



# Friends of Clayoquot Sound

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

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## The Climate Emergency Crossroads: Forest Protection or Forest Fires?



Photo Credit: Tofino Surf Photography @tofinosurfphotography

In early June, an out-of-control forest fire on Vancouver Island near Cameron Lake shut down the highway to west communities including Port Alberni, Ucluelet, and Tofino. The B.C. Wildfire Service reported that the fire grew quickly to over 140 hectares. But once contained, the west coast highway remained shut down for over 2 weeks which significantly impacted west coast tourism businesses and workers.

While forest fires are nothing new for Canada, they are very rare for Vancouver Island. Scientists have found fire seasons are getting longer and more intense due to the climate crisis. Hotter temperatures and altered rainfall patterns are causing a concerning change. The Canadian Interagency Forest Fire Centre estimates that at time of this publication,

there are 465 fires burning across Canada, including 240 that are out of control.

By the start of summer, the burned area almost reached the 10-year average for the whole forest fire season. Nearly 72,000 square kilometers of forests have been burned, an area nearly four times the size of Lake Ontario. Forest fires near cities such as Ottawa, Montreal, and Winnipeg have caused dangerously poor air quality and advisories to avoid outdoor activities.

Canada contains 9% of the world's forests, and Canada's fire suppression costs alone over the last decade have ranged up to \$1.5 billion a year. Without increased investment in climate action, the impacts and costs are sure to increase.

## WHAT'S UP in this issue

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Ban Mining in Clayoquot Sound!"  
#IMPERIALNOMORE**

# 30 Years After the Clayoquot Blockades Old Growth Forests Still Need Protection



Photo Credit: Ian McAllister @iantmcallister

A massive bridge blockade stops logging trucks to protect the ancient rainforest in Tla-o-qui-aht territory. #worthmorestanding

other corporations from once again acquiring the Tree Farm Licenses and resuming more aggressive logging, like in 1993. Considering this representation of the B.C. forestry system, it makes sense how this economic exploitation is leading to further environmental destruction.

Yet today, the unrealized opportunity for old growth forests within B.C. is for reconciliation based protection. Now more than ever, protecting ancient rainforests is critical to defend the biosphere from the worst impacts of the climate crisis. Large conservation investments for Indigenous communities from governments

2023 marks the 30th anniversary of the Clayoquot Sound blockades and protests against the logging of old growth forests. During that time of what is often referred to as the “War in the Woods”, Friends of Clayoquot Sound led the organizing on the ground. While much of the protested logging area has been spared from logging, a clear system of protection is still lacking.

In 2020 – for the 1st time in colonial history – the B.C. government announced the deferral of logging in over 350,000 hectares of forests provincially, including 260,000 hectares in Clayoquot Sound. With the logging deferral in place until 2024, there is now the opportunity for the Ahousaht, Hesquiaht, and Tla-o-qui-aht Nations to establish Indigenous Protected and Conserved Areas (IPCAs) within their unceded territories.

Prior to the current deferral period, the B.C. government’s outdated forestry system required the Nuu-chah-nulth 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 territories. This meant that the local Nuu-chah-nulth First Nations had to log the old growth trees within their territories to pay the B.C. government which prevented

and philanthropists are necessary. Through conservation investment, Indigenous Nations can be paid to uphold their traditional culture values and protect their territories, instead of being paid to assimilate to the exploitative, colonial system of extractive logging for the benefit of the few.

## 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 on September 14 (read Page 3 for more info ).
3. Call / send email to the Premier, Ministers, and local MLAs.  
**Premier David Eby / 250-387-1715 / [premier@gov.bc.ca](mailto:premier@gov.bc.ca)**  
**Forest Minister Bruce Ralston / 250-387-6240 / [flnr.minister@gov.bc.ca](mailto:flnr.minister@gov.bc.ca)**  
**Environment Minister George Heyman / 250-387-1187 / [env.minister@gov.bc.ca](mailto:env.minister@gov.bc.ca)**  
**Stewardship Minister Nathan Cullen / 250-953-0900 / [lwrs.minister@gov.bc.ca](mailto:lwrs.minister@gov.bc.ca)**  
**Climate Readiness Minister Bowinn Ma / 250-387-3655 / [bowinn.ma.MLA@leg.bc.ca](mailto: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](mailto:emli.minister@gov.bc.ca)**
4. Sign the [bcgreens.ca](https://bcgreens.ca) and [change.org](https://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.

