



Friends of Clayoquot Sound

Celebrating the Frontlines of Environmental Conservation Movement Building & Actions for 40+ Years!

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B.C. Government Must Defer Logging in Clayoquot Sound + Fund Indigenous Protected and Conserved Areas



Photo Credit: @friendsofclayoquotsound

On the day logging was deferred for Clayoquot Sound, we were making a short film called "Forests Across Generations" with Gisele Martin, Tla-o-qui-aht Tribal Parks Guardian and language activist. Here Gisele looks out, as smoke from B.C. forest fires lingers over the clearcut. #WORTHMORESTANDING #CLIMATEACTION #INDIGENOUSLIVESMATTER

On September 11, 2020 – for the 1st time in colonial history – the B.C. government announced a 2-year deferral of logging in over 350,000 hectares of forests provincially, including 260,000 hectares in Clayoquot Sound. With the 2-year deferral anniversary this September, we are calling on the B.C. government to continue the existing moratorium on logging in Clayoquot Sound, ban old growth logging province wide, and provide funding for Indigenous Nations to establish Indigenous Protected and Conserved Areas (IPCAs).

Prior to the deferral, the B.C. government's outdated forestry system required the Nuuchahnulth First Nations' owned forestry company, MaMook, to pay hundreds of thousands of dollars in annual fees for Tree Farm Licenses to the B.C. government for the 'rights to log' in

their own unceded Nuuchahnulth territories. The B.C. government has been facilitating economically exploitative environmental destruction, and missing the opportunity for reconciliation based ancient forest protection. With Clayoquot MLA Josie Osbourne (former Tofino Mayor as well as previous Nuuchahnulth Tribal Council biologist) recently appointed Minister of Land, Water, and Resource Stewardship – we are optimistic that positive change is possible.

Friends of Clayoquot Sound remain active with the Clayoquot Sound Conservation Alliance (CSCA) to support discussions with regional First Nations about protecting the ancient rainforests through securing conservation investment. Learn more about how you can contribute in the following pages...

WHAT'S UP in this issue

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Ada'itsx (Fairy Creek) Forest Defenders Seek Dropped Charges Due to Abuse of Process



Photo Credit: @adaitx

In 2021, the Protect Ada'itsx / Fairy Creek Blockades surpassed the arrest record previously held by the Clayoquot Blockades for Canada's largest act of civil disobedience to protect old growth forests. #PROTECTWHATYOULOVE #MAYTHEFORESTBEWITHYOU

Adapted from Protect Ada'itsx
(aka: Fairy Creek Blockades) @adaitx

During the Clayoquot Blockades that Friends of Clayoquot Sound organized, of the 932 forest defenders who were arrested, 860 were prosecuted in eight trials, and all those prosecuted for criminal contempt of court were found guilty. Last year in unceded Nuuchahnulth territories on southern Vancouver Island, the Protect Ada'itsx reported 1,188 arrests (+ over 300 illegal "catch and release" detainments). With this new record to protect old-growth forests in B.C., criticism of the RCMP's conduct has come from Canada's Supreme Court.

The RCMP showed up to enforce a court ordered injunction supporting corporate rights and ended up illegally arresting peaceful forest protectors and abusing their human rights. Legally, "Abuse of Process" is defined as an unacceptable use of a legal procedure with malicious or perverse intent. At the blockades, records of these abuses include: stripping protesters' COVID

masks before pepper-spraying them; improper constraints on freedom of the press; use of illegally expansive exclusion zones; wearing Thin Blue Line badges contrary to RCMP directives; failing to wear identification; unlawfully seizing and destroying personal effects such as vehicles, tents, sleeping bags, and food; all while using messaging that their actions were undertaken to enforce the Court's order.

Over the winter, the Protect Ada'itsx lawyers sought justice for forest defenders by presenting evidence that illustrated the egregious attitudes and actions perpetrated by the police at the remote blockades. The B.C. Supreme Court deemed the RCMP's broad exclusion zones, checkpoints, searches, and media restrictions were illegal. The legal team argued that the RCMP's misconduct should set a precedent and as such the charges against defenders should be dropped.

