as circumstances evolve. These parameters improve an area's ability to adjust their trajectory and work their way through inevitable economic cycles.

#### Implementation Advice:

1. Recognize that transitions will occur at:
  - a. The provincial level from the resultant old forest policy and strategy that will arise from these recommendations; and at
  - b. The local level from:
    - i. Deferrals and long-term strategies to address immediate threats to ecosystems;
    - ii. Moving to compliance with current biodiversity targets; and
    - iii. adopting updated biodiversity targets, OGMA guidelines and practices.
2. Immediately engage Indigenous leadership at the appropriate level (provincial and/or local) in each of these transitions (this includes developing a quick response plan to recommendation #6).
3. Review the government's internal organization to ensure that the strategies and priorities for management of old forests will be successfully implemented:
  - a. Inter-ministry accountabilities, authorities, and coordination;
  - b. Clear cross-government priorities and direction to staff;

- c. Adequate staffing and resources;
  - d. Support for the new planning systems; and
  - e. Effective multi-disciplinary processes.
4. Develop and formally approve an overall implementation plan that will accompany the provincial old forest policy and strategy that will result from this report's recommendations. Implementation recommendations include:
- a. Done under a Province-Indigenous government-to-government umbrella;
  - b. Needs to engage various government, scientific, operational and planning experts; and
  - c. Should include a clear schedule (the following provides an overview of the panel's view on prioritization and broad scheduling of the recommendations in this report).



- 5. Provide for local transition plans in legislation (perhaps initially in FRPA and the Old & Gas Activities Act, but eventually in the new proposed overarching legislation).
  - a. Make transition plans a mandatory consideration in AAC determinations by including a new clause in the *Forest Act* Section 8(8)(a).
  - b. Provide direction and authority to statutory decision makers to consider the impact of authorizations on the objectives of a transition plan.
- 6. Develop government-led local transition plans on a scheduled, prioritized basis.
  - a. Begin immediately in management units with the:
    - i. Highest risk to biodiversity;
    - ii. Most constrained timber supply (hard to find the AAC); or
    - iii. High public values in the primary forest that are not compatible with conventional timber harvesting.
  - b. Complete remaining plans in conjunction with scheduled TSRs.
- 7. Recognize the unique ecological, social, economic, and timber supply circumstances of each management unit and its dependent communities and develop a plan specific to its needs.
  - a. Develop implementation plans collaboratively with the most directly affected communities.
  - b. Recognize and address the potentially disproportional impact on small area-based tenures.
  - c. Conduct a realistic assessment of economic diversification opportunities and options, including the time required to realize them, and the probability of success (could be value-added manufacture of wood products, botanical forest products, tourism, and commercial recreation, etc.). Ensure they are viable options — not just ideas.



- d. Assess the opportunities/suitability of the forest to alternative silviculture systems outside the Converted zone.
  - e. Assess timber operations' dependence on old forests for economic viability and possible transition to second growth.
8. Review the stumpage system to evaluate: the true direct and indirect costs and effects of silviculture systems that are carried out; its effect on the Province's ability to meet biodiversity targets and other established old forest objectives; and its effect on potential silviculture innovation.
  9. Explore the potential of a land acquisition fund to enable the purchase of land or covenants to retain or recruit old forest in ecosystems at high biodiversity risk, or otherwise of high public interest.
  10. Report publicly on implementation of transition plans.

## 14. Transition Support for Communities

**Support forest sector workers and communities as they adapt to changes resulting from a new forest management system.**

### Rationale:

- 1. Proactive versus Reactive:** There are already a number of areas in the province that are facing significant economic restructuring because they are at or near the point of diminished timber supply. It is much better to be proactive and manage this transition when we still have options versus reacting to a crisis when it is upon us, e.g., a mill shutdown.
- 2. Local Dependence:** The importance of the forest sector to the economy and social well-being of the province as a whole is diminishing but still important. This broader picture belies the fact that there are still a significant number of local areas that are highly dependent on this sector and any transition away from a timber-based economy will drive deep into the core and possibly even the economic survival of those areas. Those communities will need support to reform themselves now and develop other options while they still have choices.
- 3. Fairness:** We live in a society where the generally accepted convention is to support communities that bear a disproportional share of the negative consequences from broader societal decisions. The support we provide them should be sufficiently substantive to meaningfully mitigate the effects of those consequences.
- 4. Foster Confidence:** There is a tremendous amount of local uncertainty and lack of confidence within the timber sector, and it is too late to pretend that things are fine or to try to avoid the inevitable shortages of timber. Areas that are facing economic changes are generally aware that negative changes are coming, and they need support in planning a scheduled change. This will help foster confidence and support for the larger system in those areas.
- 5. Improve Local Economies:** There are still forest-based economic options that can be realized in many areas. On their own, these options may not offer the same level of local employment or economic spin-offs as the timber sector in the short-term, however they may be much more sustainable in the long-term. There are still probably significant opportunities for continued local timber sector benefits if new innovative systems can be used.

### Implementation Advice:

1. Require a socio-economic transition plan for every area where the forest transition plan may result in a higher negative impact than a defined threshold to local, regional or provincial social and economic values.
2. Provide adequate funding for plan implementation, including:
  - a. Capacity to investigate and facilitate local and regional economic opportunities;
  - b. Bridge financing assistance for businesses;
  - c. Workforce adjustment; and
  - d. Conservation funding (e.g., carbon, biodiversity).
3. Develop and implement policies and programs aimed directly at promoting local manufacture, especially for value-added specialty and high-value products.
4. Develop and implement policies and programs aimed directly at generating sustainable economic benefits from forest-focused tourism, e.g., Improved access, facilities and interpretation for visiting big trees and unique ecosystems (e.g., Similar to Cathedral Grove, Ancient Forest Recreation site etc.) and other non-timber forest businesses.
5. Review existing administrative practices, including the stumpage system, to ensure they do not inhibit local economies.



Spruce–Lady fern–Oak fern ecosystem.

Photo courtesy Deb MacKillop.



## In Closing...

High-elevation old forest in Babine Mountains near Smithers.

Photo by Al Gorley



## IN CLOSING...

Our strategic review of the management of old forests led us to conclude that despite the good intentions and efforts of many people, including government personnel associated with forest management development and implementation, the overall system of forest management has not supported effective implementation or achievement of the stated public objectives for old forests. This has not come about because of any one group or decision, but by a pattern of many choices made over several decades, within an outdated paradigm.

Our current system of forest management emerged in the middle of the 20th century, when the provincial policy was focused on generating economic wealth and “building the province” by monetizing the vast natural supplies of timber and converting them to tree farms. Only later, especially through the 1990s, did conservation and management for ecological values across the landscape receive serious attention. Since that time, a great deal of effort has gone into creating protected areas, planning for multiple uses of forest lands, and designing systems to manage forest practices that respect a range of values including biological diversity. The underlying timber policy remained oriented toward a sustained yield of timber but was now somewhat constrained by these new policies and practices.

Our ever-expanding understanding of forest behavior and management, as well as the effects of climate change, have made it clear that we can no longer continue to harvest timber and manage forests using the approaches we have in the past while also conserving the forest values we cherish. We therefore have to be honest with ourselves and collectively and transparently make the difficult choices necessary to ensure future generations of British Columbians can enjoy and benefit from our magnificent forests, as we have done.



Recently planted woodlot near Port Hardy.  
Photo by Trevor Pancoust



Old dry pine forest in the Interior.  
Photo by Al Gorley



# OUR LAND IS OUR FUTURE

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UNION OF B.C. INDIAN CHIEFS  
52<sup>ND</sup> ANNUAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
SEPTEMBER 29<sup>TH</sup> TO 30<sup>TH</sup>, 2020  
VIRTUAL MEETING

Resolution no. 2020-23

**RE: Implementation of an Old Growth Strategy that Protects First Nations' Welfare and Endangered Old Growth Forests**

**WHEREAS** Indigenous peoples sustain vital cultural and spiritual relationships with the environment and have derived their livelihoods, way of life, health, and well-being from the care and stewardship of their lands and waters since time immemorial;

**WHEREAS** old-growth forests are considered "heritage habitats" with ancient trees, some up to 2,000 years old, that not only play an integral ecological role in the biodiversity and health of BC ecosystems, but possess incalculable cultural value and significance for First Nations who use old-growth yellow and red cedar for traditional purposes, such as clothing and regalia, canoes, totem poles, and long houses;

**WHEREAS** logging has reduced the grandest stands within the ancient temperate rainforest in BC to [less than 3% of its original size](#) and despite Vancouver Island's old-growth forests approaching extinction, the government agency BC Timber Sales (BCTS) and private corporations are responsible for the logging of irreplaceable swathes of ancient trees, including those in Nuu-chah-nulth territories and the Nahmint Valley in Hupacasath and Tseshah First Nations territories;

**WHEREAS** the *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples*, which the government of Canada has adopted without qualification, and has, alongside the government of BC, committed to implement, affirms:

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Grand Chief Stewart Phillip, President

**Article 19:** States shall consult and cooperate in good faith with the indigenous peoples concerned through their own representative institutions in order to obtain their free, prior and informed consent before adopting and implementing legislative or administrative measures that may affect them.

**Article 26(1):** Indigenous peoples have the right to the lands, territories and resources which they have traditionally owned, occupied or otherwise used or acquired.

**(2)** Indigenous peoples have the right to own, use, develop and control the lands, territories and resources that they possess by reason of traditional ownership or other traditional occupation or use, as well as those which they have otherwise acquired.

**(3)** States shall give legal recognition and protection to these lands, territories and resources. Such recognition shall be conducted with due respect to the customs, traditions and land tenure systems of the indigenous peoples concerned.

**Article 29(1):** Indigenous peoples have the right to the conservation and protection of the environment and the productive capacity of their lands or territories and resource; and

**WHEREAS** around 4/5ths of old-growth logging done on Crown land is attributed to private companies who are encroaching into increasingly controversial and endangered areas of ancient forests that hold irreplaceable cultural value for Indigenous Nations and, rather than being destroyed in the short-term, could be left standing to accrue long-term value as part of a diverse economy;

**WHEREAS** although the provincial government claims 55% of old-growth forests on Crown land in B.C.'s coastal region are protected from logging, the majority of the protection extends over the Great Bear Rainforest and fails to protect much of the old-growth on Vancouver Island where there are several private companies which — combined with BCTS logging — are clearcutting about 10,000 hectares of old-growth a year, or more than 30 soccer fields per day;

**WHEREAS** logging in the Nahmint Valley has led to the felling of some of the largest and oldest trees in the province, and after the Ancient Forest Alliance submitted a complaint in 2018 to the compliance and enforcement branch at B.C.'s Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development (FLNRORD), two subsequent [investigations](#) revealed that the BCTS was violating old-growth management plans and protection rules, as well as Vancouver Island's official [Land Use Plan](#) which designates the Nahmint Valley as a Special Management Zone with a critical mass of old-growth that needs to be retained;

**WHEREAS** it is deeply concerning that despite making recommendations that the BCTS should put a hold on future harvesting tenures and be prevented from legalizing new old-growth management areas until they address ongoing overcutting, the senior compliance and enforcement specialist conducting the internal investigation of BCTS was told to close his investigation and that the government would not charge the agency;

**WHEREAS** the current landscape of old-growth logging has been exacerbated by years of the BC government fostering an economic dependence on old-growth for First Nations communities by arranging

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Grand Chief Stewart Phillip, President

agreements for revenue-sharing, employment, joint ventures, and tenures in old growth timber in contentious areas for First Nations bands who face limited economic opportunities as a result of years of colonialism and racism;

**WHEREAS** the provincial government has allowed BCTS and logging companies to over-harvest old growth and to operate with no accountability and repercussions for their infractions and compliance issues, allowing low enforcement standards to jeopardize salmon-bearing streams and other wildlife habitat already under duress from the climate crisis, forest fires, and carbon emissions linked to intensive development and logging;

**WHEREAS** a conservation financing model similar to the one administered by Coast Funds in the Great Bear Rainforest can be applied to Vancouver Island in order to permanently finance First Nations stewardship, sustainable economic development, and the conservation of old growth;

