



MAAQUTUSIIS HAHOULTHEE STEWARDSHIP SOCIETY
Ahous Business Corp.

PO Box 90
Ahousaht BC V0R 1A0

November 13, 2020
Clayoquot Biosphere Trust
316 Main Street, PO Box 67
Tofino, BC, V0R 2Z0

Dear, Rebecca Hurwitz

Re: request for support for the ongoing Clayoquot Sound UNESCO Biosphere Region designation

The Maaqutusiis Hahoulthee Stewardship Society (MHSS) is the stewardship and economic development society for the Ahousaht Nation. The MHSS is governed by and represents the stewardship interests and responsibilities of the Ahousaht *Hawiih* (Hereditary Chiefs) who are responsible for upholding the wellbeing of the Ahousaht territories and community, or *Hahoulthee*, on behalf of the Ahousaht people.

On behalf of the MHSS, I am writing in response to a request from the Clayoquot Biosphere Trust (CBT) for support for the ongoing Clayoquot Sound UNESCO Biosphere Region designation. The *Hawiih* are supportive of the ongoing designation, provided that the current management model of the CBT and its assets is brought into greater alignment with the stewardship, conservation, governance and development interests of the Ahousaht and the original Biosphere nomination.

The Ahousaht feature prominently in the original nomination as a rights holder and resource manager yet our governance and authority at the CBT comprises 1/10 of the voting membership. The Ahousaht are currently required to apply for limited pots of funding under existing programs that are not designed to adequately meet the needs and scale of the Ahousaht stewardship and development interests.

As per the original nomination, we understand the CBT's principle objective to be funding organizations and projects relating to the biosphere themes of environmental and sustainable economic development with a focus on community-based applied management research, in particular with rights holders and resource managers. These themes are and have been the focus and responsibility of the Ahousaht *Hawiih* as rights holders and resource managers within the Ahousaht territories which represent 61% of the Biosphere Region boundary.

The *Hawiih* as title holders would be pleased to support the ongoing designation provided that the CBT agree to an engagement process with MHSS with the goals of re-defining how the CBT will respect, recognize, and reconcile with the role of the Ahousaht *Hawiih* through new models of governance, and a new model for resourcing the stewardship and sustainable economic development initiatives of the Ahousaht at an increased scale.

Sincerely,

Hasheukumiss
Richard George, President
Maaqutusiis Hahoulthee
Stewardship Society