On February 23rd, Justice Thompson announced the decision to proceed to trial for the RCMP's Abuse of Process case. This sets a precedent as the first Abuse of Process application for a large group facing contempt of court charges under a single injunction. This could pave the way for future cases to protect land defenders across Canada and help dissuade RCMP officers from abusing human rights.

As the Crown prosecutes forest defenders, and Legal Aid BC defends arrestees, we all are left to question why taxpayers are footing the bill for all this when over 90% of people in B.C. oppose more old-growth logging? And as we await the outcome of the latest court case, the destruction of irreplaceable ancient rainforests continues.

6 ACTIONS WE CAN TAKE FOR OLD GROWTH FORESTS

1. Support Indigenous led protection camps and actions on the ground.
2. Organize local solidarity actions.
Call / send emails to the Premier, the Forests Minister, and local MLAs.
3. **Premier John Horgan / 250-387-1715 / premier@gov.bc.ca**
Forest Minister Katrine Conroy / 250-387-6240 / fnr.minister@gov.bc.ca
Stewardship Minister Josie Osborne / 250-720-4515 / lwsr.minister@gov.bc.ca
4. Sign the bcgreens.ca and change.org petitions - search "Old Growth".
5. Amplify by sharing and resharing educational content in social media networks.
6. Donate to the Protect Ada'itsx, FOCS, and groups working to protect old growth forests.

Government's TMX Pipeline Investment Could Be \$30 Billion!?! How much do taxpayers have to pay?



Photo Credit: Greenpeace UK

Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau's reckless insistence on TMX has betrayed commitments to Indigenous rights and reconciliation, in addition to climate and coastal ecosystems. #NOTMX #NOPIPELINES #CLIMATEEMERGENCY

The Trans Mountain (TMX) tar sands pipeline has steadily become a more tragic quagmire since 2018. Back then Kinder Morgan, the Texas based pipeline company, set a deadline for the

Canadian government to provide some assurance that TMX could be built. What started as a discussion of a \$2 billion loan from the Canadian government for Kinder Morgan's controversial pipeline expansion

eventually spiraled into the government purchasing the existing pipeline and the construction project to twin the pipeline – paying billions of taxpayer funds.

This spring, the government revealed that the cost of constructing TMX has tripled from initial estimates of \$7 billion to now approaching \$22 billion. The government then assured the public that no more taxpayer funds would be allocated to pay for the failing project. But then, a couple months later, with the inflating pipeline construction costs, the government announced a \$10 billion loan guarantee for the project.

Tar sands oil is amongst the most carbon intensive oil on Earth. The TMX pipeline and tanker project would release 100 million tonnes of carbon annually, negating climate commitments made by the Canadian government to the global community at the UN Climate Summits. The pipeline would also mean 400 supertankers a year, putting coastal communities and ecosystems at much greater risk of catastrophic oil spills.

Canada's Finance Minister Continuing to Ignore Climate Change Realities

Last year, the International Energy Agency (IEA) released the most comprehensive study yet of what is required for the global economy to meet the Paris Agreement goal of keeping global warming below 1.5°C. One of the IEA's most important findings is that "there is no need for investment in new fossil fuel supply". This means that banks and insurance companies must end all financial services for any company that is investing in expanding its fossil fuel operations.

Canada's Energy Regulator has already reported that the expansion of this government owned tar sands pipeline is an unnecessary liability if climate emissions reductions are required. With cleanups from last year's forest fires and flooding in BC still ongoing, taxpayers cannot afford for the Canadian government to subsidize Big Oil profiteering for a doomed industry at the expense of our collective future. Ironically, recent pipeline construction delays were

caused in large part by last fall's flooding along the TMX pipeline route -- BC's latest climate change disaster.