**WHEREAS** the First Nations Forestry Council (FNFC) has a mandate that includes advocating on forestry matters on behalf of BC First Nations, and by UBCIC Resolution 2012-14 “Support for First Nations Leadership Council Renewing its “Declaration & Protocol of Recognition, Support, Cooperation and Coordination with the First Nations Forestry Council” and UBCIC Resolution 2016-15 “Support for First Nations Forestry Council and Improved Forest Range Revenue Sharing and Tenure Solution,” UBCIC has consistently supported the work of the FNFC;

**WHEREAS** the FNFC has worked to develop and implement a BC First Nations Forest Strategy that will allow for increased revenue sharing, shared decision-making, and the meaningful involvement of BC First Nations as full partners in the forest sector, and by UBCIC Resolution 2019-24 the UBCIC Chiefs Council fully supported the draft [BC First Nations Forest Strategy and Implementation Plan](#), which provides a supportive framework for increasing the role of First Nations in the management and protection of old-growth forests;

**WHEREAS** the BC government must consult with and learn from First Nations land and forestry plans and practices, and work in partnership with First Nations to develop sustainable timber harvesting policies that support the UN Declaration, the BC First Nations Forestry Strategy, and First Nations’ need to retain sufficient old-growth for spiritual and cultural purposes;

**WHEREAS** logging now threatens the Fairy Creek watershed near Port Renfrew, the last unlogged old-growth valley on south Vancouver Island, and activists and land defenders have set up road blockades in August 2020 to prevent clear-cutting from destroying the local environment;

**WHEREAS** an Old Growth Review Panel appointed by the B.C. government in 2019 was to provide a report and draft [recommendations](#) for a new approach to old-growth management in the spring of 2020 following a public engagement process, but the province did not meaningfully consult with First Nations, including the First Nations Forestry Council who had requested to be a part of the review panel;

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**WHEREAS** on April 30, 2020, the Old Growth Review Panel presented its report to the Province which concluded that years of mismanagement and the inconsistent application of previous old-growth and conservation plans have led to the current old forest challenges, and included 14 recommendations to guide a four-phased process to develop and implement an old growth strategy that consists of immediate, near-term, mid-term, and long-term actions;

**WHEREAS** after significant delay, the Province finally released the old growth report and recommendations to the public on September 11, 2020, alongside the announcement of the deferral of old-growth logging within more than 350,000 hectares and the protection of up to 1,500 giant trees;

**WHEREAS** although the report and the Province's renewed commitment to old growth are promising steps, there are still many concerns, including how BC is continuing with plans to log old growth and critical caribou habitat in the Argonaut Valley north of Revelstoke, and how the logging deferral still leaves almost half of the province's old growth unprotected, does not include vulnerable areas such as the Fairy Creek area, and leaves the most at-risk and contentious areas for First Nations to log while privileging industrial forest corporations; and

**WHEREAS** although decisions regarding old-growth are a Title and Rights subject, the government has enabled a dangerous and irresponsible system that deprives Indigenous Nations of their consent and leaves them most contentious and at-risk areas for logging: their consent is only honored and recognized when it is given to protect old-growth, but it is never sought and respected by the government when it comes to the destruction of old-growth.

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** the UBCIC Chiefs-in-Assembly fully support the First Nations and allies who are protesting the negligent logging and clear-cutting practices enabled by the BC government that have undermined First Nations Title and Rights and pushed Vancouver Island's old-growth forests to the brink of collapse;

**THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** the UBCIC Chiefs-in-Assembly fully support the Old Growth Strategic Review Panel's report and recommendations that are vital to creating a new, sustainable old growth strategy, and call upon the provincial government to take immediate and sustained action to ensure that the report's recommendations are carried out, with First Nations included and consulted every step of the way;

**THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** the UBCIC Chiefs-in-Assembly call upon the BC government to provide more details on its plan to shift logging deferrals to permanent protection, and working in partnership with impacted First Nations, to engage in discussions on expanding these deferrals to include all threatened old-growth forests, including areas like the Walbran Valley, Nahmint, Fairy Creek, Tsitika Valley, Mt. Elphinstone, Argonaut Creek.

**THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** the UBCIC Chiefs-in-Assembly direct the UBCIC Executive and staff to work with other like-minded organizations to urge the provincial and federal

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governments to provide dedicated funding for First Nations Indigenous Protected and Conserved Areas (IPCAs) and First Nations land use plans, as well as financial support for First Nations communities to manage and steward ICPAs, purchase and protect private lands with old-growth, and pursue conservation-based businesses and economies, including cultural and eco-tourism businesses, clean energy, and second-growth forestry;

**THEREFORE BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED** the UBCIC Chiefs-in-Assembly urge the Ministry of FLNRORD to consult and engage with First Nation communities and organizations, including the First Nations Forestry Council and the First Nations Leadership Council, to develop and implement a renewed old-growth strategy that entrenches Indigenous consent into its processes; is aligned with the principles of the UN Declaration, the Old Growth Strategic Review recommendations, and the BC First Nations Forestry Strategy; is supported by strong enforcement and compliance standards; and is intended to support sustainable old-growth cultural harvesting as an important First Nations livelihood and source of culture.

**Moved:** Spokesperson Chris Syeta'xtn Lewis, Squamish Nation  
**Seconded:** Terry Dorward, Tla-o-qui-aht First Nation (Proxy)  
**Disposition:** Carried  
**Date:** September 29, 2020

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Grand Chief Stewart Phillip, President

2020-23  
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**BYLAW NO. 637, 2021**

## CORPORATE OFFICER

Village of Tahsis						
Bylaw No 637, 2021						
2021-2025 Financial Plan						
						SCHEDULE "A"
<b>Operational Revenues</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>2024</b>	<b>2025</b>	
<b>Taxation</b>						
Property taxes	\$ 792,815	\$ 832,456	\$ 874,079	\$ 917,783	\$ 963,672	
Grants in lieu of taxes	11,650	12,233	12,844	13,487	14,161	
<b>Fees</b>						
User fees and charges	130,700	133,314	135,980	138,700	141,474	
Water	168,350	171,717	175,151	178,654	182,227	
Sewer	187,000	190,740	194,555	198,446	202,415	
Environmental health	154,240	157,325	160,471	163,681	166,954	
<b>Other sources</b>						
Grants/other governments	678,003	425,380	425,380	425,380	425,380	
Investment income	73,500	74,970	76,469	77,999	79,559	
	<b>\$ 2,196,258</b>	<b>\$ 1,998,135</b>	<b>\$ 2,054,930</b>	<b>\$ 2,114,129</b>	<b>\$ 2,175,842</b>	
<b>Operational Expenditures</b>						
General government	\$ 958,874	\$ 978,052	\$ 997,613	\$ 1,017,565	\$ 1,037,916	
Protective services	190,552	194,363	198,250	202,215	206,259	
Environmental health	106,414	108,543	110,713	112,928	115,186	
Public works services	321,279	327,704	334,258	340,943	347,762	
Recreation, cultural & dev. services	311,522	317,753	324,108	330,590	337,202	
Water services	168,381	171,748	175,183	178,687	182,261	
Sewer services	186,888	190,626	194,438	198,327	202,293	
Amortization	409,566	417,757	426,112	434,635	443,327	
	<b>\$ 2,653,475</b>	<b>\$ 2,706,545</b>	<b>\$ 2,760,676</b>	<b>\$ 2,815,889</b>	<b>\$ 2,872,207</b>	
Net operating surplus / (deficit)	<b>\$ (457,217)</b>	<b>\$ (708,410)</b>	<b>\$ (705,745)</b>	<b>\$ (701,760)</b>	<b>\$ (696,365)</b>	
<b>Reserves, capital and debt</b>						
Capital expenditures	\$ (2,569,080)	\$ (5,794,128)	\$ (1,431,189)	\$ (575,000)	-	
Proceeds from debt	-	1,496,457	309,922	366,519		
Community donations	-	40,000	-	-	-	
Capital grants	2,422,974	3,712,184	982,530	-	-	
Reserves for Capital projects	146,106	545,487	138,737	208,481		
Transfer equity in capital assets	409,566	417,757	426,112	434,635	443,327	
Net transfer from reserves	47,651	290,653	279,633	267,125	253,037	
Financial Plan Surplus / (Deficit)	<b>\$ 0</b>	<b>\$ 0</b>	<b>\$ 0</b>	<b>\$ (0)</b>	<b>\$ (0)</b>	

**Village of Tahsis**  
**2021-2025 Financial Plan – Bylaw No. 637, 2021**  
**Financial Plan Statement**  
**Schedule “B”**

In accordance with Section 165 (3.1) of the *Community Charter* the Village of Tahsis is required to include in its 5-year Financial Plan (2021-2035):

- A) The objectives and policies of the municipality for the 5-year planning period in relation to each of the funding sources and the proportion of total revenue from each funding source; and
- B) The distribution of property value taxes among the property classes that may be subject to taxes; and
- C) The Use of permissive tax exemptions.

**A. Proportion of Total Revenues by Source**

Objective

The Village will continue to review the proportion of revenue that is received from each source and seeks to balance the sources by seeking out new user fees, available grants and maximizing investment returns.

Policies

The Village continues to review user-fees and charges to ensure that they adequately reflect the full cost of recovery within each utility. Where possible, the Village endeavours to supplement revenues from user fees and charges, rather than taxation, to lessen the burden on a limited tax base. Additionally, alternate revenue sources are continually examined to reduce the reliance on property taxes as the major source of funding.

**Table 1: Funding Sources, 2021**

<u>Revenue Source</u>	<u>Dollar Value</u>	<u>% of Total Revenue</u>
Property Taxes	\$ 804,466	36.2%
User fees and charges	640,290	29.3%
Grants, including capital grants	678,003	31.1%
Investment Income	<u>73,500</u>	<u>3.4%</u>
 Total Revenue	 \$ 2,196,258	 100.0%



## B. Distribution of Property Taxes Across Property Classes

### Objective

To ensure an equitable distribution of tax burden across all property classes.

### Policies

Over the term of the plan, municipal property taxes are distributed across six property tax classes as per Table 2 below. The Village regularly reviews the class distribution and makes adjustments when necessary with the goal to attracting and sustaining economic development.

**Table 2: Distribution of Village of Tahsis Property Taxes, 2021**

Class 1 - Residential	\$ 447,909	58.09%
Class 2 - Utilities	33,462	4.34%
Class 5 - Light Industry	147,694	19.15%
Class 6 – Business/Other	94,616	12.27%
Class 7 - Managed Forest	37,635	4.88%
Class 8 - Recreational	<u>9,773</u>	<u>1.27%</u>
Total	\$ 771,089	100.0%

## C. Permissive Tax Exemptions

### Objective

Council may utilize its authority under the *Community Charter* to provide permissive exemptions to property owners who contribute to the community's social and environmental well-being, for example, greenhouse gas reduction, affordable housing, and Village revitalization.

### Policies

Permissive exemptions are granted to not-for-profit organizations that form a valuable part of and provide services to the community. In 2018 the Village, through Bylaw No. 609, granted a tax exemption, through to 2028, to the property located at 744 Nootka Road, the Bishop of Victoria, for 50% of the land value with estimated tax to be \$605 in 2021

# VILLAGE OF TAHSIS

## Report to Council

**To:** Mayor and Council

**From:** Ian Poole, CFO

**Date:** April 27, 2021

**Re:** 2021 Tax Rate Information

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### **PURPOSE OF REPORT:**

To provide Council with additional information regarding the composition of 2021 property taxation from all agencies.

### **OPTIONS/ALTERNATIVES**

1. For receipt of information.

### **BACKGROUND:**

Staff and Council have been involved with budget discussions, via public electronic meetings, for the past 4 months. At the most recent Council meeting held on April 20<sup>th</sup>, the CFO gave a formal public budget presentation. This presentation covered the current year (2021) operating budget and a 5-year capital budget (2021-2025) and identifies the spending categories and their proposed funding sources. From feedback obtained at that meeting it appears that the presentation was well received.

Further, at that meeting, Council adopted a motion to direct staff (the CFO) to proceed with creating the requisite financial plan and tax rate bylaws incorporating the financial information contained in the presentation.

