

Sophie Idsinga

From: Neil Hammond <--->
Sent: Friday, July 14, 2017 3:35 PM
To: Enrique.Sanchez@gov.bc.ca; FLNR.Minister@gov.bc.ca; jordan.sturdy.mla@leg.bc.ca
Cc: Mayor Council; pluckham@islandstrust.bc.ca
Subject: Proposed logging on crown lands on Bowen Island

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
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TO:

Enrique Sanchez, BC Timber Sales:
Honourable John Rustad, Minister of Forests, Lands, & Natural Resource Operations
Jordan Sturdy, MLA
CC:
Mayor and Council, Bowen Island Municipality
Peter Luckham, Chair of Islands Trust: pluckham@islandstrust.bc.ca

I am writing with deep concern about the proposed logging on Bowen Island.

Please be under no delusion that temporary logging will any way help Bowen's economy. Quite the opposite, it would be disastrous.

Bowen's core economy is based on 3 sustainable factors in delicate balance:

1) Retail: All retail on Bowen is based on the strong business in tourist season helping them to stay open year round. Our draw is entirely predicated on our reputation for being a forested outdoorsy getaway.

Having unavoidably visible logged areas will ruin the significant and successful efforts of Bowen island municipality and volunteer groups to forge a strong island identify predicated on being a quiet unspoilt, nature-based get away for tourists which has successfully managed to boost our island economy and provide work for shops, artisans, kitchen / wait staff, B+B's and other recreation-based businesses.

2) Construction: House building on Bowen is again aimed and marketed on the idea of creating quiet communities surrounded by nature. Clear cutting on Bowen will ruin this.

3) Working residents: People who either work in Vancouver during the weekdays and who live on Bowen just because it is relatively unspoilt, and or people who work remotely or run businesses from home precisely because they want to live in a rural, unspoilt quiet place. If we start to lose this part of the community, you devastate the already precarious balance of the retail and construction sectors.

The best use of OUR crown lands to help us preserve the fragile sustainability of our community is to keep them preserved so that residents and visitors to the larger area can enjoy them.

I am sure that there are extensive crown lands elsewhere than can be logged far away from bustling and populated tourist-dependent communities like Bowen.

I would also like to urge the proposed public consultation scheduled this summer be postponed until the Fall when most residents may be back from vacation time.

Yours sincerely,

Neil Hammond
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