



Friends of Clayoquot Sound

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

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The Future of Wild Salmon is at Stake: Have Political Leaders Abandoned the Backbone of the Coast?



Photo Credit: FOCs Library @friendsofclayoquotsound

Wild salmon are considered the backbone of the coast because they support coastal life in addition to humans including bears, wolves, orcas, and eagles while providing nutrients that fertilize the ancient rainforests of Pacific Northwest. At least 137 species are documented to depend on wild salmon for their survival. #DEFENDWILDSALMON

Salmon are under threat. Evidence presented at the Clayoquot Salmon Roundtable's Marine Risk Assessment workshops in 2022 makes it unequivocally clear that every year salmon farms are left operating in the near shore (which is where salmon farms are in Clayoquot Sound), the viability of the wild salmon stocks are adversely impacted. Considering the vulnerability of juvenile salmon, what would present a higher risk than the current nearshore locations of the salmon farms spewing viruses, diseases, and parasites directly on juvenile salmon migration routes?

The nearshore locations of salmon farms have no doubt been selected for the operational economic benefit of the aquaculture industry, but at the cost of the ecosystem — and wild salmon specifically. Political leaders who greenlighted the existing salmon farms on the west coast,

may not have known what we know now. But at this point, renewing or expanding marine salmon farm operations is a deadly threat to wild salmon. The only solution is to get salmon farms out of the marine environment as quickly as possible. Yet, Cermaq has been quietly expanding the size of their salmon farms in Clayoquot Sound.

When we know better, we must do better. We can't just keep measuring the impacts, and then ignoring the measurements until the salmon literally don't come home. Canada's Minister of Fisheries, Joyce Murray, the Department of Fisheries and Oceans, B.C.'s Parliamentary Secretary for Fisheries and Aquaculture, Pam Greene, and Indigenous leaders across the west coast all have the power to influence precautionary, adaptive management so that wild salmon can be protected.

WHAT'S UP in this issue

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March & Super-Rally!
at the B.C. Legislature**

**"Dear Josie... Now is the Time
to Ban Mining in Clayoquot Sound!"
#IMPERIALNOMORE**

**No Changes in Police Shootings
of Tla-o-qui-aht Members!?!**

**UN Secretary General Advises:
Tax Big Oil to Fund Climate Justice**

DFO Enabling Cermaq to Expand Salmon Farm Size in Clayoquot Sound While Wild Salmon Are Threatened with Diseases and Parasites from Farm Farms

The Government Canada's Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO) quietly approved the expansion of 3 Cermaq salmon farms within Clayoquot Sound. The total expansion size – at Millar Channel, Bawden Bay, and Dixon Bay – add the equivalent of an additional salmon farm. With 20 salmon farms temporarily licensed by DFO, it is common knowledge locally that the survival of wild salmon in Clayoquot Sound is threatened by the diseases, viruses, bacteria, and parasites spreading from salmon farms along wild salmon migration routes.

The Clayoquot Salmon Roundtable has spent years conducting a Marine Risk Assessment, assessing the risk factor for why wild salmon are returning at 1% of numbers from a hundred years ago. So while this critical Marine Risk Assessment is finalizing results, DFO



DFO's approval of Cermaq's salmon farm expansion contradicts the Canadian Government's stated direction. Recent mandate letters to the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans commit DFO to "transition from open net-pen salmon farming in coastal British Columbia waters by 2025". What kind of confused message does it send when DFO approves the expansion of new infrastructure mandated for removal. #DEFENDWILDSALMON #FISHFARMSGETOUT

Photo Credit: @friendsofclayoquotsound

approves 3 salmon farm expansions for this high risk salmon farming industry. And to make matters worse,

the Clayoquot Salmon Roundtable was not informed or consulted about 3 salmon farm expansions from DFO or Cermaq.