### **POLICY/LEGISLATIVE REQUIREMENTS:**

1. The Community Charter S 165 requires Council to adopt a 5 Year Financial Plan prior to May 15<sup>th</sup> of the year and a current year Tax Rate Bylaw by the same date. These bylaws are on the agenda for the Regular Meeting of May 4<sup>th</sup>, 2021.

## **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:**

Throughout the process Council was always concerned about the impact on taxpayers for the “other agency” taxes even though Council has no power to influence those taxes with the exception of the Strathcona Regional District levy in that the Mayor is a sitting member of that Board and also the VIREL levy which Councillor Llewellyn is a liaison to that Board.

Table 1 below shows the dollar value of those agency fees and their respective change from 2020. While some of the percentage increases appear high the dollar values are relatively insignificant (except School levies) especially when viewed as being collected by all taxpayers across all tax classes.

Table 1 - Other Agency Taxation

	2021	2020	\$ diff	% diff
VI Regional Library	12,497	11,207	1,290	11.51%
Strathcona RD	12,848	10,983	1,865	16.98%
CS Waste Mgmt	8,445	9,234	(789)	-8.55%
CS Regional Hospital	21,411	26,345	(4,934)	-18.73%
School	218,421	196,822	21,599	10.97%
Police	14,937	14,179	758	5.35%
BC Assessment Authority	2,675	2,418	257	10.63%
	<u>291,234</u>	<u>271,188</u>	<u>20,046</u>	<u>7.39%</u>

Incorporating the above “other agency” fees with our municipal property taxation results in the total taxation that a taxpayer will experience on their 2021 tax notice.

Table 2 below depicts a taxation notice for the average single-family residential home with an assessed value of \$125,396.

Table 2 -Average residential taxation notice - 2021

Average residential assessment -	<u><u>\$125,396</u></u>
<u>Jurisdiction</u>	\$
Municipal	1,274
VI Regional Library	21
Strathcona RD	29
CS Waste Mgmt	19
CS Regional Hospital	48
School	503
Police	33
BC Assessment Authority	<u>5</u>
Sub-total	1,932
Garbage User Fee	93
Water User Fee	346
Sewer User Fee	<u>392</u>
Total	<u><u>2,763</u></u>

Of course from this total a homeowner can deduct their Home Owner Grant of either \$770 or \$1,045 if they qualify for the additional grant (generally seniors).

Note – new for 2021 is that the application process for claiming a Home Owner Grant is done on-line through the Province of BC’s web portal and not through the Village office or webpage as in past years.

Also new for 2021 is that for commercial water and sewer users we are incorporating these annual charges onto their property taxation notice rather than sending them a separate utility invoice. This will have added impact of seeing a larger taxation notice but they need to keep in mind no further invoice will be sent.

Finally, Figure 1 below is a pie chart that depicts “Where your Taxes Go - 2021” – this is an update from the pie chart that was presented at the April 20<sup>th</sup> Council meeting which was data for the 2020 taxation year.



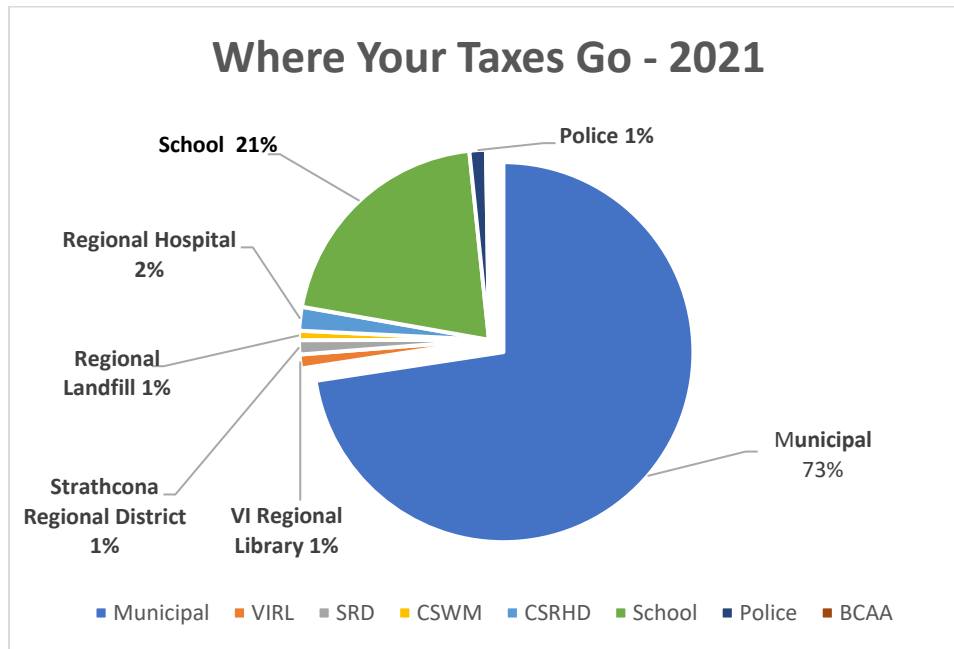


FIGURE 1 – WHERE YOUR TAXES GO - 2021

**STRATEGIC PRIORITY:**

Council's strategic priorities have been considered and whereby applicable have been incorporated into the Financial Plan.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

Option 1.

Respectfully submitted:

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Ian C. Poole, CFO

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Mark Tatchell, CAO



## **VILLAGE OF TAHSIS**

### **BYLAW NO. 638, 2021**

#### **A BYLAW FOR THE LEVYING OF RATES FOR GENERAL MUNICIPAL, REGIONAL LIBRARY, REGIONAL DISTRICT, WASTE MANAGEMENT, REGIONAL HOSPITAL DISTRICT PURPOSES FOR THE YEAR 2021.**

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WHEREAS pursuant to section 197 of the Community Charter, Council must, by bylaw, impose property value taxes for the year by establishing the tax rates for the municipal revenue proposed to be raised from property value taxes and the amounts to be collected by means of rates established by the Village's taxing obligations in relation to another local government or other public body;

NOW THEREFORE the Council of the Village of Tahsis in open meeting assembled enacts as follows:

#### **1. Definitions**

1.1. Collector means the municipal officer assigned responsibility as Collector of taxes for the municipality and includes all persons appointed or designated by the Collector to act on their behalf.

#### **2. Tax Rates for General Municipal Purposes**

The rates and taxes named under this Bylaw are hereby imposed, levied, raised and collected for the year 2021 for the purposes stated and shall be payable in Canadian funds to the Collector at the Village of Tahsis, BC.

2.1 For all lawful General Municipal purposes of the Village of Tahsis on the assessed value of land and improvements taxable for General purposes, rates appearing in column 'A' of Schedule "A" attached hereto and forming a part of this Bylaw;

2.2 For Regional Library purposes of the Village of Tahsis on the assessed value of land and improvements taxable for General purposes, rates appearing in column 'B' of Schedule "A" attached hereto and forming a part of this Bylaw.

2.3 For Strathcona Regional District purposes of the Village of Tahsis on the assessed value of land and improvements taxable for Hospital purposes, rates appearing in column 'C' of Schedule "A" attached hereto and forming a part of this Bylaw;

2.4 For Comox Valley Regional District Services: Solid Waste Management purposes of the Village of Tahsis on the assessed value of land and improvements taxable for Hospital

purposes, rates appearing in column 'D' of Schedule "A" attached hereto and forming a part of this Bylaw;

2.5 For Comox-Strathcona Regional Hospital District purposes of the Village of Tahsis on the assessed value of land and improvements taxable for Hospital purposes, rates appearing in column 'E' of Schedule "A" attached hereto and forming a part of this Bylaw;

### 3. Penalties

3.1 The Collector of the Village of Tahsis shall add to the unpaid taxes of the current year, for each parcel of land and its improvements of the property tax roll, 10% of the amount of the current year taxes which remain unpaid after July 2, 2021 and the said unpaid taxes together with the amount added as aforesaid shall be taxes of the current year due on such land and its improvements.

3.2 Tax rates and percentage additions caused as a result of a supplementary roll prepared under the Assessment Act shall be executed in accordance with section 241 of the *Community Charter*.

3.3 The tax rates and taxes imposed under this Bylaw shall be payable at the offices of the said Collector at the Village of Tahsis Municipal Hall, 977 South Maquinna Drive, P.O. Box 219, Tahsis, BC, V0P 1X0, no later than 4:00 pm on July 2, 2021.

3.4 Any and all amounts payable under this Bylaw shall be payable at the offices of the said Collector at the Village of Tahsis Municipal Hall, 977 South Maquinna Drive, P.O. Box 219, Tahsis, BC, V0P 1X0.

### 4 Citation:

This Bylaw may be cited for all purposes as the "Tax Rates Bylaw No. 638, 2021".

READ a first time this 4th day of May, 2021

READ a second time this 4<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2021

READ a third time this 4<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2021

Adopted this 11<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2021

---

MAYOR

---

CORPORATE OFFICER

I hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of the original Bylaw No. 638, 2021 duly passed by the Council of the Village of Tahsis on this 11th day of May, 2021.

---

CORPORATE OFFICER

**Village of Tahsis**  
**Tax Rates Bylaw No. 638, 2021**

**Schedule "A"**

*The following rates shall apply on each thousand dollars of the assessed taxable value of land and its improvements:*

Property Class	A	B	C	D	E
	General Municipal	Regional Library	Strathcona Regional District	Comox Valley Regional District - Solid Waste Mgmt	Comox Strathcona Regional Hospital District
1 Residential	10.1634	0.1647	0.2291	0.1506	0.3819
2 Utilities	39.6371	0.6424	0.8020	0.5272	1.3365
3 Supportive Housing	10.1634	0.1647	0.2291	0.1506	0.3819
4 Major Industrial	34.5554	0.5600	0.7791	0.5121	1.2984
5 Light Industrial	304.9009	4.9415	0.7791	0.5121	1.2984
6 Business/Other	37.6044	0.6095	0.5614	0.3690	0.9356
7 Managed Forest Land	355.7177	5.7651	0.6874	0.4519	1.1456
8 Recreation/Non Profit	37.6044	0.6095	0.2291	0.1506	0.3819
9 Farm	10.1634	0.1647	0.2291	0.1506	0.3819



# VILLAGE OF TAHSIS

## Report to Council

**To:** Mayor and Council

**From:** Mark Tatchell, CAO

**Date:** April 26, 2021

**Re:** Bylaw Amendments: Fees and Charges, Water and Sewer bylaws

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### **PURPOSE OF REPORT:**

To summarize the key proposed changes to the Fees and Charges, Water and Sewer amendment bylaws that have been drafted to incorporate Council's decision to impose new water and sewer user fee rates. The report also notes "housekeeping" amendments which have been incorporated in these bylaws as well.

### **OPTIONS/ALTERNATIVES**

1. Move to proceed with 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> readings of Fees and Charges Amendment Bylaw No. 639, 2021, Water Regulation and Rates Amendment Bylaw No. 640, 2021, and Sewer Regulations and Rates Amendment Bylaw No. 641, 2021.
2. Refer any and/or all of the bylaws to a committee of the whole for further consideration
3. Any other option that Council deems appropriate.

### **SUMMARY OF AMENDMENTS:**

#### **FEES AND CHARGES AMENDMENT BYLAW NO. 639, 2021**

- Revises hourly rates for Village public works crews and equipment to reflect true costs
- Revises Daycare Rates to address anomaly in monthly versus daily rates
- Adds water and sewer annual fee schedules to incorporate the 2021 fees as per Council's decision and to simplify future annual fee changes
- Establishes penalties for late payments of water and sewer fees.
- Clarifies that applicable water and sewer fees are payable on properties that are unoccupied and/or unused.
- Updates and clarifies other water and sewer fees to reflect true cost, e.g., connection fees.
- Establishes fee for permanent discontinuance or abandonment of water service.

#### **WATER REGULATION AND RATES AMENDMENT BYLAW NO. 640, 2021**

- Clarifies distinction between temporary shut off of water service and permanent discontinuance or abandonment. Property owners who have relied on temporary water shut off to avoid paying water and sewer annual fees will now be required to pay the annual fee or make an application for permanent disconnection.

- Updates regulation regarding wastage of water by removing reference to the installation of a water meter.
- Deletes references to water meters.
- Deletes references to the fee schedules in the bylaw (these have been moved to the Fees and Charges Bylaw).

