

Sophie Idsinga

From: Gregory Ronczewski <--->
Sent: Wednesday, July 19, 2017 4:33 PM
To: Mayor Council
Subject: Stop plans of commercial logging on Bowen Island

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Bowen Island, July 19, 2017

Gregory Ronczewski
--- Spyglass Road
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Mayor and Council,
Bowen Island Municipality

Dear Mr Mayor, Dear Council

When I heard about Ministry of Forests Lands Natural Resource Operations / BC Timber Sales (BCTS) plans to start logging on Bowen Island I could not believe it. Who would come up with such plan? 100 years ago this could be a standard procedure. Logging was part of economy of coastal BC, but now when we hear word "sustainable" almost in every business proposal that is put forward, this idea seems to go against what Prime Minister Justin Trudeau describes as his vision for Canada. Canada that leads the process of Paris Climate Accord.

Bowen is a small island - how many square meters of raw wood will come out of this operation? This will be a quick process with a fix price attached to it, but the results will be measured in years of devastation and destruction of this special place. Roads will be ruined, wildlife destroyed, and my biggest concern—the water supplies—compromised. I moved to Bowen 12 years ago and over the years I learned that the most valuable resource here is water. Water restrictions are normal on Bowen and if you combine this with the logging plans, it is a recipe for disaster. Our resources are limited. Any change to the ecological balance will affect our well being.

Bowen has so much more to offer. What sort of picture the clear-cut island that sits right on the path of all the cruise ships that bring the visitors from all over the world to experience Beautiful British Columbia will this promote? Logging in 2017 when we all see that the economy has to leap forward towards new, sustainable ways of how we coexist with the nature does not seem like a smart plan.

Please, look beyond the quick revenue from those trees that support our water supply. Few years ago Parks Canada proposed to convert the island into one of its parks. It doesn't matter that this project was not completed - what matters is that Parks Canada viewed Bowen as a unique ecosystem worth fighting for. It is a unique place and we are all lucky to have it. Cutting is easy - the aftermath will not be easy to maintain and I bet its costs surpass the revenue.

Sincerely,

Gregory Ronczewski
Bowen resident for 12 years

Copy send to:

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