Meanwhile, Canada's Finance Minister Chrystia Freeland claims the TMX is still profitable despite large cost increases, but the Department of Finance won't provide evidence to prove it. Have your say and make your voice heard to tell the government to factor in Indigenous Title and the environmental or climate liability into their pipeline analysis. #NOTMX

Clayoquot Salmon Roundtable Marine Risk Assessment: Special Reportback

The Problem

Chinook (*Oncorhynchus tshawytscha*) salmon populations are declining from Southeast Alaska to the Columbia River basin, with certain stocks endangered or facing an imminent threat of extinction. The recent and sharp decline in Chinook populations is particularly acute in West Coast Vancouver Island Chinook Conservation Unit. Recovery efforts are hampered by an inadequate and fragmented understanding of issues affecting productivity in the marine survival.

wild salmon stocks. Friends of Clayoquot Sound sits as a watchdog of the science and the decision making process.

Since 2020, the first ever Marine Risk Assessment (MRA) for wild salmon has happened slower than initially hoped due to the COVID pandemic. However, the objective to identify and rank the limiting factors in the marine environment

The loss of local salmon stocks on Vancouver Island spurred the formation of the Clayoquot Salmon Roundtable in 2013.

The Clayoquot Salmon Roundtable consists of representatives from the Tla-o-qui-aht, Ahousaht, and Hesquiaht First Nations, Federal and

Provincial government agencies, NGOs, aquaculture, sport, recreational and commercial fishers and other stakeholders. The purpose of the Roundtable has been to build partnerships in co-management processes aimed at the recovery and protection of Clayoquot Sound's

and causes for the rapid decline in wild salmon stocks has remained. In 2022, the MRA process involved 10 days of scientific presentations to identify high risk factors, key data gaps, and most importantly – to develop a strategy for stock rebuilding, restoration, mitigation, and management. These are some of our takeaways.

Deadly Parasites: Salmon Farms Provide Ideal Breeding Conditions for Sea Lice

The Marine Risk Assessment confirmed that sea lice impact the performance of juvenile salmon, as 3 sea lice can be deadly for a smolt. The presence of open and semi-closed salmon farms in Clayoquot Sound functionally act as breeding laboratories for sea lice. Exposure to sea lice from salmon farms increases the risk of stress, poor fitness and performance, disease and mortality, because juvenile salmon must live among salmon farms during the first 2 years of their life before they migrate offshore. Dr. Tony Farrell's presentation to the Clayoquot Salmon Roundtable rightfully questioned if Canada's Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO) current threshold of 3 lice per fish, before mitigation is required, is a "stable strategy".

Currently, when salmon farms

exceed DFO's 3 sea lice limit, the corporation responsible is given a 7 week grace period to bring down the sea lice count. This is often during the critical juvenile salmon outmigration to the ocean. As Dr. Alexandra Morton emphasized to the Clayoquot Salmon Roundtable, it is accomplishing nothing to allow farm operations to stay above the already high sea lice threshold for 42 days. There is also no point for DFO to only maintain the threshold seasonally, when juvenile salmon are in the near shore marine environment year round. And if removed sea lice are being dumped back into the marine environment

by corporations, many sea lice survive to reinfest again. Therefore, no mitigation to protect wild salmon is effectively taking place. Besides all of this, sea lice treatments have no proven long term efficacy – and sea lice may be gaining resistance to enhanced chemical treatments, the toxicity of which also threatens the health of salmon.



Sea lice infestations are deadly to juvenile wild salmon. Monitoring in Clayoquot Sound in recent years revealed 70-100% infection rate during the sensitive out migration period.

Photos Credit: Mack Barlett

Deadly Viruses, Bacteria, and Diseases: Salmon Farms Factory Conditions Increase Spread



Photo Credit: Tavish Campbell

Juvenile wild salmon swim past a salmon farm putting them in the danger zone for sea lice, toxins, and infectious diseases.