SEWER REGULATIONS AND RATES AMENDMENT BYLAW NO. 641, 2021

- Updates and clarifies the regulations regarding service connections, e.g., fees, applicable provincial requirements, and the general service connection requirements.
- Deletes references to fee schedules which have been moved to the Fees and Charges Bylaw.
- Updates the prohibitions primarily regarding wastes which cannot be deposited into the sanitary sewer system or the storm drain system.
- Updates the Offence and Penalties provisions.

**POLICY/LEGISLATIVE REQUIREMENTS:**

1. None

**FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:**

The financial implications of the increased water and sewer annual fees have been communicated to Council and the public.

**STRATEGIC PRIORITY:**

N/A

**RECOMMENDATION:**

Option1

Respectfully submitted:




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Mark Tatchell, CAO



## VILLAGE OF TAHSIS

### BYLAW NO. 639, 2021

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#### BEING A BYLAW TO AMEND THE VILLAGE OF TAHSIS FEES AND CHARGES BYLAW NO. 594, 2017

**WHEREAS** the Council of the Village of Tahsis wishes to amend the *Fees and Charges Bylaw No. 594, 2017* to establish fees under the *Water Regulations and Rates Bylaw, No. 581, 2016* and the *Sewer Regulations and Rates Bylaw No. 582, 2016* and to delete Schedules "F" and "N" and replace with Schedule "F" and "N" to this Bylaw.

**NOW THEREFORE**, the Council of the Village of Tahsis, in open meeting assembled, enacts the following amendments to Fees and Charges Bylaw No. 594, 2017 as follows:

1. The *Fees and Charges Bylaw No 594* is hereby amended:

- a) by deleting Schedule "F" and replacing with the Schedule "F" to this Bylaw; and
- b) by deleting Schedule "N" and replacing with the Schedule "N" to this Bylaw;  
and
- c) by adding "P" Water Fees and Charges on the next line and immediately following "O" Development Procedures Fees in section 2; and
- d) by adding Schedule "P" as annexed immediately following Schedule "O"; and
- e) by adding "Q" Sewer Fees and Charges on the next line immediately following "P" Water Fees and Charges in section 2; and
- f) by adding Schedule "Q" as annexed immediately following Schedule "P"

This bylaw may be cited for all purposes as the “Fees and Charges Amendment Bylaw No. 639, 2021.”

READ a first time this 4th day of May, 2021

READ a second time this 4th day of May, 2021

READ a third time this 4th day of May, 2021

Reconsidered, Finally Passed and adopted this 11<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2021

---

MAYOR

---

CORPORATE OFFICER

I hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of the original Bylaw No. 639, 2021 duly passed by the Council of the Village of Tahsis on this 11th day of May 2021.

---

CORPORATE OFFICER

## SCHEDULE "F"

Labour rates (per person hour) includes use of hand tools and light equipment	\$50.00 regular time (2 hour minimum)
	\$75.00 after 8 hours
	\$100.00 after 12 hours
Heavy equipment	\$135.00/hour
All other services	At cost



**PUDDLE DUCKS DAYCARE FEES**

	Monthly (under 36 months)  Full Day	Monthly (3 years to Kindergarten)  Full Day	Daily (under 36 months)  4 hours or less	Daily (under 36 months)  4 hours or more	Daily (3 years to Kindergarten)  4 hours or less	Daily (3 years to Kindergarten)  4 hours or more
Per Child	\$500.00	\$500.00	\$14.00	\$28.00	\$12.00	\$20.00

**Other Child Care Services**

<b>Per Child</b>	<b>Daily</b>	<b>Hourly</b>
Before School Care	\$8.00	
After School Care	\$10.00	
Half Day	\$10.00	
Before and After School	\$15.00	
Pro-D Day	\$20.00	
Full Day	\$20.00	
Lunchtime		\$6.00
Emergency Care		\$10.00

## Schedule "P"

### Water Utility Rates and Charges

Classification of Users		Annual Fee
Each single family dwelling, duplex unit, apartment, suite, Guesthouse, condominium, and any short term rental accommodation unit	\$	346.00
Mobile Home Park per pad with mobile home	\$	346.00
Bed and Breakfasts, Boarding, Lodging and Rooming Houses	\$	346.00
Hotels and Motels	\$	346.00
plus each room to rent located on the property <sup>1</sup>	\$	173.00
Restaurants, cafes, dining rooms, pubs up to 60 seats	\$	1,182.18
over 60 seats	\$	1,412.85
Churches	\$	346.00
Industrial premises	\$	1,412.85
Schools	\$	346.00
plus each classroom	\$	173.00
Clubs, non-profits	\$	346.00
Home based businesses	\$	346.00
Retail premises	\$	403.67
plus for each square foot gross area	\$	0.13
Other commercial premises	\$	1,412.85
Campground/RV park (per site)	\$	62.47

<sup>1</sup> Whether a room is available to rent or not the annual fee applies.

A charge under this bylaw shall be paid by the owner of a serviced property for:

**1. TURNING ON AND OFF SERVICES**

The fee for turning off and turning on water supply at the curb stop is:

To turn on or turn off	During Business Hours	All Other Times
	\$25 (\$50 On and Off)	\$150.00

**2. ABANDONMENT<sup>2</sup> FEE**

The fee for the permanent disconnection of an abandoned or discontinued connection is:

Connection size	Abandonment or Discontinued Fee
ALL	\$500.00

**3. NON-EMERGENCY SERVICE CALL OUT AFTER HOURS<sup>3</sup>**

**\$200.00**

**4. CONNECTION FEES**

Water connection application fee for all water service connections <sup>4</sup>	\$500.00
Inspection fee	\$100.00
Fees shall be charged on the basis of the cost of work required including but not limited to all pavement, sidewalk, cut/replacement and boulevards work	AT COST
The fee estimate must be paid prior to the work commencing. Excess fees will be refunded. Excess charges will be billed.	

**5. SUPPLY OF WATER FROM FIRE HYDRANT**

	During Business Hours	All Other Times
Opening and closing hydrant	\$50	\$150

<sup>2</sup> When a building on a lot serviced by the Village's water system is abandoned or demolished, the Director may require the turn off and/or disconnection of the service and the cost will be recovered from the Owner as set out in the Bylaw.

<sup>3</sup> A non-emergency service call-out means Village crews dispatched to respond to an incident at a property where the likelihood of property damage is low and/or the risk of serious property damage is low.

<sup>4</sup> May be combined with sewer connection application fee

1. The users of water supplied by the water system are classified in accordance with the classification of users set out in this bylaw, and the rates specified in the schedules must be paid by the owner of any real property to which water is supplied.
2. A charge under this bylaw shall be imposed on and from the first day of the month immediately following the date the water service connection to that property is turned on.
  - (i) shall be due and payable in advance in the first calendar year of service; and
  - (ii) shall be due and payable annually in advance thereafter on the 1st day of January in each year.
3. A charge under Section 2(ii) of this bylaw shall be billed on or before the 31st day of May in each year. A penalty in the amount of ten percent (10%) of the unpaid sum shall be added to any charge remaining unpaid after July 2<sup>nd</sup> in the year of billing unless Council has adopted an alternative scheme under the *Community Charter*, s. 233.
4. A charge imposed under this Bylaw which remains unpaid on the 31<sup>st</sup> day of December in any year shall be deemed to be taxes in arrears on the land or real property on which the charge was imposed and may be recovered as authorized in section 258 of the *Community Charter*.
5. No deduction in the charges under this bylaw shall be allowed on account of any waste of water.
6. Failure to receive an invoice or notice is not justification for the non-payment of an applicable fee.
7. When a building lot serviced by the water system is abandoned or demolished, the Director of Infrastructure and Operations may require the turn off and/or disconnection of the private system from the Village's water system.
8. All applicable fees and charges are payable on properties that are unoccupied and/or are unused.

## SCHEDULE "Q"

### Sewer Utility Rates and Charges

CLASSIFICATION OF USERS	ANNUAL FEE
Dwelling	
Dwelling unit per unit single family, duplex unit,, apartment, suites, Guesthouses, condos, short term rental accommodation	\$392.00
Mobile Home Park per pad with mobile home	\$392.00
Bed and Breakfasts, Boarding, Lodging and Rooming Houses	\$392.00
Hotels and Motels	\$392.00
plus each room to rent located on the property <sup>5</sup>	\$196.00
Restaurants, cafes, dining rooms, pubs	\$1,330.00
Churches	\$392.00
Industrial premises	\$450.00
plus per square foot	\$0.18
Schools	\$392.00
plus per classroom	\$137.00
Clubs, non-profits	\$392.00
Home based businesses	\$392.00
Retail premises	\$450.00
plus per square foot gross area	\$0.18
Campgrounds per site	\$58.70
Sani-stations	\$547.68
Other commercial	\$509.00

<sup>5</sup> Whether a room is available to rent or not, the annual fee applies



A charge under this bylaw shall be paid by the owner of a serviced property for:

1. **NON-EMERGENCY SEWER SERVICE CALL OUT AFTER HOURS**<sup>6</sup> **\$200.00**

2. **SEWER CONNECTION FEES**

Sewer connection application fee for all sewer service connections <sup>7</sup>	\$500.00
Inspection fee	\$100.00
Fees shall be charged on the basis of the cost of work required including but not limited to, all pavement, sidewalk, cut/replacement and boulevards work	AT COST
The fee estimate must be paid prior to the work commencing. Excess fees will be refunded. Excess charges will be billed.	

<sup>6</sup> A non-emergency service call-out means Village crews dispatched to respond to an incident at a property where the likelihood of property damage is low and/or the risk of serious property damage is low.

<sup>7</sup> May be combined with water connection application fee

1. The users of the sanitary sewer system are classified in accordance with the classification of users set out in this bylaw, and the rates specified in the schedules must be paid by the owner of any real property which are connected to the sanitary sewer system.
2. A charge under this bylaw shall be imposed on and from the first day of the month immediately following the date the water service connection to that property is turned on.
  - (i) shall be due and payable in advance in the first calendar year of service; and
  - (ii) shall be due and payable annually in advance thereafter on the 1st day of January in each year.
3. A charge under Section 2(ii) of this bylaw shall be billed on or before the 31st day of May in each year. A penalty in the amount of ten percent (10%) of the unpaid sum shall be added to any charge remaining unpaid after July 2<sup>nd</sup> in the year of billing unless Council has adopted an alternative scheme under the *Community Charter*, s. 233.
4. A charge imposed under this Bylaw which remains unpaid on the 31<sup>st</sup> day of December in any year shall be deemed to be taxes in arrears on the land or real property on which the charge was imposed and may be recovered as authorized in section 258 of the *Community Charter*.
5. Failure to receive an invoice or notice is not justification for the non-payment of an applicable fee.
6. All applicable fees and charges are payable on properties that are unoccupied and/or are unused.