"Dear Josie... Now is the Time to Ban Mining in Clayoquot Sound!" #IMPERIALNOMORE



As Josie Osborne begins her new role as B.C.'s Minister of Energy, Mines, and Low Carbon Innovation, we're happy to remind her of where and who she represents. #KEEPIITINTHEGROUND #BANMININGINCLAYOQUOTSOUND #IMPERIALNOMORE

Tofino's Josie Osborne was elected as MLA for Mid Island-Pacific Rim in 2020. As a long time resident of Tofino, she first moved here to work as a Fisheries Biologist for the Nuu-chah-nulth Tribal Council and later as the Executive Director of Raincoast Education Society. From 2013-2020, Josie served as Mayor of Tofino.

Since being elected to the B.C. Government, she has served as Minister of Municipal Affairs and Minister for Land, Water, and Resource Stewardship. In December 2022, Josie was appointed

Minister of Energy, Mines, and Low Carbon Innovation. Considering all the roles and responsibilities Josie now has held working for the benefit for the region and the people, we all understand the significance of this moment with her new portfolio as a big opportunity to protect Clayoquot Sound and the planet.

Within Clayoquot Sound, Imperial Metals continues to pursue developing a gold mine, called the Pandora project, within the 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. Josie has the opportunity to lead the B.C. Government in recognizing the mining bans of the Ahousaht and Tla-o-qui-aht Nations in law in B.C. to permanently ban mining in Clayoquot Sound.

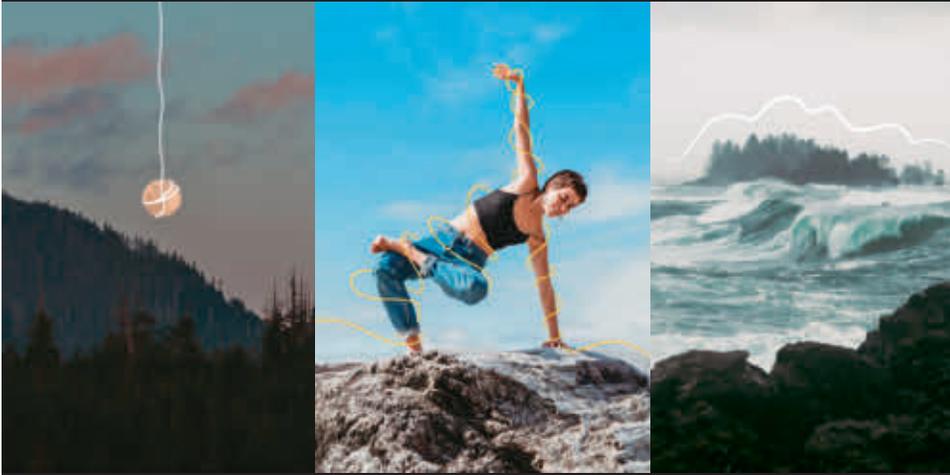
It is horrific to imagine Imperial Metals doing to Clayoquot Sound what the mining corporation did to the Fraser River watershed with the Mount Polley Mine tailings pond disaster which flooded 25 billion litres of toxic tailings into the Fraser River watershed in 2014. Now is the time to modernize the B.C. Government's mining tenures to reflect the Land Use Plans of the Ahousaht and Tla-o-qui-aht Nations that ban mining in Clayoquot Sound. We can never let Mount Polley happen here!

Tell Josie you want the B.C. Government to ban mining in Clayoquot Sound! Let her know @ 250-720-4515 / emli.minister@gov.bc.ca

Photo Credit: @friendsofclayoquotsound

Speaking Up For Salmon With Our Salmon Stories

Photo Credit: Brenda Colina Kent @just.bee.ing



Brenda Colina Kent, a multidisciplinary artist who helped bring the Salmon Stories to life with her visual storytelling skills.

Salmon are core to the west coast's ecological and cultural health. Friends of Clayoquot Sound have partnered with Magic Canoe to produce local Salmon Stories — as part of a new bioregional initiative.

Brenda Colina Kent, also known as [@just.bee.ing](https://www.instagram.com/just.bee.ing), is a FOCS Visual Storyteller and Magic Canoe Fellow

who has been documenting stories from the Friends of Clayoquot Sound community. By documenting unique Salmon Stories, Bee aims to underscore the urgency of protecting wild salmon across the bioregion. In kicking off the Salmon Stories series Bee shares:

"It's crucial that we acknowledge the oceans are under

immense threat. We are looking at possibility of having no more fish in the oceans by 2050. My biggest hope for salmon in the future is to see them thrive. I love to live in a world where us humans build stronger and deeper relationships to nature, and hopefully build systems that are not based on commodification.

