

Sophie Idsinga

From: Peter Courtney <--->
Sent: Wednesday, July 19, 2017 3:27 PM
To: Enrique.Sanchez@gov.bc.ca
Cc: jordan.sturdy.mla@leg.bc.ca; Mayor Council; pluckham@islandstrust.bc.ca; Doug.Donaldson.MLA@leg.bc.ca
Subject: Bowen Island

July 19, 2017

Enrique.Sanchez@gov.bc.ca

Dear Mr Sanchez,

I am writing you to express my deep concern regarding your recent Letter of Notice regarding proposed industrial logging of Crown lands on Bowen Island. I am a long-term resident of the island, and have been involved in both groundwater supply and community water conservation on Bowen, as well as trout and salmon species conservation and habitat restoration.

Bowen Island is a rather unique setting, not unlike the famous "Rock of Gibraltar". We have limited habitable lands due to the steep & mostly rocky nature of our topography. Almost all of our 3,000 or so residents are clustered in fairly dense areas at lower elevations and close to the few bits of arable land here. We have very few more unused private lands to expand into, nor "new known" sources of groundwater to draw from. Each year, as the summer approaches, every water system is stressed, and restrictions are applied in order to conserve waters that permeate our bedrock and replenish deep wells, and shallow lakes to supply us. The seasonal return of rains in autumn takes several weeks to recharge community resources. We truly live on the edge of drought.

I am extremely concerned that your mapping of forested Crown lands for harvest is uphill and upstream from virtually all of our water users and water systems. Any interference with the forest shade cover and fragile groundwater recharge patterns will disrupt all of these "downstream" systems and users. Many of us have worked tirelessly for years to bring back salmon to our limited stream base, and ensure native wild trout survival in our tiny lakes. Our efforts would be severely hampered or destroyed by industrial logging on the Crown Lands you have mapped.

Please take a lesson from Gibraltar, who now buys all of its potable water from Spain, and reconsider this dangerous proposal.

Sincerely yours,

Peter Courtney

jordan.sturdy.mla@leg.bc.ca

mayorandcouncil@bimbc.ca

pluckham@islandstrust.bc.ca

Doug.Donaldson.MLA@leg.bc.ca

Peter Courtney