Piscine orthoreovirus (PRV), found in 80% of farmed Atlantic salmon, is known to cause heart and skeletal muscle inflammation and hemorrhages in internal organs in salmon. Dr. Kristi Miller Saunders documented the PRV disease agent more than a decade ago

in B.C. The virus causes jaundice and anemia in fish and is associated with organ failure in Chinook. Additionally, *Tenacibaculum maritimum* (TM), a bacterium which produces mouth rot, is affecting Atlantic salmon in farms all over the B.C. coast. TM presents with lesions on the upper and lower jaws, making it

difficult for fish to feed. In wild salmon, the bacterium can cause a disease called Tenacibaculosis. Over time TM can reoccur in salmon populations and mortality rates can reach 30%.

Exposure to pathogens from salmon farms including PRV and TM increases the risk of disease to wild salmon as all juveniles have to pass through and live among the salmon farms located near shore for their 1-2 years before they migrate offshore. When considering pathogens, the current nearshore locations of salmon farms could be comparable to us humans situating open air infectious disease wards (or COVID screening centers) on the main routes of children walking to elementary schools. From the perspective of a precautionary fisheries management, wild stocks demand salmon farm locations on migration routes be removed immediately. This reality cannot be solved by semi-closed systems in the near shore either as the water columns are all mixing with the swells and tides in the near shore.

The Solution: Remove Salmon Farms from the Ocean ASAP

We can keep measuring the impacts until the salmon literally don't come home. DFO has the responsibility and power to implement precautionary, adaptive management so that wild salmon can actually benefit. Every year the salmon farms are left operating, especially in the near shore (which is where salmon farms are in Clayoquot Sound), the viability of the wild salmon stocks decrease. Considering the vulnerability of juvenile salmon, what would present a higher risk than the current nearshore locations of the salmon farms on

juvenile salmon migration routes?

The nearshore locations have no doubt been selected for the operational economic benefit of the aquaculture industry, but at the cost of the ecosystem -- wild salmon specifically. Decision makers who greenlighted the existing salmon farms on the west coast, may not have known what we know now. Renewing salmon farm licenses is a deadly threat to wild salmon. The only solution is to get salmon farms out of the marine environment as quickly as possible. When we know better, we must do better.



Imperial Metals Surrenders Tenures near Skagit Headwaters

Photo Credit: @skagitwatershed



Since time immemorial, Indigenous Peoples, including the Stó:lō, Syilx and Nlaka'pamux First Nations, as well as the Swinomish Indian Tribal Community, Upper Skagit Tribe and Sauk Suiattle Tribe, have depended upon the pristine ecosystem and diversity of wild salmon running in the Skagit River watershed. Imperial Metals, the corporation responsible for the Mount Polley disaster, is attempting to expand in B.C.

B.C. entered into a Memorandum of Agreement with Imperial Metals and the Skagit Environmental Endowment Commission that will see Imperial Metals return all its mining and related rights within the nearly 5,800-hectare Skagit River Donut Hole. The agreement aims to ensure the preservation and protection of the natural and cultural resources, as well as recreational opportunities within the headwaters of the Skagit River.

Meanwhile, within Clayoquot Sound, Imperial Metals continues to pursue developing a gold mine, called the Pandora project, within the

This spring, the B.C. government reached an agreement regarding historic mineral tenures in an area within the Silverdaisy watershed known as the Skagit River Donut Hole, surrounded by both Skagit Valley Park and E.C. Manning Park, and between Hope and Princeton. Previously, Friends of Clayoquot Sound joined a

larger movement including the B.C. Union of Indian Chiefs, First Nations, tribes, environmental groups including Wilderness Committee, recreational groups including the Guide Outfitters Association of B.C., in addition to elected representatives from both sides of the border, to stop Imperial Metals from mining in the area.

unceded territory of Tla-o-qui-aht First Nations, as well as an open-pit copper mine on Catface Mountain in Ahousaht First Nations unceded territory. Both local Nations have been adamant that mining will not be allowed in their territories. A strong local movement stands to ensure Imperial Metals never mines in Clayoquot Sound.