Salmon have so much to teach us, simply by the way they show up on this Earth. Their lives are full of purpose, perseverance, and interconnectedness. They may not speak in our language, but that doesn't mean they have nothing to say. We just have to learn how to listen."

Salmon are indeed reminders that we are all interconnected—to ecosystems, to the land and waters, to the plants, animals, and people around us. So we want to hear from YOU. Share your #salmonstory using the hashtag to contribute to the conversation and follow the Salmon Stories series on Instagram, Facebook, and YouTube!

Supporting Salmon Protection, Education, and Celebration Clayoquot Salmon Festival Returns in Person

Photo Credit: FOCS @friendsofclayoquotsound



Clayoquot Salmon Festival kicked off with a doubleheader launch party featuring live music from Victoria based funkmasters, Downtown Mischief @downtownmischief at Lil Ronnie's Beachside BBQ @lilronniesbbq_tofino on the September long weekend. A big THANK YOU to everyone who contributed and participated in the 2022 Clayoquot Salmon Festival!

In September we returned with in person events for Clayoquot Salmon Festival after 2 years of having the Festival online during the height of the pandemic. The Village Green in Tofino hosted our Voices for Wild Salmon event that provided a platform for a community report back from Tla-o-qui-aht Tribal Parks and Redd

salmon defenders and local activists, as well as a musical performance by Ms. PAN!K who is also an incredible Indigenous salmon defender. The Festival also featured musical performances from Downtown Mischief and Alle Bernadi who shared their unique contribution to west coast culture.

Fish Restoration, and Friends of Clayoquot Sound to speak about the Marine Ecosystem being conducted by the Clayoquot Salmon Roundtable.

Additionally, the short films that were screened that included Salmon Stories of Indigenous

We partnered with Surfrider Pacific Rim to host the Mackenzie Beach Clean to engage visitors about their responsibilities in keeping the beaches and ecosystems clean, discussing issues such as marine debris, reusable goods, and recycling. Redd Fish Restoration led a work bee at the First Street Rainwater Garden removing invasive species to redevelop the area as a healthy salmon habitat. Cedar Coast Field Station shared about salmon monitoring methods, and we discussed how citizen science can support greater accountability, and the importance of having marine assessments that are community based, participatory, and democratic. We also partnered with the Raincoast Education Society to provide an experiential education about the salmon forest while also highlighting the challenges of environmental planning in the region.

United We Stand for Old Growth Forests Declaration! The B.C. Government Needs to Step Up for Old Growth



Photo Credit: @fairycreekblockade

The Upper Caycuse Watershed not far from the Ada'itsx / Fairy Creek blockade camps before logging in 2021 and after logging in 2022 on Page 5.

implementation plan with clear measurable objectives, timelines, accountability, and steps for well-resourced enforcement and evaluation. Limited reports to the public continue to be variable, biased, often inaccurate.

* Since the release of the OGSR, well over 1100 people have been arrested, while peacefully defending old-growth forests in

September 11th marked the 2nd anniversary of the British Columbia government's release of the report of its Old-Growth Strategic Review (OGSR) panel, "A New Future for Old Forests". The report recommended immediate action to stop logging of the most at-risk old growth forests in B.C. It called for a major shift in B.C. forestry practices "to conserve long-term ecosystem health by maintaining forest biodiversity". It called for the full involvement of First Nations communities, the inherent rights and title holders of this land. It called for public reporting that is "vetted, trustworthy, accurate and shared," and included a three year framework.

In light of overwhelming support for old growth forest protection, the NDP government made clear 2020 election promises to implement all 14 recommendations of the OGSR report. However, two years later, the NDP's response has been poor. Our main critiques are as follows:

* While we are in a Code Red global climate crisis, this is a dangerous failure. Healthy forests are essential

to maintaining safe, sustainable communities, critical water ecosystems, environmental biodiversity, salmon habitat and so much more. With more extreme weather, wildfires and flooding, the failure to protect vital forest ecosystems is already life threatening and has decimated some communities in B.C.

