



Tla'amin Nation calls on the provincial government to enact emergency deferral to protect old growth ecosystems.

Nation Government requests immediate action to recommendations from report, 'A New Future for Old Forests'.

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The Tla'amin Nation Government is calling upon the provincial Government of British Columbia to immediately put into action the 14 recommendations of the 2020 commissioned old growth report 'A New Future for Old Forests'.

Tla'amin Executive Council sent a letter to Hon. Katrine Conroy Minister of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource, Operations and Rural Development April 9, 2021 to emphasize the particular need to act upon recommendations number 1 and 6.

Recommendation 1 being to enact meaningful discussions with First Nations communities, to provide training and economic funding to those communities who currently rely on the financial benefits of old growth logging – to help in diversifying their economies so that they no longer have to be put in the position of removing their sacred spaces in order to achieve financial independence.

Recommendation 6 being an immediate response to protect BCs old growth ecosystems at very high risk of "irreversible biodiversity loss." The power lies with the provincial government to immediately defer such areas for protection through emergency deferrals. This is necessary to save these stands until the promises of a "paradigm shifting" forestry sector is in place.

Recently Chief Justice Richard Wagner of the Supreme Court of Canada ruled climate change as "a threat of the highest order to the country, and indeed the world" that will cause "significant environmental, economic and human harm nationally and internationally, with especially high impacts in the Canadian Arctic, in coastal regions and on Indigenous Peoples." The ruling added that "the undisputed existence of a threat to the future of humanity cannot be ignored."

Hegus (Chief) John Hackett reminds, our teachings (Ta'ow) have always taught us that everything is connected. We know old-growth forests are crucial to the overall health of ecosystems, affecting everything from the tree canopies, to the forest floor, to the water that runs into salmon streams below.

"Foresight, respect and consideration for the land and the next generations to come are needed right now. We must consider our impacts on the ones who come after," says Hegus (Chief) John Hackett.

Tla'amin Nation is looking to the province of British Columbia to answer this call to use emergency deferrals to protect the last of the remaining old growth areas.

Media: Erik Blaney – 604-483-1308

Pictured: Old growth stumps reminder of the forests that were once standing in Tla'amin territory.