# United for Old Growth March & Super-Rally Seeks Results for Forest Protection



Photo Credit: @dezwallface

Following the March and Super-Rally, month later in June, as the logging deferral was about to expire for the Ada'tsx / Fairy Creek watershed which would reopen it to logging, the B.C. government extended the logging deferral until February 1, 2025. Meanwhile, many of the 1194 forest defenders arrested, including Rainbow Eyes, are still dealing with the colonial court system.

Earlier this year in Victoria on Lekwungen Territories, Friends of Clayoquot Sound contributed to the collective power of the United for Old Growth March and Super-Rally. We joined with over 200 organizations including our fellow Clayoquot Sound Conservation Alliance members Stand Earth, Wilderness Committee, and Sierra Club. Together, we continued our call for Premier David Eby and the B.C. government to honor their promise to move faster to protect old-growth forests and reform forest stewardship across the province.

This modern movement to protect old growth is built on the decades and millenia of stewardship and land defense led by Indigenous Nations to protect their territories for the people and the planet. At the Super-Rally many incredible speakers, dances, and drum performances reflected this. Leaders from the Protect Ada'tsx / Fairy Creek Blockades including Pacheedaht First Nation Elder Bill Jones and Da'naxda'xw/ Awaetlala First Nation land defender both gave inspiring speeches. And Neil Young surprised the Super-Rally by performing some of his classic songs.

Janelle Lapointe, an Afro-Indigenous climate justice and Indigenous rights organizer of the Stellat'en First Nation, described the terms of the movement with incredible clarity.

"I'm here to hold Premier David Eby's feet to the fire—his commitment to act on accelerating old growth protection, which means putting down the chainsaws today and no longer logging these precious ecosystems. But, also not to forget the communities that are exploited and are divided, and that includes Indigenous communities that are supporting the extraction, because they are left no other option from the settler state but the poverty that was forced upon them.

So we're also asking David Eby and the federal government to reparate all the money they've made off Indigenous lands—to make sure they are returning it back to the community, returning land back to the Nations so that deferrals are economically viable, and Indigenous Nations can use their governance systems and their way of taking care of the land and each

other that has allowed them to survive for millenia.

And also asking them to invest in a Just Transition for the workers that are trying to provide for their loved ones just like all of us are and ensure that they are able to have a sustainable industry and ways to provide for their families and their loved ones that is not dependent on destroying the precious ecosystems that we all depend on."

Mid-September marks the 3rd anniversary of the Old Growth Strategic Review (OGSR) report, which set a clear three year timeline to advance its 14 recommendations. None of these recommendations have been completed. We have to seize this anniversary to ramp up public pressure and continue to hold the provincial government to its promises. **We are calling for a distributed day of creative public actions across B.C. on Thursday, September 14.** We particularly hope to see locally-organized public demonstrations in front of MLA offices in ridings around B.C.. We also welcome and encourage all local initiatives from across the province with a view to generating widespread participation and media coverage. **#UNITEDFOROLDGROWTH**

# Salmon Farms Expanding in Clayoquot Sound Despite Fisheries Minister 2025 Removal Plan?



Photo Credit: Skookum John @skookum\_john

A barge loaded with cages and floats for a Cermaq salmon farm expansion in Ahousaht territory. #DEFENDWILDSALMON #SALMONEMERGENCY #FISHFARMSGETOUT

The Clayoquot Salmon Roundtable has spent years conducting a Marine Risk Assessment to determine why wild salmon are returning at 1% of numbers from a hundred years ago. Last summer, the Aquaculture Management Division of the Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO) approved permits to increase production by 25-50% at 3 of Cermaq's Tofino salmon farms. But the Clayoquot Salmon Roundtable was not properly informed or consulted about Cermaq's salmon farm expansions.