* The government earned a record \$1.8 billion in stumpage fees in 2021, but has not provided sufficient funding to First Nations to support immediate deferrals, long term solutions, and their transition to sustainable second growth forestry.

* Without on-the-ground measures, the talk-and-log status quo continues, and thousands of hectares of at-risk forests continue to be logged across the province. More than three million hectares of at-risk forest remain vulnerable to logging, and ancient giants are felled daily.

* Despite only one year remaining on the OGSR framework, the government has not established an

multiple parts of B.C., demonstrating the widespread frustration with the NDP government and its failure to keep its promises on this vital issue. Urgently needed is a just transition for Indigenous Nations and forest-dependent communities that protects these carbon-rich ancient forests and their critical role in ensuring a livable future for all.

Today, and every day, we stand together in an unprecedented show of unity amongst working people, Indigenous land stewards and knowledge-keepers, activists, scientists, youth, educators, communities, celebrities, environmental and social justice groups, faith organizations and more. Standing united against the destruction of old growth forests. Standing strong for future generations.

**On Saturday, February 25th
Join the United For Old Growth Coalition
in bringing a broad-based mass mobilization
to the B.C. Legislature in Victoria that reflects
the majority of public will in B.C. for progressive
solutions to the crisis in the woods!**

Protect Old Growth March and Super-Rally Saturday February 25 at the B.C. Legislature

Photo Credit: @fairycreekblockade



In B.C. almost 1/3 of the annual logging comes from old growth rainforests. Meanwhile, the European Union has banned the importation of products sourced from old growth forests. #CLIMATEACTIONNOW #PROTECTOLDGROWTH #WORTHMORESTANDING #MAYTHEFORESTBEWITHYOU

term solutions to safeguard and restore at-risk old growth; communications on all forest stewardship related decision-making; and reports on timelines and progress to ensure transparency and accountability for all OGSR recommendations

- * Ensure forestry related decisions are fully compliant with free, prior, and

Based on the Union of BC Indian Chiefs Resolution 2022-32, and supported by independent reporting, the scientific data on old growth, and the urgency of the climate crisis, we demand that the BC NDP government:

- * Immediately halt logging in at risk old growth forests and additional areas suggested by First Nations
- * Provide immediate and ample financial support for First Nations to implement logging deferrals and resilience planning on their unceded territories, including Indigenous conservation strategies and compensation for any lost revenues and employment as a result of deferrals
- * Pursue full protection as the goal for all deferral areas, and invest to make protection the best economic option
- * Fulfill its election promise to implement all 14 recommendations of the OGSR panel by September 2023, within the 3-year timeline which government promised and provide regular progress reports
- * Urgently move toward the paradigm shift and resilience

planning outlined in the OGSR recommendations, prioritizing ecosystem integrity and biodiversity as the highest priority of forest management and as essential in the climate crisis

- * Implement a just transition for all communities while moving toward a sustainable, second-growth forestry
- * Provide: regular and detailed updates on deferrals and long-

informed consent and uphold the Title and Rights of First Nations pursuant to the government's responsibilities under the UN Declaration of the Rights of Indigenous Peoples

- * Acknowledge the role of intact forests and sustainable forest practices in both limiting and mitigating climate change, and incorporate increased conservation targets into the CleanBC climate plan.

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.
3. Call / send email to the Premier, Ministers, and local MLAs.
Premier David Eby / 250-387-1715 / premier@gov.bc.ca
Forest Minister Bruce Ralston / 250-387-6240 / flnr.minister@gov.bc.ca
Environment Minister George Heyman / 250-387-1187 / env.minister@gov.bc.ca
Stewardship Minister Nathan Cullen / 250-953-0900 / lwr.minister@gov.bc.ca
Climate Readiness Minister Bowinn Ma / 250-387-3655 / bowinn.ma.MLA@leg.bc.ca
Low Carbon Innovation Minister & Mid Island Pacific Rim MLA Josie Osborne / 250-720-4515 / emli.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'ts'x, FOCS, and groups working to protect old growth forests.

