

January 6, 2021

Dear Ms. Hurwitz,

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

As the District of Tofino representative from 2012- 2020, and Co-Chair with Tammy Dorward over that same time, I have endeavoured to uphold the values of the Biosphere in local, national, and international meetings.

Our region has worked together for the past decade to advance the objectives of the UNESCO Biosphere Reserve program. We are working to achieve the objectives of sustainable development, biodiversity conservation and reconciliation, through education, research and collaboration. In particular I am very proud of two endeavours.

One is the work towards the development and promotion of Education Tourism opportunities through the West Coast N.E.S.T. I have been involved in direct research, and efforts to collaborate on-site experiential learning opportunities with teaching elders and university professors. I have participated in the hard and difficult conversations as to which organization on our coast would be the coordinator of programs. After much deliberation, the Biosphere Trust was chosen from among all candidates, demonstrating the credibility that had been built over 20 years. It was a moment of achievement for the Biosphere!

Another is the development of alliances and partnerships to strengthen cross-cultural understanding and reconciliation between citizens and communities. I believe our Board of Directors is unique in Canada and around the world from conversations I have had over the last eight years. We have a board of equally numbered representatives of First Nations and non-First Nations. With due diligence and hard work by the staff, it has remained as such. This is but a small symbol of the hard work, trust and credibility that have accorded to the Clayoquot Biosphere Trust over 20 years.

It has been truly one of my lifetime honours to serve eight years as a volunteer Co-Chair for the Clayoquot Biosphere. I hope my letter conveys my full support for its continued designation as a UNESCO Biosphere Region.

I look forward to continuing over the next ten years.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Cathy Thicke".

Cathy Thicke  
PO.Box 876,  
Tofino, B.C.  
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