And recently, Cermaq requested a fourth permit to expand the size of their salmon farms locally. So while salmon farms are being closed around B.C., Cermaq Canada is still attempting to expand their operations in Clayoquot Sound near Tofino at their Fortune Channel salmon farm. Cermaq only has 14 salmon farms left in B.C. — and all of them are within the Clayoquot Sound UNESCO Biosphere Reserve within the unceded territory of the Ahousaht Nation.

The permits were approved with no public consultation or input at all. To make matters worse, DFO's approval of any salmon farm expansion and continuing operations contradicts the Canadian Government's stated direction. The most recent mandate letter to the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans outlines committing DFO to "transition from open net-pen salmon farming in coastal British Columbia waters by 2025." This is another example by the Canadian government of ineffective environmental planning that sends a confused message locally and globally. What kind of intent does it show when Canada approves the expansion of salmon farms in Clayoquot Sound that are mandated for removal by 2025?

Clayoquot Sound is the largest temperate rainforest remaining on Vancouver Island. It was designated a UNESCO Biosphere Reserve in 2000, when all levels of government acknowledged the global significance

of this coastal ancient rainforest ecosystem. Salmon are a connector species sustaining the entire ecosystem from forest to sea including the ancient cedars and hemlocks, to orcas and sea lions, to bears, and wolves, to eagles and ravens, and yes even us people. When wild salmon suffer, everything suffers.

Since the introduction of salmon farms in B.C., Friends of Clayoquot Sound have consistently called on the Fisheries Minister after Fisheries Minister to protect wild salmon from pathogens, parasites and pollution inherent in the factory living conditions of a salmon farm. If wild salmon are to have a viable future, the current Fisheries Minister, Joyce Murray, needs to step up to protect wild salmon by stopping the expansion of salmon farms and the accompanying pathogens, parasites and pollution in Clayoquot Sound. Stepping up would also honor the Canadian government's commitment to remove all salmon farms from B.C. waters by 2025.

# Skookum John's Salmon Story: Protecting Salmon for the Next 7 Generations



Photo Credit: FOCS Library

We thank Skookum John for sharing his Salmon Story, as well as the generous support of Salmon Nation and the District of Tofino, and the filmmakers Olivia Leigh Nowak and Brenda Colina Kent in helping to tell this important Salmon Story. Search "Salmon Stories" and "Salmon Warriors" on YouTube! #SALMONSTORIES #SALMONWARRIORSUNITE

*"The reason I protect our haḥuulii, our territory, is not for myself but for the next seven generations. We need the world to see what a beautiful place we have here. A pristine place. I'm honored to protect it. Money's not wealth, it's what we have in our haḥuulii – the water, the lands, and the sky... That's our wealth. I can never say it enough, that's our wealth. And I want to make sure the next generations are wealthy.*

*I always say salmon is the keystone. Without the salmon, we're all extinct. Because salmon not only feed the people, they feed the animals. And what do the animals do? They take them into the woods and leave the remains in there – which fertilizes the ground, which fertilizes the trees. And what do the trees give us? They give us oxygen, and without those trees we're just as good as gone.*

*I'm not a fan of any kind of salmon farm in our waters. There's so many drugs in the feed. Not only drugs, but ground up chicken feathers so it will float longer. That's crazy, feeding the fish chicken feathers, growth hormones, steroids, antibiotics, dye to keep their flesh*

*red. Without the dye, farmed salmon flesh would be gray."*

*As a fish jumps out of the water inside of Cermaq's experimental and failing semi-closed salmon farm, that has experienced numerous operational issues, Skookum points out:*

*"They're trying to get away from the sea lice that are eating them alive. And that's torture. It doesn't matter if you're a human or a fish, that's torture. Wherever there's a plant, go there and you'll smell the rotting fish. It's disgusting.*

*It's time for people to stand up and fight for wild salmon. Without the wild salmon, we're extinct as well. Think about it... I don't want my family, my children or grandchildren to have to fight this fight. I want to finish it. One day people will be saying, we should have listened.*

*Hopefully we can save our wild salmon. It's not too late yet, but pretty close. Salmon to First Nations are medicine - they're everything to us. They get us through the winter, and without them we have nothing."*

*As he motions his hand over the area known as Yaakswiis at the mouth of the Atleo River that he has led a peaceful direct action to evict a Cermaq salmon farm to protect Yaakswiis, he reflects:*