No Changes in Fatal Police Shootings of Tla-o-qui-aht Members!?!

Photo Credit: @friendsofbyoquotound



On July 1st, it was incredible to take part in a decolonial ceremony hosted in Tla-o-qui-aht territory. Thanks to the Martin family for inviting us to witness the raising of a totem pole to honour Chief Nuukmiis. The teachings of natural law represented by the carvings share how the Tla-o-qui-aht Nation endured and is enduring in spite of pandemics like small pox, tuberculosis, and now COVID, as well as atrocities including genocidal policies, violent attacks, residential schools, ongoing corporate resource extraction, and loved ones missing, murdered, and traumatized by the colonial state. #INDIGENOUSLIVESMATTER #EVERYCHILDMATTERS #UNDRIP

feeling disillusioned, frustrated and devastated by the IIO's decision to not recommend charges against police. We echo the Nuu-chah-nulth Tribal Council in stressing the critical need for essential police training in de-escalation rather than shooting to kill. As well, there is the fundamental human rights need for police to thoroughly understand the jurisdiction of Indigenous Nations, especially in B.C. where Canada's own Supreme Court has affirmed the sovereignty of Indigenous Nations, in addition to the fact that Canada is a signatory of the United Nations' Declaration

The west coast is still hurting from the passing of Tla-o-qui-aht First Nation members Chantel Moore and Julian Jones who were shot to death by the police in separate incidents in 2020. Each shooting incident was and is absolutely unacceptable. The Independent

Investigative Office (IIO) announced that family and loved ones will have to wait until June 2023 to find out the reasoning why no charges have been laid in the most recent case.

We stand beside and amplify the Nuu-chah-nulth Tribal Council in

on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. Community policing protocols are necessary for better communication and response in the future and must be developed with the consent of each Indigenous Nation on all traditional territories with armed police detachments.

What are the Community Priorities for Policing?

Policing in Canada was introduced to serve the interests of colonial expansion and colonial rule.

The history of Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) is fraught with military-style campaigns against Indigenous people protecting their homeland. Some of these police operations which used lethal force took place at Red River, Batoche, Cut Knife, Oka, and Gustafsen Lake. According to recent polls, 85% of Canadians believe that the RCMP has a problem with systemic racism. Indigenous peoples account for approximately 5% of the population in Canada, yet -- as the Globe and Mail found -- over a recent 10-year period, more than 36% of RCMP killings involved Indigenous people.

The RCMP also intervene in land conflicts on behalf of corporations profiteering from extraction of what

the market deems capital -- trees, fish, oil, gas, and minerals. As Black Press Media learned utilizing the Access to Information Act, the RCMP's enforcement at the Fairy Creek logging protest cost Canadian taxpayers more than \$10 million in 2021. Blockaders at Fairy Creek point out the lack of societal benefit, as \$10 million is worth more than the current market value of the trees that Teal Jones is seeking to cut down.

In recent years, a class action lawsuit ordered a payout of \$125 million to 2,304 women who experienced sexual harassment and abuse when they were members of the RCMP. In September, a judge ruled another \$1.1 billion class action lawsuit lodged against the RCMP alleging systemic bullying and harassment can go ahead. The lawsuit

claims victims suffered physical and emotional injuries as a result of the toxic RCMP work environment. Collectively, we must consider the bigger picture of how systemic racism, discrimination, oppression, and violence are internalized within the operations of policing in Canada. Our communities deserve better.



Photo Credit: @fairycreekblockade

UN Secretary General Advises at Climate Summit: Tax Big Oil to Fund Climate Justice

