

Tofino Ucluelet Culinary Guild
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January 12, 2021

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing to affirm our support for the continued designation of the Clayoquot Sound UNESCO Biosphere Region. Our region has worked together for the past decade to advance the objectives of the UNESCO Biosphere Reserve program and this designation is an acknowledgement of our shared values of biodiversity conservation, sustainable development and reconciliation.

TUCG is a non-profit organization serving the Clayoquot Sound Biosphere Reserve Region. Under the Biosphere designation we have been able to collaborate with local organizations and communities to bring together initiatives in conservation, research, community health, and reconciliation to address issues of food insecurity for our region that further UNESCO objectives of sustainable development.

Some of the collaborations and projects within the Biosphere that support the TUCG organizational goals of local sustainable food security and sovereignty, and that share UNESCO values, include:

- active support of sustainable community-based fisheries and aquaculture operations, a main industry in the biosphere region
- direct action in culturally important harvesting and processing practices, respecting local sustainable practices as well as indigenous traditional cultivation and harvest
- participation in conservation and research programs that lead to sustainable fish and marine food harvesting
- empowerment of residents to take action on local food security issues through the Neighbourhood Small Grants program
- participation in events and cultural exchanges such as the Hišinqwił Regional Gathering
- development of education tourism opportunities through the West Coast N.E.S.T.
- implementation of active and hands-on opportunities to learn about local food production, including work in community and school gardens
- contribution to the Vital Signs program
- raising the profile of local sustainable foods through the Alberni-Clayoquot Regional District, Province of BC, and Government of Canada advisory groups and networks on food security

We are proud to support the continued Clayoquot Sound UNESCO Biosphere designation, and look forward to participating in the next ten years of activities in our region.

Sincerely,

Erika Goldt
Executive Director, TUCG

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