*"If a handful of Yaakswiis Warriors can protect this, imagine what a Nation can do? And once a Nation does that, imagine if all Nations became one, how powerful we'd be protecting everything. A whole hahoulthee, and not only that, the whole planet. It's time to get rid of the greed."*

**Clayoquot  
Salmon Festival**

**Returning annually  
September long weekend**

**More details at:  
[focs.ca/salmonfestival](https://focs.ca/salmonfestival)**

# Hands Across the Sand Demands Action to End Fossil Fuel Subsidies

Photo Credit: Ella Kistoff @ellakistoff



This spring we brought back Hands Across the Sand for the first time since 2019 before the pandemic. #ENDFOSSILFUELSUBSIDIES

action to protect all life from climate destabilization by stopping investing taxpayer money in fossil fuels!

To continue subsidizing fossil fuels means more forest fires and droughts in the summer, bigger and more costly storms in the winter, in addition to more oil spills, including slow motion oil spills in the form of plastic that we end up cleaning up on the coast. As a society, we must understand the devastation that is caused

**F**riends of Clayoquot Sound organized the recent Hands Across the Sand community action and beach clean in collaboration with Tla-o-qui-aht Tribal Parks, Surfrider Pacific Rim at Yaagsis / Long Beach. Together we stand for a clean energy future to protect

the coast and all life on the planet. There is a global consensus that we are living in a critical decade to prevent the worst impacts of climate change. As forest fires burn across Canada, even burning the coastal rainforests here on Vancouver Island, Canada needs to take climate

by continuing to subsidize fossil fuels development including tar sands, liquefied natural gas fracking, offshore drilling, tankers, and fossil fuel export terminals. The political and business leaders today hold the greatest responsibility.

## Big Profits for Big Oil? Time to Make Big Polluters Pay

**B**ig oil has known the climate impacts of fossil fuels since the 1970s. The fossil fuel industry spent a fortune on lobbying and disinformation campaigns to deliberately deny and discredit the science to keep the billions rolling in as long as possible. In 2022, the town of Lytton, B.C. burned to the ground due to extremely dry and hot conditions. Meanwhile, big oil's profits last year tripled from an average of \$1.5 Trillion in recent years to over \$4 Trillion, according to the International Energy Agency (IEA).

In response, the United Nations (UN) are developing a Climate Solidarity Pact through an all-hands-on-deck Acceleration Agenda Summit

in September. The price of entry includes stopping the licensing and funding of new oil and gas development and halting expansion of existing oil and gas reserves. The latest UN Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change report, released in March, emphasizes that drastic political action is needed to avoid climate breakdown. The key actions recommended are stopping all new fossil fuel development and phasing out existing fossil fuel usage, accompanied by increasing renewable energy investments.

While the planet burns (the highway to Tofino closed down in June due to forest fires) and household

budgets are shrinking, the fossil fuel industry is feasting on hundreds of billions of dollars in subsidies and windfall profits. The climate reality is that Canada still gives billions in tax breaks, grants, financing, and other supports to the oil and gas industry every year — totalling over \$20 Billion taxpayer funds in 2022 (and over \$100 Billion if the cost of climate impacts are included). Canada's parliamentary budget office estimates that a windfall tax extended to the oil and gas industry would generate an additional \$4.4 billion in revenue over five years. It's time to make polluters pay for their climate impacts.

# “Dear Josie... Help Update the Mineral Tenure Act & Ban Mining in Clayoquot Sound!” #IMPERIALNOMORE



Photo Credit: FOCUS Library

Josie Osborne attended numerous FOCUS events, including this beach rally photobooth. #IMPERIALNOMORE #KEEPITINTHEGROUND #BANMININGINCLAYOQUOTSOUND

Tofino’s former Mayor, 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 Nuuchah-nulth Tribal Council and later as the Executive Director of Raincoast Education Society. 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 has held working for the benefit of 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.