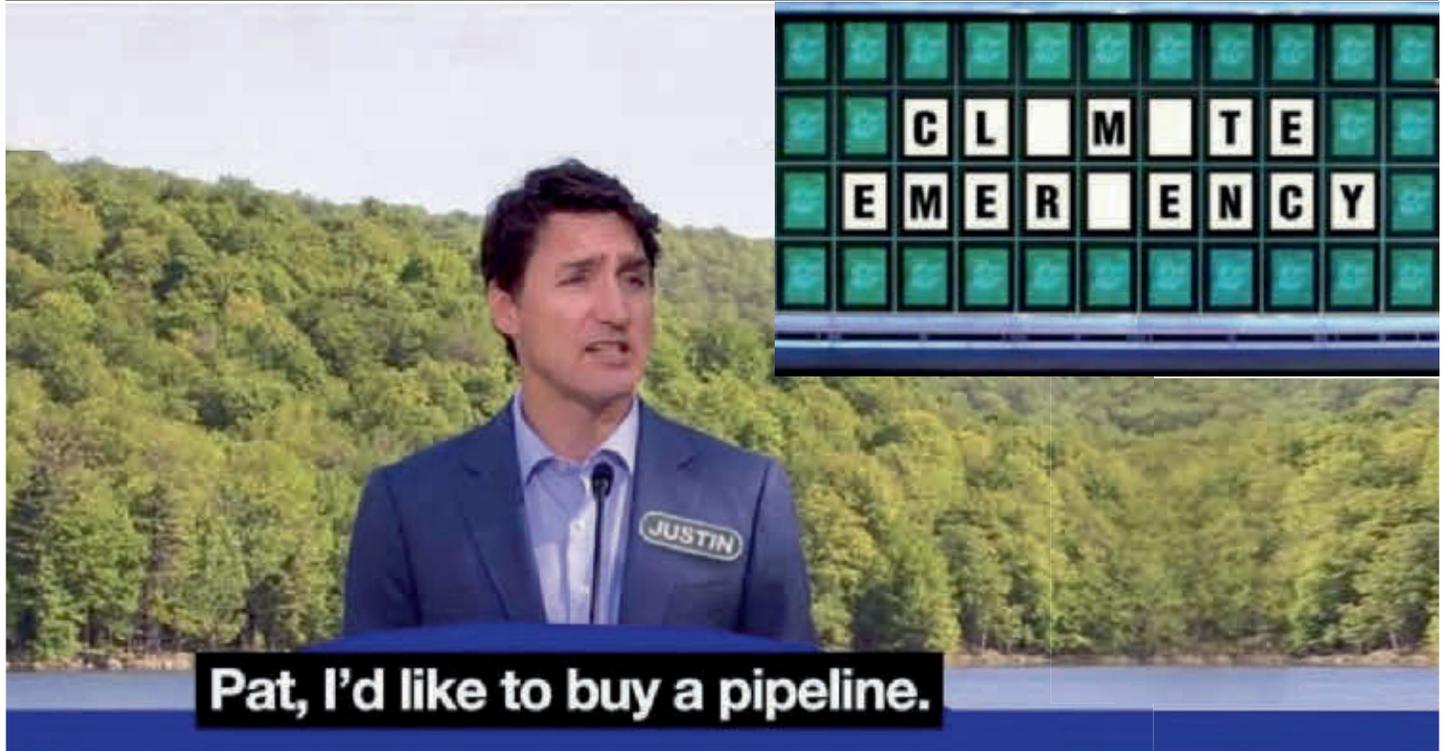


Photo Credit: @350canada

Since 2018 the Canadian Government has committed over \$30 Billion in tax payer funds to subsidies and loans for the Trans Mountain Pipeline to transport carbon intensive tar sands oil from Alberta to the coast. Meanwhile, tar sands operators are projected to clear a whopping \$147 billion in after-tax profits, up from about \$81 billion in 2021.

Excerpts edited from United Nations Secretary General Antonio Guterres' opening remarks at the UN Climate Summit in Egypt for COP 27.

// In just days, our planet's population will cross a new threshold. The 8 billionth member of our human family will be born. This milestone puts into perspective what this climate conference is all about. How will we answer when "Baby 8 Billion" is old enough to ask: What did you do for our world – and for our planet -- when you had the chance?

We are in the fight of our lives... Greenhouse gas emissions keep growing. Global temperatures keep rising. And our planet is fast approaching tipping points that will make climate chaos irreversible. We are on a highway to climate hell with our foot still on the accelerator.

It is the central challenge of our century. Indeed, many of today's conflicts are linked with growing climate chaos.

Today's crises cannot be an excuse for backsliding or greenwashing. If anything, they are a reason for greater urgency, stronger action and effective accountability.

