



30 October 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.

Our region has worked together for the past decade to advance the objectives of the UNESCO Biosphere Reserve program. Since early 2018, the University of British Columbia Office of Regional and International Community Engagement has been working together with Clayoquot Biosphere Trust to work toward the objectives of sustainable development, through education, research and collaboration. We have worked together by contributing to the Vital Signs Program and the achievement of the UN Sustainable Development Goals.

Through student research collaborations embedded in a UBC Vancouver School of Economics course called "The Economics of Sustainable Development" taught by Dr. Catherine Douglas a strong partnership has emerged. The focus of the research has been to inform community decision-making about how best to balance a thriving tourism industry while safeguarding the environment and promoting sustainable livelihoods. In 2018, one student completed a 3-month intensive placement and contributed to the bi-annual Vital Signs report, which tracked Clayoquot Biosphere Trust's progress on the global goals (SDGs) by bringing together research and community action to share a snapshot of their region.

The relationship has been reciprocal and is one we hope to expand into student research opportunities for other disciplines such as Sociology, and Public Policy. Clayoquot Biosphere Trust staff also served as part of the keynote address for our annual student symposium in 2018, discussing the idea of system disruption in community development work, engaging a wide and diverse audience.

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,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "T. Baldwin".

Tamara Baldwin  
Director  
Office of Regional and International Community Engagement