## VILLAGE OF TAHSIS

### WATER REGULATION AND RATES AMENDMENT BYLAW No. 640, 2021

---

#### A Bylaw to amend the regulation of the water distribution system.

---

##### TITLE:

This bylaw may be cited for all purposes as the “Water Regulation and Rates Amendment Bylaw No. 640, 2021”

Council of the Village of Tahsis, in open meeting assembled, hereby enacts the following amendments to the Water Regulation and Rates Bylaw No. 581, 2016 as follows:

##### Part 1- Citation and Definitions

2. Deleted and replaced with the following
2. *In this bylaw the definitions set out in the British Columbia Building Code 2018 and the following definitions shall apply:*

2. f) Deleted

2. t) Deleted and replaced with the following:

*“Normal Use” means water used for essential purposes including household sanitation, human consumption, food preparation and water needed for commercial and industrial purposes by the types of consumers listed in the applicable schedule in the Fees and Charges Bylaw. It does not include use for fire fighting purposes.*

##### Part 2 – General Provisions

3. Deleted

#### Part 4 – Discontinuance of Water Service

15. Deleted and replaced with the following:
15. *To temporarily shut off or permanently discontinue water service, a consumer shall complete and submit a work order to the Village office and pay the applicable fee under the Fees and Charges Bylaw.*
16. Deleted and replaced with the following:
16. *The Village will provide a rebate to a consumer who has paid their water utility fee for the year and has had their water service permanently disconnected after paying the applicable fee under the Fees and Charges Bylaw. The rebate will be proportionate to the remaining time in the current billing period after being applied against any outstanding charges owed under this Bylaw.*
17. Deleted and replaced with the following:
17. *Prior to any demolition work, the demolition permit holder shall pay the applicable fees under the Fees and Charges Bylaw to either temporarily or permanently discontinue the water service. When a building lot serviced by the water system is abandoned or demolished, the Director of Infrastructure and Operations may require the turn off and/or disconnection of the private system. When this occurs, the property owner will be billed for the applicable fees under the Fees and Charges Bylaw.*

#### Reconnection of Service Connection

18. Deleted and replaced with the following:
18. *To reconnect a water service which has been permanently disconnected, all applicable fees and charges owed under the Fees and Charges Bylaw must first be paid. The annual water utility fee may be prorated for the remaining time in the current billing period.*
19. Deleted and replaced with the following:
19. *Upon adoption of this bylaw, consumers who have had their water service temporarily turned off are required to pay the annual water utility fee or make an application for a permanent disconnection and pay the fee set out in the Fees and Charges Bylaw.*

### Wastage of Water

28. Deleted and replaced with the following:
28. *A person who allows water to be wasted whether willfully or by permitting pipes, taps, toilets or other fixtures and means of distributing or storing water to remain in disrepair or by any device or for any change in the use of the premises, increases the amount of water consumed or increases the water usage, is guilty of a breach of this Bylaw. In addition to the penalty provided for in this Bylaw, the Village may temporarily or permanently disconnect the water service until the person has made repairs and paid all fees and charges owed under this Bylaw.*

### Part 7 – Water Meters

#### Installation of Water Meters

36. Deleted

#### Testing of Water Meters

45. Deleted

### Part 9 – Rates, Fees and Charges

#### Establishing Water Rates, Fees and Charges

52. Deleted
53. Deleted
54. Deleted
55. Deleted
56. Deleted
57. Deleted

#### Water Rates, Fees and Charges

58. Deleted
59. Deleted



60. Deleted and replaced with the following:

60. *When a building lot serviced by the water system is abandoned or demolished, the Director of Infrastructure and Operations may require the turn off and/or disconnection of the private system.*

61. Deleted

62. Deleted

63. Deleted

Schedules A, B, C and D are deleted.

READ a first time this 4<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2021

READ a second time this 4<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2021

READ a third time this 4<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2021

Reconsidered, Finally Passed and Adopted this 11<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2021

---

MAYOR

---

CORPORATE OFFICER

I hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of the original Bylaw No. 640, 2021 duly passed by the Council of the Village of Tahsis on this 11<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2021.

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CORPORATE OFFICER



## VILLAGE OF TAHSIS

### SEWER REGULATIONS AND RATES AMENDMENT BYLAW No. 641, 2021

---

#### A Bylaw to amend the regulation of the sanitary sewer system.

---

#### TITLE:

This bylaw may be cited for all purposes as the “Sewer Regulations and Rates Amendment Bylaw No. 641, 2021”

Council of the Village of Tahsis, in open meeting assembled, hereby enacts the following amendments to the Sewer Regulations and Rates Bylaw No. 582, 2016 as follows:

#### Part 1- Citation and Definitions

- 2. g) Deleted and replaced with the following
- 2. g) *“Connection Fee” means the amount due and owing to the Village of the installation and construction of a service connection as set out in the applicable schedule in the Fees and Charges Bylaw.*
- 2. w) Deleted and replaced with the following.
- 2. w) *“Service Connection” means the pipes and equipment that connect a property to the sanitary sewer system.*

#### Part 2 – General Provisions

- 4. Deleted.
- 6. Deleted and replaced with the following:
- 6. *The Director of Infrastructure and Operations (“the Director”) is the person appointed by the Village’s CAO to manage the Village’s sanitary sewer system.*
- 8. Deleted

### Part 3 – Service Connections

10. Deleted and replaced with the following:
10. *A person must apply for a service connection by submitting the form prescribed by the Director of Operations and Infrastructure and by paying the Village the connection fee that is set out in the applicable schedule in the Fees and Charges bylaw.*
11. Deleted and replaced with the following:
11. *The connection fee is set out in the applicable schedule in the Fees and Charges Bylaw.*
12. Deleted and replaced with the following.
12. *The Director may limit the number, size and capacity of connections to the Village sanitary sewer system for purposes of protecting the system and preventing adverse effects on other users.*
13. Deleted and replaced with the following.
13. *Subject to s. 12, every owner of a parcel:*
  - a) *on which a building or structure with plumbing is built or is being built and*
  - b) *that borders a highway or right-of-way containing a Village sewer system main must connect the building or structure to the Village sewer system using a service connection.*
14. Deleted and replaced with the following:
14. *All service connections shall be in accordance with the requirements of the BC Building Code, other applicable provincial codes and Village bylaws.*
15. Deleted and replaced with the following:
15. *The Village will not turn on any new service connection until:*
  - a) *a completed application form has been submitted to the Village;*
  - b) *the service connection fee has been paid;*
  - c) *the connection has been inspected by the Village; and*
  - d) *a site plan showing the location of the service on the property has been submitted to the Village*

16, 17, 18. 19, 20 and 21. Deleted and replaced with the following:

Prohibitions

16. *No person shall obstruct or prevent the Village from accessing the system and/or carrying out an inspection under this Bylaw.*
17. *No person other than a Village employee shall turn on or shut off any valve, pump or other fixture of the Village Sewer System or the Storm Drain System or shall tamper with such objects in any way whatsoever.*
18. *No person shall obstruct access to any valve, pump or other fixture of the Village Sewer System or Storm Drain System.*
19. *No person shall connect or suffer the connection of a Storm Drain to the Village Sewer System.*
20. *No person shall connect, or suffer the connection to, the Village Sewer System except for a Service Connection approved through an application made under Section 10 of this Bylaw.*
21. *No person shall deposit, or suffer the deposit of, any of the following wastes into a Service Connection, the Village Sewer System or the Storm Drain System:*
  - a) *hazardous waste as defined by the Environmental Management Act and its Regulations;*
  - b) *any waste which, by itself or in combination with another substance, is capable of creating, causing or introducing an air contaminant outside any sewer or sewage facility or is capable of creating, causing or introducing an air contaminant within any sewer or sewage facility which would prevent safe entry by authorized personnel;*
  - c) *any waste, which, by itself or in combination with another substance, is capable of causing or contributing to an explosion or supporting combustion in any sewer or sewage facility including, but not limited to gasoline, naphtha, propane, diesel, fuel oil, kerosene or alcohol;*

- d) *any waste, which, is by itself or in combination with another substance, is capable of obstructing the flow of, or interfering with, the operation or performance of any sewer or sewage facility including, but not limited to, earth, sand, sweepings, gardening or agricultural waste, ash, chemicals, paint, metal, glass, sharps, rags, cloth, tar, asphalt, cement-based products, plastic, wood, waste portions of animals, fish or fowl and solidified fat;*
- e) *any waste with corrosive properties which, by itself or in combination with any other substance, may cause damage to any sewer or sewage facility or which may prevent safe entry by authorized personnel;*
- f) *any waste which will raise the temperature of waste entering any sewage facility to 40 degrees Celsius or more; and*
- g) *any waste, other than sanitary waste, which by itself or in combination with another substance constitutes or may constitute a significant health or safety hazard to any person, that may interfere with any sewer or sewage treatment process or that may cause a discharge from a sewage facility to contravene any requirement by or under any discharge permit or any approved Liquid Waste Management Plan or any other law or regulation governing the quality of the discharge or may cause the discharge to result in a hazard to people, animals, property or vegetation.*

22. Deleted

23. Deleted

24. Deleted

## Part 5- Offences and Penalties

### Offences

25. Deleted and replaced with the following:

- 25. *Every person who violates any provision of this Bylaw or who permits or allows any act or thing to be done in violation of any provision of this Bylaw, or who neglects to or refrains from doing anything required to be done by any provision of this Bylaw, is guilty*



*of an offence against this Bylaw and each day that a violation continues to exist is deemed to be a separate offence against the Bylaw.*

#### Penalties

- 26. Deleted and replaced with the following
- 26. *Every person who commits an offence contrary to the provisions of this Bylaw is liable upon summary conviction to a penalty of not more than \$10,000.00 and to any payment of the costs of the prosecution that the court may order.*
- 27. Deleted
- 28. Deleted
- 29. Deleted
- 30. Deleted

READ a first time this 4<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2021

READ a second time this 4<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2021

READ a third time this 4<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2021

Reconsidered, Finally Passed and Adopted this 11<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2021

---

MAYOR

---

CORPORATE OFFICER

I hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of the original Bylaw No. 641, 2021 duly passed by the Council of the Village of Tahsis on this 11<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2021.

---

CORPORATE OFFICER



April 15, 2021

725 - 815 West Hastings St.  
Vancouver, BC V6C 1B4  
Canada  
tel: 604.684.4291  
fax: 604.684.7134

**Dear valued TLA Member,**

Thank you for being a committed Truck Loggers Association member. Your ongoing support enables us to continue advocating on your behalf and ensure that you have a voice in the forest industry.

Please find an enclosed invoice to renew your annual membership, which is due May 31, 2021. This year, you will notice a marginal increase in the annual dues. For more than ten years, there has not been an increase for our members; however, factoring in inflation, this has meant about an effective 40 per cent reduction in our ability to provide the services and advocacy our members expect. While the board never welcomes such discussions, especially considering your challenges these days, such impacts had to be addressed and the financial health of the TLA must be maintained. To be fully transparent, each year moving forward, annual dues will increase based on the current average of the Canadian and British Columbian inflation rate.

As a reminder, the Industrial membership dues structure is based on the number of employees that routinely work within a parent (and child, where applicable) company over the course of the year. We have used the information available to us, and when it differed from what we have on file, we contacted members to confirm accurate employee numbers to ensure our records are up to date.

**Your Voice with Government and Industry**

Over the past year, while the COVID-19 pandemic has prevented us from many of our regular in-person advocacy efforts, we have continued working with government and industry on many vital issues including:

- Our ongoing work to ensure regulation changes resulting from the Contractor Sustainability Review are implemented correctly, accurate cost data is collected to support the process, and members are educated to ensure its intent is met.
- Diligently sending letters to government and media to ensure the TLA's voice is heard, and the public receives correct information about old-growth logging.
- Requesting to meet with the government to find a permanent and sustainable solution for the urgent need for helicopter emergency medical transportation.

**TLA Membership Benefits**

The TLA provides members with two exclusive benefits options: an extended health and dental benefits program through Johnstone's Benefits, and an equipment and liability insurance program with Wilson M. Beck. Both companies work with the forest industry and understand your needs better than most to exclusively tailor plans to TLA members' needs. Other membership benefits include discounts on convention pricing, free attendance at TLA networking events, access to OFA3 training funding and TLA trades scholarships, as well as discounts through other Affinity programs.

**Membership Information**

Has your address or contact information changed? Please send updates to [contact@tla.ca](mailto:contact@tla.ca). Are you and your key employees receiving our Grapple Yarder e-newsletter? To subscribe, please contact [contact@tla.ca](mailto:contact@tla.ca).

Thank you for your valued membership with the TLA, it truly makes a difference and is greatly appreciated. If you have any concerns or comments regarding your invoice, please feel free to contact Diane Basarich at 604-684-4291 or by email at [diane@tla.ca](mailto:diane@tla.ca).

