

David J Adams

July 21st, 2017

Ty Speer
President & CEO
Tourism Vancouver
Metro Vancouver Convention and Visitors Bureau
Suite 210 - 200 Burrard Street
Vancouver, BC V6C 3L6



Dear Ty Speer:

Re: Proposed Logging on Bowen Island

Logging on Bowen Island is akin to bringing back a mastodon from the dead. It isn't going to happen.

From the economic rationale to the lost social capital to the clash of cultural values, logging on Bowen Island doesn't make sense. It's a foolish decision.

First, let's look at the economics. Leaving forests intact produces far more financial return than logging individual trees. **The World Bank estimates that the elements of nature that produce value (directly and indirectly) to people, such as the stock of forests, rivers, land, minerals and oceans, are upwards of 21 times more valuable to a community, to a province, than the trees alone.** The global value of the timber industry is USD \$0.4 Trillion. The value of conserving forests in just cutting greenhouse gas emissions is USD \$ 3.7 Trillion annually.

In Thailand, a study shows mangrove forests are worth about USD \$1,000 per hectare if exploited for wood. If left intact, their value is in excess of USD \$21,000 per hectare (Source: The World Bank 2012, UN Environment Program, Department of Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (UK) Natural Capital Committee 2013).

Here is what we get from Wood:

- Timber
- Wood Fuel
- Employment

Here is what we get from Trees/Forests:

- Timber
- Wood Fuel
- Employment
- Pollinators
- Climate Regulation
- Spiritual Benefits
- Biodiversity
- Storm Protection
- Carbon Storage
- Recreation
- Shelter
- Improved Water Quality

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- Medicines
- Resilience Disease
- Natural Flood Defense
- Food
- Tourism
- Healthy Soil
- Fresh Air
- Education

Why do we continue to log when the ROI to BC, to communities, to citizens, to taxpayers is so dismal and appallingly low and short-sighted? Why do we continue to look to forestry and logging as a major industry in BC when it accounts for less than three percent of our provincial GDP?

Selective logging has its benefits, but when the clear majority of our timber goes to low value applications we end up with little in the end. According to Statistics Canada, out of all the major industry groups in BC, "Natural Resources, including forestry, fishing, mining, quarrying, oil and gas" ranks third from the bottom out of sixteen in terms of employment.

It's time to move on.

We all need to accept that the glory days of the forestry industry are over and never returning. Logging and forestry are a losing, destructive, endgame of an era that we should have long ago abandoned. Given the far superior alternatives (i.e. hemp, bamboo, etc.) and the unsustainability of forestry in Canada and around the globe (hello, global warming), the continued support for logging and the forestry industry is akin to providing subsidies for flat-earth societies. For most needs, hemp and bamboo are far more economically and sustainably viable. As for "jobs, jobs, jobs," we would be better off investing our money in renewables and green technologies.

Logging on Bowen is a waste. It is a waste of a beautiful, magical –sacred– place. And if that is too 'woowoo' for you, then let me frame it a different way. Logging on Bowen is a waste of resources. It will destroy a pristine environment that is the source of revenues, such as tourism and real estate that are of far greater importance to this island and to the BC economy than logging trees ever will be.

Thank you for doing the right thing and saying "no" to logging on Bowen Island.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'DAS', written in a cursive, somewhat abstract style.

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