



Arcs-00200-20

December 14, 2020

To Whom It May Concern:

This letter is to affirm our support for the continued designation of the Clayoquot Sound UNESCO Biosphere Region, established in 2000.

The Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development (FLNRORD) is responsible for the stewardship of provincial Crown land and ensures the sustainable management of forest, wildlife, water and other land-based resources. The Ministry works with Indigenous and rural communities to strengthen and diversify their economies.

FLNRORD has worked together for the past decade with municipal, federal and First Nation governments to advance the objectives of the UNESCO Biosphere Reserve program where they align with key FLNRORD priorities and responsibilities. For example:

- Promoting sustainable development through review and permitting for a wide range of natural resources activities (e.g. Water Sustainability Act permits for stream restoration work, permitting for First Nation hydro-power projects, First Nation forestry tenures);
- Advancing reconciliation through commitment to the implementation of United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP), and **B.C. Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act**, building First Nations capacities in the natural resource sector, promoting staff training and events that develop cross-cultural understanding;
- Working closely with independent researchers, consultants, First Nations, and municipalities to advance biodiversity conservation projects, through seeking FLNRORD funding, assisting with permitting or providing support; and
- Participating in the Clayoquot Biosphere Trust as a non-voting board member.

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,

Rhonda Morris
District Manager
South Island Natural Resource District