Sincerely,

Bob Brash  
Executive Director



The Truck Loggers Association  
725 - 815 West Hastings Street  
Vancouver BC V6C 1B4

## Invoice

Phone: (604) 684-4291  
Website: <http://www.tla.ca>  
Email: [diane@tla.ca](mailto:diane@tla.ca)

VILLAGE OF TAHSIS  
Battista Bertoia  
977 South Maquinna Drive  
PO Box 219  
Tahsis BC V0P 1X0

Date: 14/04/2021  
Invoice #: 65364  
Due: 31/05/2021

Description	Quantity	Rate	Amount
Community Member Dues (01/05/2021 - 30/04/2022)	1	\$385.00	\$385.00
GST #122882475RT0001	1	\$19.25	\$19.25
		Invoice:	<b>\$404.25</b>
		Balance:	<b>\$404.25</b>

VILLAGE OF TAHSIS  
Battista Bertoia  
977 South Maquinna Drive  
PO Box 219  
Tahsis BC V0P 1X0

Date: 14/04/2021  
Invoice #: 65364  
Due: 31/05/2021

The Truck Loggers Association  
725 - 815 West Hastings Street  
Vancouver BC V6C 1B4

Amount Due: **\$404.25**



## TOWN OF VIEW ROYAL

45 View Royal Avenue, Victoria, BC, Canada V9B 1A6

Ph. 250-479-6800 • Fx. 250-727-9551 • E. [info@viewroyal.ca](mailto:info@viewroyal.ca) • [www.viewroyal.ca](http://www.viewroyal.ca)

April 1, 2021

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

VIA EMAIL: [premier@gov.bc.ca](mailto:premier@gov.bc.ca)

Dear Premier Horgan:

### **RE: Request for Authority and Training for Hospital Security Staff**

It has come to the attention of View Royal Council that there is an excessive use of police resources in hospital emergency waiting rooms as officers must remain with persons apprehended under section 28 of the *Mental Health Act* until the individual is transferred to the care of a physician. This requirement sees costly police resources tied up in emergency waiting rooms often for lengthy periods of time.

As such, we are requesting that hospital security staff be given the authority and necessary training to take custody of patients apprehended under the *Mental Health Act* on arrival at the hospital.

Allowing hospital security staff to assume this role from police officers would not only provide a less costly approach for taxpayers, but would also ease the burden on police resources, enabling them to provide timely services where they are needed in the community.

Thank you for consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

David Screech  
Mayor

cc. Hon. David Eby, Attorney General and Minister responsible for Housing  
Hon. Adrian Dix, Minister of Health  
Hon. Sheila Malcolmson, Minister of Mental Health and Addictions  
All UBCM Municipalities





April 12, 2021

Dear BC Municipalities

**RE: Endorsement of 9-8-8 Crisis Line Initiative**

Please be advised that at a District of Clearwater Regular Council meeting held on April 6, 2021, myself and Council expressed appreciation for the initiative to create a 9-8-8 crisis line and passed the following resolution:

***“THAT Council direct Administration to provide a letter of support for the 9-8-8 Crisis Line Initiative to be addressed and distributed to BC Municipalities.”***

Council understands the critical significance of reducing the barriers that a person in crisis will face when seeking resources. Through unanimous consent, the District of Clearwater supports the creation of a national 3-digit suicide prevention hotline in Canada. This initiative is particularly timely given the considerable pressures on the mental health of Canadians that have manifested during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Yours truly,

Merlin Blackwell  
Mayor

DISTRICT OF CLEARWATER

P 250.674.2257

F 250.674.2173

E [admin@docbc.ca](mailto:admin@docbc.ca)

PO Box No. 157

209 Dutch Lake Road

Clearwater BC V0E 1N0

[districtofclearwater.com](http://districtofclearwater.com)







April 12, 2021

Dear BC Municipalities

**RE: Designation of invasive Asian clams as Prohibitive Aquatic Invasive Species**

Please be advised that at a District of Clearwater Regular Council meeting held on April 6, 2021, Mayor and Council expressed their support for correspondence received from the District of Sicamous regarding a species of clams, *Corbicula fluminea*, which threaten the natural biodiversity of lakes in the B.C. Interior. To echo the District of Sicamous Council passed the following resolution:

***“THAT Council direct Administration to provide a letter of support for the District of Sicamous campaign against invasive Asian clams and forward to municipalities in B.C..”***

Council understands the delicate nature of our inland aquatic ecosystems and the threat posed by introducing new species into such an environment. We would therefore call upon the B.C. Government to use its authority to designate Asian clams as an Aquatic Invasive Species under the Controlled Alien Species Regulation.

Yours truly,

Merlin Blackwell  
Mayor

DISTRICT OF CLEARWATER

P 250.674.2257

F 250.674.2173

E [admin@docbc.ca](mailto:admin@docbc.ca)

PO Box No. 157

209 Dutch Lake Road

Clearwater BC V0E 1N0

[districtofclearwater.com](http://districtofclearwater.com)



**From:** Rita Aedan <[ritaaedan@gmail.com](mailto:ritaaedan@gmail.com)>

**Sent:** Tuesday, April 27, 2021 2:31 PM

**To:** Mayor Davis <[Mayor@villageoftahsis.com](mailto:Mayor@villageoftahsis.com)>; Bill Elder <[BElder@villageoftahsis.com](mailto:BElder@villageoftahsis.com)>; Sarah Fowler <[SFowler@villageoftahsis.com](mailto:SFowler@villageoftahsis.com)>; Lynda Llewellyn <[Lynda@villageoftahsis.com](mailto:Lynda@villageoftahsis.com)>; Cheryl Northcott <[CNorthcott@villageoftahsis.com](mailto:CNorthcott@villageoftahsis.com)>

**Cc:** Mark Tatchell <[MTatchell@villageoftahsis.com](mailto:MTatchell@villageoftahsis.com)>

**Subject:** COVID 19 - NO RECREATIONAL TRAVEL

Greetings Mayor & Council, Village of Tahsis,

Thank you for the April 26th, 2021 Village of Tahsis COVID -19 NOTICE TO VISITORS that was on Facebook and Tahsis Living. Due diligence during this unprecedented pandemic is highly appreciated. Thank you again.

I would like to make a suggestion as follow-up on the "Notice to Visitors" and your local government authority by taking additional action. Why? Well, for one obvious reason, many ignore the rules concerning travel restrictions. Only yesterday afternoon a road-dirty white truck came slowly rolling up Resolution, turned down Princess Victoria View and stopping at the huge anchor viewpoint exited their truck and walked up to the viewpoint. Quasi-tourists? They weren't locals. This cruising the drag by outsiders happens regularly minus both respect for our village, the health authority and the provincial government. The old adage appears applicable to people like these, "Rules are meant to be broken".

My suggestion: How about following through in support of the COVID -19 NOTICE TO VISITORS by having provincial signage, as noted below, firmly posted after crossing the bridge over Gold River where the pavement ends and, turning left, the dirt road begins? Surely this would not be difficult as the provincial government will be posting signage as noted below by the following excerpt and copied from the Province of British Columbia website under the heading Travel and Covid-19.

"Additional measures are in place to support the restriction on non-essential travel, including:

- Increased signage on highways and at border crossings reminding travellers of current restrictions
- Hotels and resorts eliminating or cancelling bookings from out-of-area guests"



I feel this is a good idea and trust Council does too. Looking forward to your response.

Best Regards,

Rita Aedan  
907 Princess Victoria View  
Tahsis, B.C. V0P 1X0

April 28th, 2021.

Mayor & Council, Village of Tahsis

Re: Initial letter to Mayor & Council dated April 27th, 2021

I expected my original letter on the subject of No Recreational Travel signage to be addressed as all other letters to Council are through it being added to a meeting agenda wherein the entire Body gives consideration to said letters. Therefore, I was surprised to receive the following email from Councillor Bill Elder:

**Sorry Rita.....I cannot support your idea just as I did not and do not support this illegal action taken by the provincial government. This action is in violation of the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms, I ponder on just how this government can tell us to not violate this bill when they themselves are doing the same thing- violating the law**

**Bill**

Concerning Bill Elder's email where he states he does "*not support this illegal action taken by the provincial government*", and to refresh my memory, I conducted some research on the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms. First off, "*Receiving approval from Britain for the last time, Queen Elizabeth II signed the Canada Act on **April 17, 1982** in Ottawa. This action gave Canada control over its Constitution and guaranteed the rights and freedoms in the Charter as the supreme law of the nation.*"

Flash forward to 2021 and life during this existing COVID-19 pandemic (now including highly dangerous to human health variants) which also has affected the laws of nations, is the furthest from normal. \* Humanity is not living within normal conditions and to assume that rights and freedoms, including mobility rights, as upheld within the 1982 Charter of Rights & Freedoms, would not be adjusted during a pandemic...would not be impacted in order to protect human health and life...would be to ignore facts as well as human health concerns. In short, during a pandemic it's rational to restrict travel to protect public health.

The Constitution is very clear that Canadians have the right to enter and leave Canada & have the right to travel within Canada. However, like all other rights, it can be limited -- if the limitation is justified, reasonable and proportionate.

Therefore, and referring to Mr. Elder's email concerning mobility rights, the suspension of rights must be exceptional and a global pandemic that affects all life on this planet, including Canada as a whole, plus our small village of Tahsis, meets that criteria of "exceptional". Will the suspension of mobility rights last indefinitely? No, only as long as the pandemic emergency lasts. When this state of emergency no longer exists and there is a return to stability, then and only then, the return to full human rights protection becomes normalized again. Until that time, all government states, including municipal, have both a legal and moral obligation to protect their citizens. Thusly, with regard to my initial letter and the suggestion therein of posting a COVID-1 ESSENTIAL TRAVEL ONLY - NO RECREATIONAL TRAVEL at the start of the dirt road leading into Tahsis is well within the bounds of current government awareness. Perhaps it may be viewed as a balancing act as it were between rights and freedoms and the protection of human health during this pandemic and, balance it we must.

Concerning another subject, please be aware it is not my intention to criticize unfairly. However, I am left to wonder if Mr. Elder's personal email to myself overstepped the boundaries of Council and the governance under which all municipal authorities function. Again, my letter was addressed to Council as a whole with full intention of it being discussed at a forthcoming Council meeting and not through a personal email from Mr. Elder.

In closing, please add this letter to the May 4th meeting agenda. With thanks.

Respectfully yours,



Rita Aedan,

907 Princess Victoria View,  
Tahsis, BC V0P 1X0



\* Resources

Brenda McPhail, "[Public Health, Pandemic and Privacy](#)", Canadian Civil Liberties Association, 19 March 2020.

Eric S. Block and Adam Goldenberg, "[COVID-19: Can they do that? Part II: The Emergencies Act](#)," McCarthy Tetrault, 18 March 2020.

Sean Fine, "[How measures to contain COVID-19 may clash with Canadians' Charter rights](#)," *The Globe and Mail*, 17 March 2020.

Sonya Norris and Isabelle Brideau, [Federal Authorities During Public Health Emergencies](#), HillNotes, Library of Parliament, 23 March 2020.

# VILLAGE OF TAHSIS

## Report to Council

**To:** Mayor and Council

**From:** Mark Tatchell, CAO

**Date:** April 20, 2021

**Re:** Temporary Use Permit Application – Tahsis Fish Processing Ltd.  
("TFPL")

---

### **PURPOSE OF REPORT:**

To provide Council with contextual information regarding the attached temporary use permit application, as required by s. 4.3 (6) of the Development Procedures Bylaw No. 633, 2020.

### **OPTIONS/ALTERNATIVES**

1. Authorize the issuance of the temporary use permit for a three-year period beginning May 1, 2021.
2. Refuse to authorize the issuance of the temporary use permit.
3. Authorize the issuance of the temporary use permit as amended by Council.
4. Any other option that Council deems appropriate.

### **BACKGROUND:**

TFPL began operating in 2016 under a licence of occupation with the Village to utilize the heliport building and adjacent fenced area. The area is part of a 2.5-acre parcel fronting the Tahsis inlet which is zoned I-2 and has an assessed value of \$205,000. TFPL's business is processing saltwater fish caught by sport fishers. The business is licensed/permitted by Island Health and Department of Fisheries and Oceans. The zoning permits the property to be used for fish and shellfish processing.

TPFL has engaged in off and on discussions with Village staff regarding options for expanding the business. Most recently, TPFL proposed selling coffee and doughnuts during early morning hours. As this use is not permitted under the current zoning, the options are either to re-zone the property to permit this use or apply for a temporary use permit.