The science is clear: any hope of limiting temperature rise to 1.5 degrees means achieving global net zero emissions by 2050. But that 1.5 degree goal is on life support – and the machines are rattling. We are getting dangerously close to the point of no return. And to avoid that dire fate, all G20 countries [including Canada] must accelerate their transition now – in this decade.

Humanity has a choice: cooperate or perish. It is either a Climate Solidarity Pact – or a Collective Suicide Pact. The deadly impacts of climate change are here and now. Loss and damage can no longer be swept under the rug. It is a moral imperative. It is fundamental for international solidarity -- and climate justice.

Those who contributed least to the climate crisis are reaping the whirlwind sown by others. Many are blindsided by impacts for which they had no warning or means of preparation. And it is why I am asking that all governments tax the windfall profits of fossil fuel companies. Let's redirect that money to people struggling with rising food and energy prices and to countries suffering loss and damage caused by the climate crisis.

It is time for international solidarity across the board. Solidarity that respects all human rights and guarantees a safe space for environmental defenders and all actors in society to contribute to our climate response. Let's not forget that the war on nature is in itself a massive violation of human rights. We need all hands on deck for faster, bolder climate action. The global climate fight will be won or lost in this crucial decade – on our watch. **//**

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

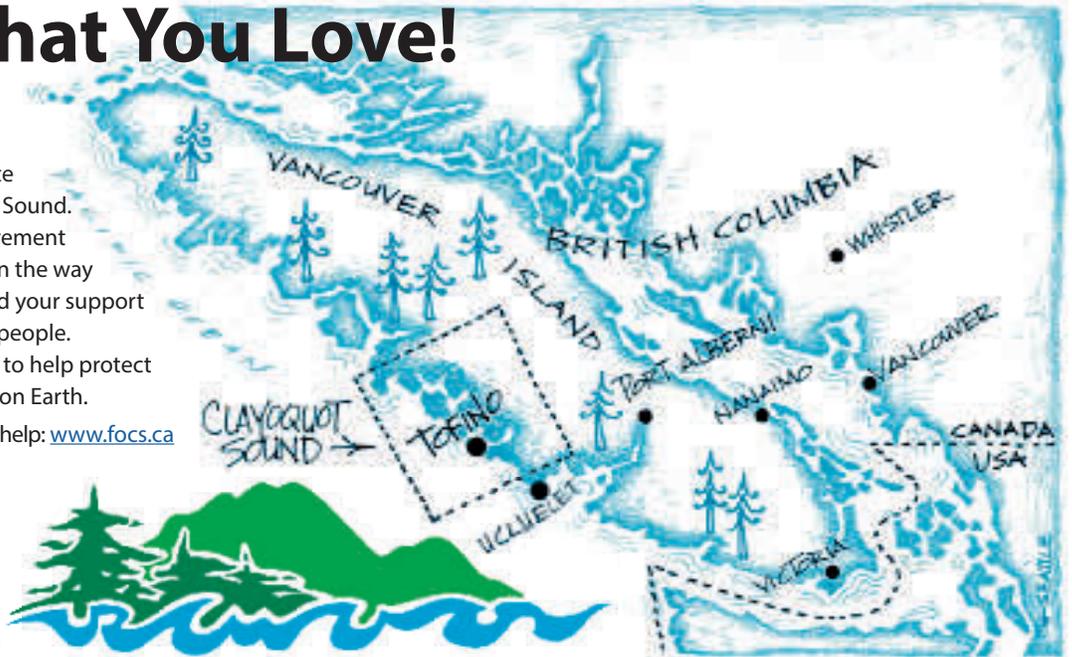
Send your donation to:

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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.

Monthly donation: \$10 \$40 \$100 Other _____

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Thank you! Payments will continue automatically on the first of each month until you notify the Friends of Clayoquot Sound of any changes or cancellation by calling 250-725-4218 or emailing info@focs.ca. You can also donate by credit card on our website: www.focs.ca

Become a Friends of Clayoquot Sound supporter!

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All members receive the informative Friends of Clayoquot Sound newsletter hot off the press!

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SIGNATURE

DATE