Here’s a major issue we hope that she can address in her leadership position. Under B.C.’s free-entry mineral tenure regime, anyone with a credit card could go online, purchase a free miner certificate for as little as \$25 and then stake a claim for \$1.75 per hectare,

without being required to inform, let alone obtain consent from, the First Nation, private landowner, or municipality whose land it might be on. The Gitxaala Nation is leading a landmark legal challenge against B.C.’s free-entry mineral tenure regime. While Gitxaala is asking for claims to be quashed only in its territory, such a decision by the Court would set a powerful precedent for other Nations.

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 now 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.

In a public statement, Josie Osborne, Minister of Energy, Mines and Low-Carbon Innovation wrote, “First Nations have a crucial role in British Columbia’s mining sector. Our approach to natural-resource development must be done in collaboration and partnership with the rightful owners of the land.” Yet the arguments of the Province’s lawyers in court stand in stark contrast—undermining any efforts to recognize Indigenous title and legal orders, and intentionally sabotaging collaboration to reform the Mineral Tenure Act.

It is horrific to imagine corporations like Imperial Metals doing to Clayoquot Sound what Imperial Metals 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!

# 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](http://www.focs.ca)

Send your donation to:

Friends of Clayoquot Sound

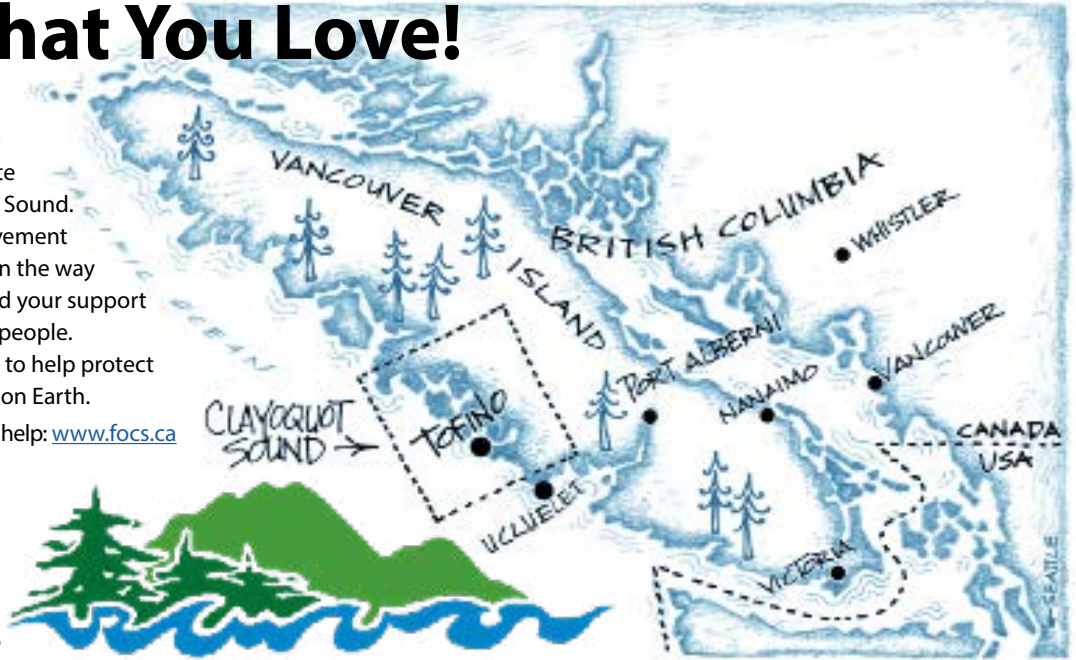
Box 489, Tofino, B.C.,

Canada V0R 2Z0

Phone: 250-725-4218

Office: 1160 Pacific Rim Hwy, Tofino

Email: [info@focs.ca](mailto:info@focs.ca) // Twitter: [@clayoquotfriend](https://twitter.com/clayoquotfriend) // Instagram: [@friendsofclayoquotsound](https://www.instagram.com/friendsofclayoquotsound)



## FOCS Gratitude



We thank our friend and longtime FOCS supporter and contributor Nancy Powis for the bequest in her will. She left us too early in 2020. And we also mourn the recent passing of Joanne Manley, one of the original land defenders arrested in 1993. We thank her also for thinking of us in her will. It is with gratitude we remember all those have passed and who have taken a stand for the Earth.

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

Includes annual membership.

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

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