Salmon Stories Initiative Aims to Win Hearts and Minds to Speak Up for Salmon

Friends of Clayoquot Sound have partnered with Magic Canoe to produce local Salmon Stories — as part of a new bioregional initiative. Core to our bioregion's ecological and cultural health are salmon. They are reminders that we are all interconnected—to ecosystems, to the land and waters, to the people around us.

Salmon Stories uncorks a strong, steady stream of stories about the importance of salmon. The stories you'll discover are filmed by Magic Canoe Fellows, each of whom is dedicated

to sharing underheard ideas and perspectives from people in their community. Thanks to Bee Kent @justbeeing_ who has been a FOCS Visual Storyteller and Magic Canoe Fellow documenting stories from the Friends of Clayoquot Sound community.

By sharing everyone's perspective, we can underscore the urgency of protecting wild salmon across the bioregion. Stay tuned for highlights in the coming weeks from this growing bioregional library of 50+ stories! We also want to hear

from YOU. Share your #salmonstory using the hashtag to contribute to the conversation... and for the chance to receive \$50 if your story get added to the @magic_canoe library.



"Fracking The Peace" Documentary Shows Impact of Fossil Fuel Extraction

Photo Credit: Brenda Wood / FOCUS



"Fracking the Peace" follows community members living on Treaty 8 territory in Northeastern B.C. as they tell the story of how fracking has impacted their lives.

Fracking in B.C. is currently responsible for the majority of B.C.'s methane emissions. Methane is a powerful greenhouse gas that is 86x more toxic for the atmosphere than CO₂, and has been historically under-reported in B.C. Yet the fracking industry receives the single largest oil and gas subsidy from the B.C. government. "Fracking the Peace" paints a picture of how fracking development in B.C. has been allowed to skyrocket at the expense of the health and safety of watersheds, communities, and the rich agricultural landscape they call home.

"Fracking the Peace" is a powerful new documentary telling the story of residents in Northeastern B.C. whose daily lives, homes, environment and health have been changed by fracking in the region.

Home to the majestic Peace River, this region has been ravaged by more than 25,000 fracking wells threatening livelihoods, physical and mental health, and the very water that sustains the life and spirit of these communities.

Following a community screening of "Fracking the Peace", German Ocampo with Friends of Clayoquot Sound led a panel of allied groups: Kiki Wood from Stand, Peter McCartney from Wilderness Committee, and Cheryl Cameron from Dogwood.

Free National Parks Pass Possible with Prescription for Nature

In an effort to improve mental and physical health, doctors across several Canadian provinces can now prescribe patients a pass to Canada's national parks system. This year, Parks Canada joined the national nature prescription program known as A Prescription for Nature, which aims to get patients into nature for a minimum of two hours per week. The new agreement with Parks Canada means doctors in B.C., Ontario, Saskatchewan and Manitoba can now prescribe a Parks Canada Discovery Pass to provide a free year-long pass – worth over \$70 — to a network of over 80 national parks, national historic sites and national marine conservation areas,

encompassing 450,000 square kilometres of land and water.

So how can our health benefit? Research shows that nature supports our physical and mental health in many ways. Exercising and relaxing time in nature can help to remedy many of the chronic ailments of increasing technological industrial society including heart disease, high blood pressure, inflammation, anxiety, depression, and addiction. Some research also links our lack of contact with the diversity of beneficial micro-organisms in nature to the prevalence of asthma, allergies, compromised immune systems, autoimmune disorders, and other ailments.

By spending time in nature we can improve our health, boost our immune systems, and expand our awareness connecting with the much greater, conscious, living world. Collectively, these benefits can also lay the foundation for the needed cultural, economic, and societal shifts towards appreciating the many ecosystem services that nature provides and developing a greater understanding of the need for environmental justice. The trees we protect today create our oxygen, filter our drinking water, stabilize our mountain slopes, protect us from floods, and regulate our climate for the future.

