

Dear UNESCO Biosphere Reserve Designation Review Committee,

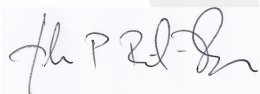
It is my pleasure to write this letter of support on behalf of the Clayoquot Biosphere Trust, advocating for the region's continued status as a UNESCO Biosphere Reserve, as part of the Man and the Biosphere programme.

I am a professor at Quest University Canada and have been teaching undergraduate courses and conducting research in the area for the past 7 years. The UNESCO Biosphere Reserve designation and the work and support of the Clayoquot Biosphere Trust have been central to the success of both over the years. Both the designation and the work of the Trust demonstrate the importance of education, research, collaboration, and reconciliation as contributors to achieving sustainable development and biodiversity conservation.

Quest University Canada has a memorandum of understanding with the Trust that uses the strengths of the biosphere designation to provide meaningful internship and mentoring opportunities for our undergraduate students. Employees of the Trust have beautifully represented the goals and mandates of the BR designation and the MAB program through meaningful interaction in a number of undergraduate field courses I have run in the biosphere reserve over the years. The Clayoquot Biosphere Trust and their affiliate, the West Coast N.E.S.T., have assisted in the development and promotion of these undergraduate educational tourism opportunities and I have no doubt this work is richer for their involvement, which is maybe possible by the framework of the biosphere reserve designation. The Vital Signs research and subsequent publication, spearheaded by the Trust help residents and academics alike to better understand the complicated social worlds at play in the biosphere reserve. My work and the work of countless other academics within (and because of) the biosphere reserve has been robustly supported by the Clayoquot Biosphere Trust and our understandings of the relationships between people and landscape are richer for that support and participation.

For these numerous reasons, I strongly support the continued Clayoquot Sound UNESCO Biosphere designation and look forward to participating in the next ten years of activities in our region. I trust the significant value that the designation and the Trust add to our communities will be self-evident to the review committee. However, if there is anything further I can do to help the committee recognize the central importance of both the designation and the Trust, please do not hesitate to contact me. Thank you for your time and I look forward to seeing UNESCO continue to support the vitally important work being done in the region and renewing the biosphere reserve designation.

Sincerely,



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