



Reference: 241085

September 6, 2018

**VIA EMAIL: RElliott@victoria.ca**

Her Worship Mayor Lisa Helps  
City of Victoria  
1 Centennial Square  
Victoria, British Columbia  
V8W 1P6

Dear Mayor Helps:

Thank you for your letter of July 26, 2018, regarding “Optimizing Community Benefits of Forest Resources,” as resolved at the 2017 Union of BC Municipalities Convention.

The Government of British Columbia believes that conserving old growth is an important part of long-term resource management. Old-growth forests have significant social, cultural, economic and environmental value, and the protection and visitation of old-growth forest on Crown land (“Big Tree Tourism”) can represent important social, spiritual and economic values to communities.

The Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development is working on a number of initiatives on Vancouver Island to inform and enhance old-growth forest management, including: a new policy for iconic “Big Trees”; new Wildlife Habitat Areas for species at risk, specifically Northern Goshawk and Marbled Murrelet; legalization of draft Old Growth Management Areas; and, additional Coastal Douglas-fir ecosystem protection (also for some of the Gulf Islands).

Government is committed to working with industry, First Nations and communities to create more BC jobs by processing more logs in BC. We have initiated discussions with all participants in the coastal forest sector to identify options and opportunities for revitalization of this sector, and a key objective of this initiative is to increase the manufacture of logs.

I also recognize the role that log exports play as part of the integrated coastal forest sector, allowing harvest in areas that have high harvest costs and lower log quality. Exporting a portion of the harvest simultaneously provides fibre to domestic manufacturers that would otherwise not be harvested.

Her Worship Mayor Lisa Helps

This ministry, together with the Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation, and by engaging with First Nations and communities, is developing a policy framework for modernizing land-use planning. It is recognized that expectations for modernized land-use planning in British Columbia are large, and your interests are noted, along with many others, including First Nations and communities where old growth harvesting remains significant in supporting local economies.

Again, thank you for taking the time to express your views.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Doug Donaldson', written in a cursive style.

Doug Donaldson  
Minister

pc: Honourable Scott Fraser, Minister of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation