

WEST COAST CONSERVATION LAND MANAGEMENT PROGRAM



November 6th, 2020

To whom it may concern,

The West Coast Conservation Land Management Program (WCCLMP) is pleased to confirm its on-going support for the continued designation of the Clayoquot Sound UNESCO Biosphere Region, established in 2000. The WCCLMP is an innovative partnership program that coordinates management activities at over 100 conservation areas (11,000 ha) in the West Coast Region; including the Tofino Mudflats Wildlife Management Area (WMA) which is a 'Core Buffer' area of the UNESCO Clayoquot Biosphere Reserve.

Since 2002 the WCCLMP has worked with partners in the region, including the Clayoquot Biosphere Trust, to implement the Tofino Mudflats Wildlife Management Area Management plan through a community advisory committee. A significant role for this advisory committee is to not only focus on the WMA but to ensure we are linking initiatives to community goals and the broader objectives of the UNESCO Biosphere Program including biodiversity conservation and reconciliation, research and collaboration. These initiatives and successes include:

- Developing alliances and partnerships to strengthen the development of citizens, communities and ecosystems as well as stewardship of ecosystem services through the creation of the WMA advisory committee, supporting the Tofino Mudflats Stewardship Project, school/community group research projects and annual festivals.
- Supporting the designation of a significant portion of the Tofino Mudflats and adjacent areas as the Tofino Wah-nah-jus Hilt-hoo-is Mudflats under the Western Hemisphere Shorebird Reserve Network.
- Advancing climate change research, monitoring, mitigation and adaptation project by partnering with Ahousaht First Nation for monitoring estuary resilience to sea level rise and climate change.

Sound stewardship and management of our environment requires the development of meaningful and lasting partnerships with First Nations, all levels of government and local communities. The UNESCO Biosphere Designation provides a catalyst for these partnerships to be resilient and as a program we are proud to support the continued Clayoquot Sound UNESCO Biosphere designation.

We look forward to participating in the next ten years of activities in the region.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tom Reid'.

Tom Reid, West Coast Program Manager
West Coast Conservation Land Management Program