ANY LICENSED HEALTH-CARE PROVIDER, FROM NURSES TO PHYSICIANS TO PHYSIOTHERAPISTS, CAN PRESCRIBE NATURE THROUGH THE PRESCRIPTION FOR NATURE PROGRAM. LEARN MORE @ PARKPRESCRIPTIONS.CA

Protect What You Love!

Friends of Clayoquot Sound is a grassroots organization advocating protection for the ancient temperate rainforest ecosystems of Clayoquot Sound. We are part of an international movement calling for a shift of consciousness in the way humans relate to the Earth. We need your support to continue to educate and inspire people. Please send in your donation today to help protect one of the most spectacular places on Earth.

Visit our website to find more ways to help: www.focs.ca

Send your donation to:

Friends of Clayoquot Sound

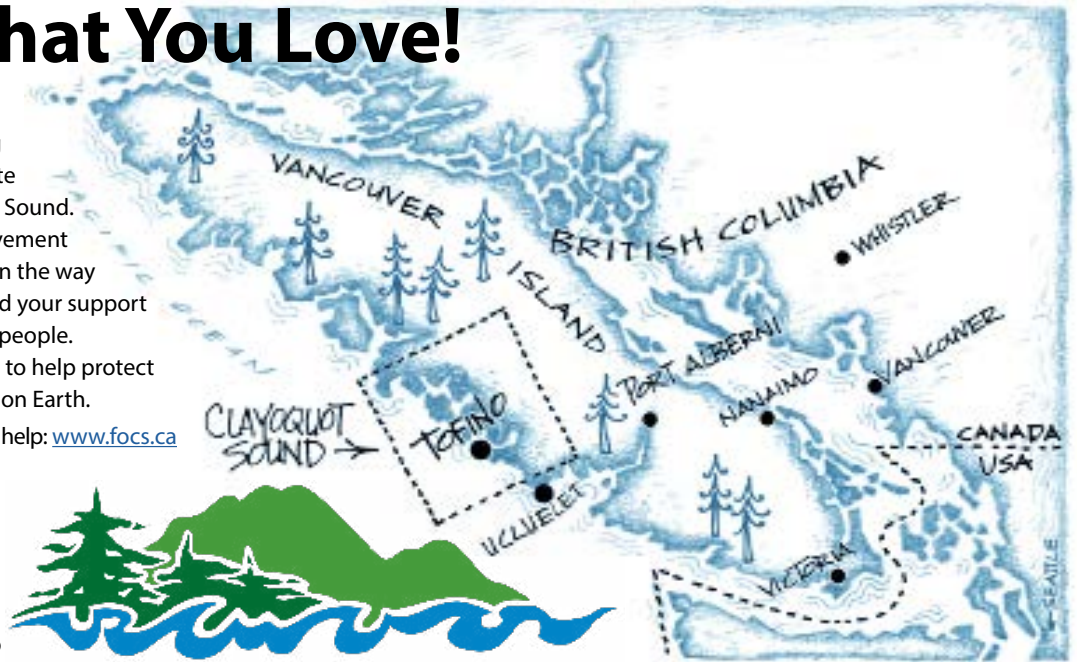
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Sustain Our Legacy!

Since 1979, Friends of Clayoquot Sound have relied on donations from people who love this place. We have immense gratitude for our donors, who are the true sustainers of our work to protect the life that thrives here. Become a donor today! focs.ca/donate

Friends of Clayoquot Sound practically wrote the book on successful environmental protest, back in the 1990s. I have been an enthusiastic supporter ever since.

- Margaret Atwood, Acclaimed Canadian Author



Join the FOCS Coast Action Team by becoming a monthly donor!

Includes annual membership.

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Editors: Jeh Custer, German Ocampo, Eileen Floody, & Robert Zurowski.

Printed on 100% post-consumer recycled paper. 12/21 Design: German Ocampo

