



Reference: 261717

July 29, 2021

VIA EMAIL: endangeredecosystemalliance@gmail.com

Dear Union of BC Indian Chiefs and Conservation Organization Leaders:

Thank you for your letter of February 24, 2021, to Premier John Horgan and ministers, regarding funding to develop a provincial old growth strategy. As the Assistant Deputy Minister, Resource Stewardship Division, for the Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development, I have been asked to respond.

On November 26, 2020, Premier Horgan stated his expectation for Minister Katrine Conroy to make progress on implementing “the recommendations of the Old Growth Strategic Review in collaboration with Indigenous leaders, labour, industry, and environmental groups to protect more old growth stands”, including commitments to “lasting and meaningful reconciliation”. The minister’s mandate letter is online at <https://news.gov.bc.ca/files/FLNR-Conroy-mandate.pdf>.

Government is committed to working with rights and titles holders on old growth in their territories and appreciates all opportunities to engage with the First Nations Leadership Council on this topic. We recognize financial resources for First Nations are necessary to implement the recommendations in the report. We are currently exploring options for capacity funding to support First, consistent with the recommendation in the Old Growth Strategic Review. We remain committed to implementing the recommendations of the Old Growth Strategic Review in collaboration with Indigenous leaders and communities, and involving local governments, labour, industry, and environmental groups to protect more old growth stands.

I am also appreciative of the May 14, 2021 opportunity for myself and Brian Bawtinheimer to join the Union of BC Indian Chiefs workshop on old growth management to discuss the old growth report and proposed approach towards a new old growth strategy for British Columbia.

Again, thank you for writing to share your concerns regarding economic self-determination and for including many considerations and options to address capacity funding.

Yours truly,

David Muter
Assistant Deputy Minister

Union of BC Indian Chiefs and Conservation Organization Leaders

pc: Honourable John Horgan, Premier of British Columbia
Honourable Katrine Conroy, Minister of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations
and Rural Development
Honourable Murray Rankin, Minister of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation
Honourable Selina Robinson, Minister of Finance
Honourable George Heyman, Minister of Environment and Climate Change Strategy
Honourable Josie Osborne, Minister of Municipal Affairs
Honourable Nathan Cullen, Minister of State for Lands and Natural Resource
Operations
Union of BC Indian Chiefs
Ken Wu, Executive Director, Endangered Ecosystems Alliance
TJ Watt, Executive Team, Ancient Forest Alliance
Hannah Askew, Executive Director, Sierra Club BC
Torrance Coste, National Campaign Director, Wilderness Committee
Tegan Hansen, Forest Campaigner, Stand.earth
Brian Bawtinheimer, Executive Director, Provincial Stewardship Strategies