Staff recommended that the applicant apply for a temporary use permit based on the following:

- provides the applicant with business flexibility without a long-term commitment;
- allows the Village to assess TFPL's expanded business without making a more permanent decision;
- re-zoning requires a bylaw amendment which would take longer and more effort to change once enacted;
- allows neighbouring businesses and residents a period of time to assess the impact of the temporary use permit and provide feedback to Council prior to renewal or any other decisions; and
- allows the Village more time to consider its long-term vision for this property while supporting a local business

**POLICY/LEGISLATIVE REQUIREMENTS:**

1. Section 4.3 of the Development Procedures Bylaw (attached) sets out the requirements and procedures for temporary use permit applications. This application is atypical as the Village is the property owner.

As per the bylaw:

- The applicant installed a public notice sign advising of the application within 10 days of the application being made. (Copy of sign enclosed)
- The Village provide notice to owners and occupiers of all properties within a 75-metre radius of the lot lines of the subject property at least 14 days before this Council meeting (Sample of notice enclosed)

The bylaw requires that temporary use permit applications shall be submitted to Council accompanied by a staff which may include the following:

- A copy of the proposed temporary use permit (attached)
- Advice from internal committees or external government agencies (not applicable)
- Any public submissions received (no submissions received)
- A review and analysis of the proposed variance (included)
- A recommended course of action for Council to consider (included)
- Any additional information Village staff consider relevant

2. *Local Government Act*, Part 8, ss. 492-497

**FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:**

There are no direct financial implications to the Village. The applicant has paid the permit application and notice fees.

**STRATEGIC PRIORITY:**

Yes.

Promote Tahsis as a tourist destination.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

Option 1.

Respectfully submitted:



---

Mark Tatchell, CAO

- a) Register a Notice of Permit against the title of the property at the Office of the Land Title and Survey Authority of British Columbia;
- b) Update databases and file all information pertaining to the application;
- c) Administer any further conditions of the development variance permit as specified within each individual permit as required.

#### **4.3 Temporary Use Permits**

- 1) Temporary use permits shall not exceed three (3) years and may be renewed for an additional three (3) years upon a new application to Council.
- 2) A temporary use permit application shall be completed upon a form provided by the Village which then shall be delivered to the Village together with such additional plans and particulars as may be required. The application is considered as being accepted when all required information (including fees) has been received.
- 3) All completed applications shall include the following:
  - a) A completed application form including the application fee in the amount set out in the *Village of Tahsis Fees and Charges Bylaw No. 594, 2017*;
  - b) A written authorization from the owner of the subject property or from an agent authorized to act on the owner's behalf;
  - c) A copy of the certificate of title;
  - d) A legal description and municipal address(es) of properties included in the application;
  - e) A written outline of the proposed use and the duration of the proposed activity including plans for mitigating potentially harmful impacts on the environment, adjacent lands, and the local community as well as plans for the rehabilitation of the site following the discontinuance of the proposed temporary use;
  - f) A site plan and other supporting plans which contain the following minimum information about the subject property:
    - i. Location map including neighbouring land uses;
    - ii. Existing and proposed buildings in relation to legal property boundaries;

- iii. Significant physical features and topographic information including all existing watercourses and wetlands;
    - iv. North arrow and drawing scales;
    - v. Dimensions for all elevations and site plans;
    - vi. Geodetic elevation;
    - vii. Residential unit or building layout and/or comprehensive plan illustrating unit distribution;
    - viii. Existing and proposed roads;
    - ix. Open space.
  - g) A Surveyors Certificate by a BCLS Surveyor;
  - h) A completed "Site Profile" as per the *Environment Management Act* for the subject property or release from the Ministry to proceed.
- 4) All applications shall be subject to the following conditions:
- a) Where an application contains multiple parcels, each legal parcel shall be considered as a separate application, unless otherwise determined by the Chief Administrative Officer;
  - b) An application that has been refused by Council shall not be reconsidered for a period of twelve (12) months immediately following the date of refusal, except when permitted pursuant to Section 460 of the *Local Government Act*. A re-application is considered a new application which shall be subject to the same prescribed application fee;
  - c) An application which has been inactive for six (6) months is deemed to be abandoned. A re-opened application is considered a new application which shall be subject to the same prescribed application fee.
- 5) Residents shall be notified of the consideration of a temporary use permit application through the following:
- a) Within ten (10) days of the application being made, the applicant shall install the public notice sign advising of the application in a local visible from the road adjoining the subject property. If the property has two road frontages, two signs



may be required. The sign shall adhere to the regulations set out in the Zoning Bylaw. The sign must remain in place until the date the application is either approved or refused by Council, or becomes inactive, and shall be removed within ten (10) days of that date;

- b) The Village shall provide a notice to be mailed or otherwise delivered to the owners and occupiers of all properties within a 75-metre radius of the lot lines of the subject property at least fourteen (14) days before the meeting where Council will make a decision on the application.
- 6) Temporary use permit applications shall be submitted to Council accompanied by a staff report which may include:
- a) A copy of the proposed temporary use permit;
  - b) Advice from internal committees or external government agencies;
  - c) Any public submissions received;
  - d) A review and analysis of the proposed variance;
  - e) A recommended course of action for Council to consider;
  - f) Any additional information Village staff consider relevant.
- 7) The applicant shall be notified within ten (10) days of Council's decision to:
- a) Authorize the issuance of the temporary use permit;
  - b) Authorize the issuance of the temporary use permit as amended by Council; or
  - c) Refuse to authorize the issuance of the temporary use permit.
- 8) Pursuant to Section 502 of the *Local Government Act*, security may be required as a condition of permit subject to the following regulations:
- a) Security shall only be required in relation to:
    - i. A condition of the temporary use permit respecting landscaping,
    - ii. An unsafe condition or damage to the natural environment that may result as a consequence of a contravention of a condition in a permit;
  - b) Security shall be in the form of cash or an irrevocable letter of credit, effective for the term of the permit;

- c) The amount of security required shall be 125% of the costs to undertake or supervise the works for which the securities are required, as determined by the Village of Tahsis using an estimate or quote provided by the applicant as prepared by a qualified registered professional;
  - d) Security shall be returned, without interest, to the applicant once all conditions of the permit have been met.
- 9) After Council has approved a temporary use permit, Village staff shall:
- a) Register a Notice of Permit against the title of the property at the Office of the Land Title and Survey Authority of British Columbia;
  - b) Update databases and file all information pertaining to the application;
  - c) Administer any further conditions of the development variance permit as specified within each individual permit as required.

READ a first time this 2<sup>nd</sup> day of August, 2020

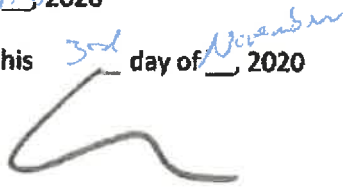
READ a second time this 4<sup>th</sup> day of August, 2020

READ a third time this 4<sup>th</sup> day of August, 2020

Reconsidered, Finally Passed and Adopted this 3<sup>rd</sup> day of November, 2020




MAYOR



CORPORATE OFFICER

I hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of the original Bylaw No. 633, 2020 duly passed by the Council of the Village of Tahsis on this 3<sup>rd</sup> day of Nov, 2020.



CORPORATE OFFICER



## *Village of Tahsis*

April 12, 2021

### **NOTICE OF TEMPORARY USE PERMIT APPLICATION**

Tahsis Fish Processing Ltd. located at 154 Head Bay Road has submitted a Temporary Use Permit Application to permit the sale of:

- Coffee and mini-donuts
- Commercially obtained salmon and halibut
- T-shirts

The zoning for this property does not permit the above uses, so the applicant is seeking a three-year temporary use permit under the Development Procedures Bylaw.

Under the bylaw, all owners and occupiers of property within a 75-metre radius of the subject property must be notified of the application at least 14 days before the meeting where Council will make a decision on the application.

Council will consider the application at its May 4<sup>th</sup> regular meeting at 7 pm.

You may comment on the temporary use application by writing to the Village at the address below or by email at [reception@villageoftahsis.com](mailto:reception@villageoftahsis.com). All comments must be received by April 28<sup>th</sup>.

*Village of Tahsis*  
977 South Maquinna Drive  
P.O. Box 219 Tahsis BC V0P 1X0  
TEL: (250) 934-6344 FAX: (250) 934-6622  
[www.villageoftahsis.com](http://www.villageoftahsis.com)



## TEMPORARY USE PERMIT APPLICATION FORM

H2  
Village of Tahsis  
977 S. Maquinna Dr.  
PO Box 219  
Tahsis, BC  
V0P 1X0  
Ph (250) 934-6344  
Fax (250) 934-6622  
reception@villageoftahsis.com

Legal Description: District Lot 32, Nanka Land District  
 Civic Address: 154 Head Bay Road  
 Folio Number: \_\_\_\_\_ PID #: 009-803-173  
 Applicant: Tahsis Fish Processing  
 Mailing Address: Box 24 Tahsis BC Postal Code: V0P1X0  
 Phone: 425-535-5536 Fax: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Current Zoning: 1-2  
 Official Community Plan Designation: \_\_\_\_\_

### Existing Use (if applicable)

Describe the age, condition and use of any buildings on the subject property and plot their location on a scaled site plan noting various setback dimensions.

### Proposed Temporary Use(s)

Describe the proposed temporary use for the subject property. Also include duration of proposed activity and include plans for mitigating potential harmful impacts on the environment, adjacent lands and the local community as well as plans for rehabilitating the site following the discontinuance of the temporary use.

see attached letter

### Council Meetings

Do you wish to appear before Council to explain your proposal?

☒ Yes

☐ No

Please ensure the following items are included with the completed application:

#### ☐ Fees

TEMPORARY USE PERMIT APPLICATION	\$800.00
NOTICE FEES (additional fee which applies to the above, refundable if notice is not distributed)	\$200.00

- ☐ Current Title Search for all parcels and copies of all covenants, building schemes, easements and right of ways charged on title Please Waive
- ☐ 8½ x 11 legible site plan (if applicable)

Please note, a refundable Security Deposit will be required in a form acceptable to the Village of Tahsis before the permit can be issued. The amount of the deposit will be determined at the time of Council approval.

TO BE COMPLETED BY THE DISTRICT OF ~~TAHISIS~~ TAHISIS

Date Complete Application Received \_\_\_\_\_

Application Fee \$ \_\_\_\_\_

+ Notification Fee \$ \_\_\_\_\_

= Total Fee Paid \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Receipt # \_\_\_\_\_

---

**TEMPORARY USE PERMIT  
CONSENT FORM**

---

Complete one of the following statements:

**IF OWNER IS PERSONALLY APPLYING FOR  
THE PERMIT**

I, \_\_\_\_\_  
solemnly declare that I am the owner of the real  
property legally described as:

\_\_\_\_\_ and that I am registered as such with the Land  
Title and Survey Authority of British Columbia

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Postal Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

Facsimile: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

**IF AN AGENT IS APPLYING ON BEHALF OF  
THE OWNER**

I, KATHY MATTICE  
solemnly declare that I am the authorized agent  
of Village of Tahsis  
who is the registered owner of the real property  
legally described as:

154 Head Bay Road

It is understood that until the Village of Tahsis is  
advised in writing that I am no longer acting on  
behalf of the undersigned registered owner, the  
Village shall deal exclusively with me with  
respect to all matters pertaining to the proposed  
Temporary Use Permit application.

I hereby declare that the foregoing information is  
true and proper.

Signature of Agent: K. Mattice

Signature of Owner: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Owner: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address of Owner: \_\_\_\_\_

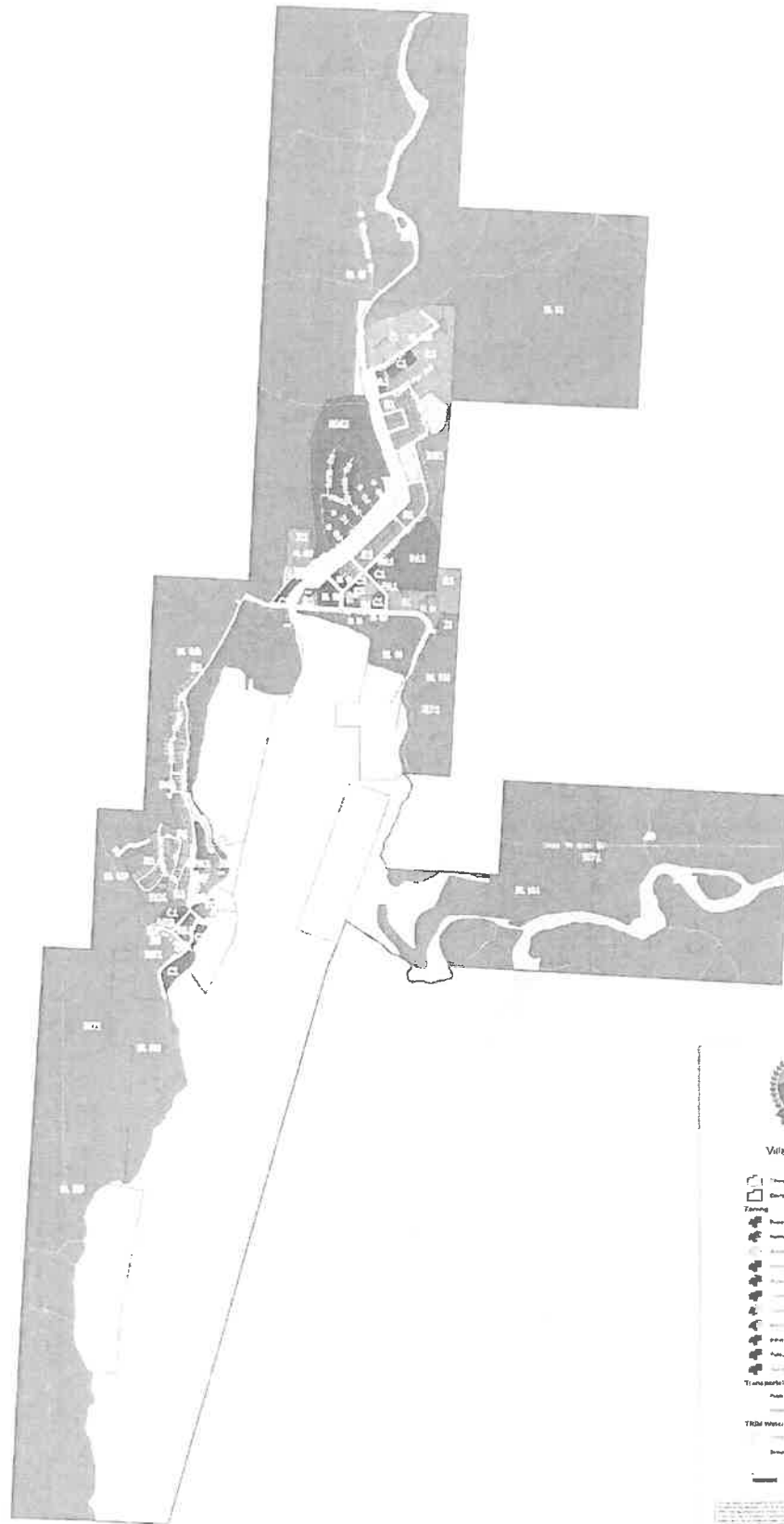
\_\_\_\_\_ Postal Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

Facsimile: \_\_\_\_\_

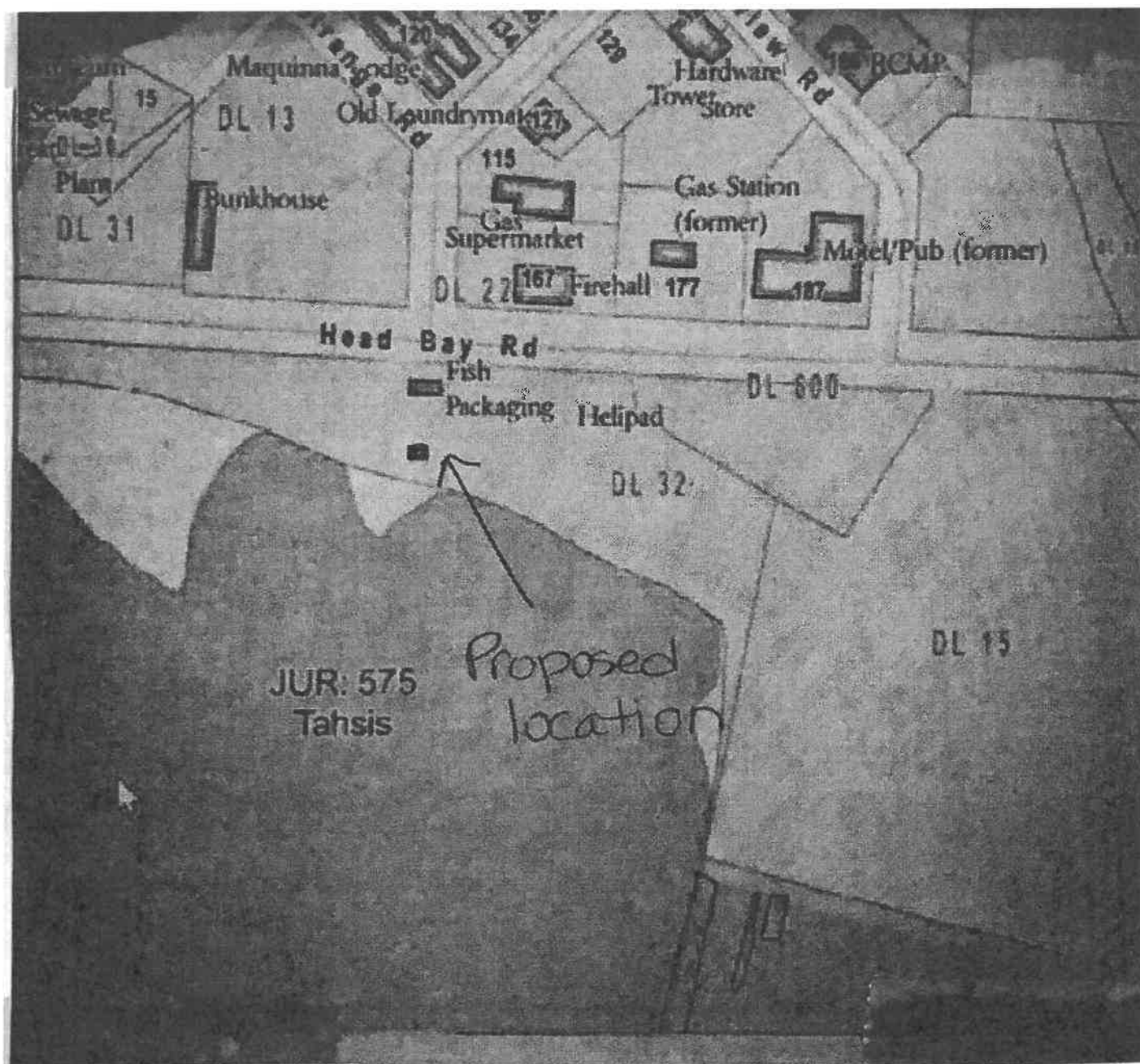
Email: \_\_\_\_\_

*Any personal information required by this application form is being collected for the purpose of administering the Village of Tahsis Development Procedures Bylaw No. 633 (2020) and is collected under the authority of the Local Government Act and the bylaw. Questions about the collection of this information should be directed to the Corporate Officer at 977 S. Maquinna Drive, PO Box 219, Tahsis, BC, V0P 1X0, or (250)934-6344.*



F(i)





**TAHSIS FISH PROCESSING LTD.**  
PO BOX 24  
TAHSIS, BC V0P 1X0

000017

DATE 2021-04-10  
Y Y Y Y M M D D

PAY to Village of Tahsis  
the order of

- eight hundred dollars

\$ 800.00

XY 100 DOLLARS



**Canada Trust**  
WASHINGTON PARK SHOPPING CENTRE  
789 RYAN ROAD, UNIT A  
COURTENAY, B.C. V9N 3R6

TAHSIS FISH PROCESSING LTD.

RE TUP Application

PER Notice

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**TAHSIS FISH PROCESSING LTD.**  
PO BOX 24  
TAHSIS, BC V0P 1X0

000018

DATE 2021-04-10  
Y Y Y Y M M D D

PAY to Village of Tahsis  
the order of

two hundred dollars

\$ 200.00

XY 100 DOLLARS



**Canada Trust**  
WASHINGTON PARK SHOPPING CENTRE  
789 RYAN ROAD, UNIT A  
COURTENAY, B.C. V9N 3R6

TAHSIS FISH PROCESSING LTD.

RE Notice fees

PER Notice

⑈000018⑈ ⑆90750⑈004⑆ 9075⑈5229282⑈

April 9, 2021

Dear Village of Tahsis Council members,

I am writing this letter in hopes that you will help and support me in obtaining a temporary use permit for a three-year period.

The village is the owner of the property that I currently lease at 154 Head Bay Road. Last year, it became apparent that the fish plant requires supplemental income to remain viable.

**PROPOSED TEMPORARY USE:**

I would like to add a small Mocha/Coffee and mini donut stand. I would also like to pursue selling commercially obtained salmon and halibut. I was also considering having some funny fishing t-shirts for sale as well. There would be no impact to services the fish plant already provides.

Last year, I placed a 8x10 wooden shed on the property. This is what I would use to house the additional services/products. The shed would have temporary power, and independent water and waste. There would be no impact to the existing buildings or the environment.

Please see attached the Temporary Use Permit Application Form. As a tenant, I do not have access to many of the requirements on the check sheet and thereby ask the village (owner) to assist me by waiving or providing me with the information needed to complete the application form.

Thank you for your consideration,

Kathy Mattice  
Tahsis Fish Processing

### 4.3 Temporary Use Permits

- 1) Temporary use permits shall not exceed three (3) years and may be renewed for an additional three (3) years upon a new application to Council. **3 YEARS**
- 2) A temporary use permit application shall be completed upon a form provided by the Village which then shall be delivered to the Village together with such additional plans and particulars as may be required. The application is considered as being accepted when all required information (including fees) has been received. **ATTACHED AND PARTIALLY COMPLETED**
- 3) All completed applications shall include the following:
  - a) A completed application form including the application fee in the amount set out in the Village of Tahsis Fees and Charges Bylaw No. 594, 2017; **COMPLETED ON APPLICATION, PAYMENT ATTACHED**
  - b) A written authorization from the owner of the subject property or from an agent authorized to act on the owner's behalf; **Waive or Village to provide**
  - c) A copy of the certificate of title; **Waive or Village to provide**
  - d) A legal description and municipal address(es) of properties included in the application; **COMPLETED ON APPLICATION**
  - e) A written outline of the proposed use and the duration of the proposed activity including plans for mitigating potentially harmful impacts on the environment, adjacent lands, and the local community as well as plans for the rehabilitation of the site following the discontinuance of the proposed temporary use; **ATTACHED SEE LETTER**
  - f) A site plan and other supporting plans which contain the following minimum information about the subject property:
    - i. Location map including neighbouring land uses; **ATTACHED**
    - ii. Existing and proposed buildings in relation to legal property boundaries; **Waive or Village to provide**
    - iii. Significant physical features and topographic information including all existing watercourses and wetlands; **Waive or Village to provide**
    - iv. North arrow and drawing scales; **Waive or Village to provide**
    - v. Dimensions for all elevations and site plans; **Waive or Village to provide**
    - vi. Geodetic elevation; **Waive or Village to provide**
    - vii. Residential unit or building layout and/or comprehensive plan illustrating unit distribution; **Waive or Village to provide**
    - viii. Existing and proposed roads; **Waive or Village to provide**
    - ix. Open space. **Waive or Village to provide**

g) A Surveyors Certificate by a BCLS Surveyor; **Waive or Village to provide**

h) A completed "Site Profile" as per the Environment Management Act for the subject property or release from the Ministry to proceed. **Waive or Village to provide**

5) Residents shall be notified of the consideration of a temporary use permit application through the following:

a) Within ten (10) days of the application being made, the applicant shall install the public notice sign advising of the application in a local visible from the road adjoining the subject property. **COMPLETED AND POSTED**

# PUBLIC NOTICE OF TEMPORARY USE PERMIT APPLICATION

Tahsis Fish Processing has applied for a  
TEMPORARY USE PERMIT in order to add  
services and products to its existing  
business.

This includes

- 1) MOCHA/COFFE AND MINI DONUT STAND
- 2) COMMERICAL SALMON AND HALIBUT SALES
- 3) TSHIRT SALES



