



COMMUNITY  
FOUNDATIONS  
OF CANADA  
*all for community*

FONDTIONS  
COMMUNAUTAIRES  
DU CANADA  
*ensemble pour tous*

January 27, 2021

Community Foundations of Canada  
123 Slater St, #600  
Ottawa, ON  
K1P 5H2

RE: Letter of Support, The Clayoquot Sound Biosphere UNESCO Designation

To the UNESCO Designation Team,

On behalf of Community Foundations of Canada (CFC), it is my pleasure to write a letter in support of the Clayoquot Biosphere Trust (CBT)'s continued designation as a UNESCO Biosphere Region.

CFC is a national network of 191 community foundations, a part of a global network of 1900+ community foundations in 75 countries. As a national network, we are committed to building a movement that connects community foundations, Canadians and partners to create a just and sustainable future.

The unique innovation of aligning a UNESCO Biosphere Reserve with a place-based foundation has not only had a profound impact on the region within which CBT operates, but has stood as an example within our network. It is helping to shift and reshape the engagement of community foundations toward a more holistic outlook on community wellbeing, centred on sustainable development and inclusive of the natural environment.

Through its unique position within our network, CBT has played an important leadership role in helping to advance the national conversation on the role of philanthropic organizations in supporting biodiversity and conservation efforts, on the critical importance of advancing reconciliation and Indigenous rights, and on the relevance of Agenda 2030 as a framework for place-based philanthropy and impact measurement in Canada. In particular, as the first community foundation in Canada to align its strategy with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), CBT helped lay support for CFC's adoption of the SDGs nationally, and for a groundswell of local leadership committed to the SDGs in community foundations across Canada.

In addition to the important example CBT sets within the context of Canadian philanthropy, we continue to be deeply grateful for their work in the Clayoquot Sound region, including their recent and vital contributions to Indigenous- and non-Indigenous-led NGOs and ENGOs impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.

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

Sincerely,

JP Bervoets  
Chief Strategy Officer  
Community Foundations of Canada