

December 16, 2021

The Honourable Katrine Conroy, M.L.A.

Minister of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development

Room 248 Parliament Buildings

Victoria, BC

V8V 1X4

Re: Old Growth Deferral Announcement

Dear Minister,

The Revelstoke Chamber of Commerce (the Chamber) is compelled to share some feedback that we have received from our forestry sector members, following the BC Government's old growth deferral announcement on November 2, 2021.

Many businesses and residents of Revelstoke and British Columbia rely on the forestry industry for their own ability to survive and thrive. For this very reason, it is in everybody's best interest to continually assess forestry practices to ensure sustainability of resources. Thank you for your continued attention to the forestry industry and this critical resource.

We wish to highlight some opportunities to consider, that we believe will help to mitigate the impacts to our local residents, businesses and economy.

To support the forestry industry in their ability to pivot and adjust their planning for operations, the BC Government could:

- provide timely cutting permit approvals
- share deferral plans
- offer clarity regarding future permits

To support the BC Government's approach, our Forestry Industry Professionals could:

- Offer local expertise. Consultation with local professionals and experts who know and manage specific areas of land would demonstrate a willingness to hear ideas and feedback from the people who will be most greatly affected. Revelstoke Community Forest Corporation (RCFC) has sustainably managed Tree Farm License (TFL) 56 since 1993, resulting in nearly 30 years of knowledge to offer to this process.
- Be active contributors and open pathways to the government for community-driven and community-supported solutions. Revelstoke boasts a proud history of facing a challenge and turning it into a success story, such as the Revelstoke Community Energy Corporation and the Revelstoke Community Forest Corporation. Innovation is part of Revelstoke's unique community culture. This community would be very responsive to the opportunity to work with our government on a success story.

REVELSTOKE.

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

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Regarding Implementation:

- The industry can better adapt to upcoming changes with deferrals that are transitional, not immediate.
- A smoother process will be attainable if some land is left in play while these changes are being finalized. An abrupt suspension of forestry operations will have significant negative impacts to communities relying on forestry. Please consider one example from TFL 56: the number of hectares that have been taken out of consideration would have taken approximately 14 years to harvest.
- A transitional approach would allow continued revenue to flow to the BC Government while solutions are being explored. RCFC alone in past fiscal year paid \$400,000 in stumpage fees through sustainable forest management.

Thank you for considering this feedback in your decision-making process.

Respectfully,



Maggie Spizzirri, President

Revelstoke Chamber of Commerce

Cc:

The Honourable John Horgan, M.L.A, Premier of BC

Doug Clovechok, M.L.A. Columbia River Revelstoke

His Worship Gary Sulz, Mayor of Revelstoke

City Council, Revelstoke