



Royal Roads
UNIVERSITY

November 12, 2020

To Whom It May Concern:

Re: Letter of Support for the continued designation of the Clayoquot Sound UNESCO Biosphere Region.

I am very pleased to provide this letter as affirmation of our support for the continued designation of the Clayoquot Sound UNESCO Biosphere Region, established in 2000.

Royal Roads University (RRU) faculty and students have been engaged in collaborations in research, grant funding, teaching and public science education and outreach projects with the Clayoquot Biosphere Trust (CBT) since 2015. All the staff at Clayoquot Biosphere Trust have been extremely supportive and engaged in our various collaborative projects, and in particular the RRU - CBT collaboration has been spearheaded by Dr. Laura Loucks, CBT Research Director and active Adjunct Professor in the School of Environment and Sustainability at RRU.

In our collaborative projects, we are working together to achieve our shared objectives of sustainable development, biodiversity conservation and reconciliation, through education, research and collaboration such as:

- Graduate student projects, both MSc and MA, in the Clayoquot Biosphere region.
- Popular RRU courses and local workshops in the region led by Dr. Loucks. In particular these courses have uniquely emphasized input and ways of knowing from local Indigenous communities, indicating the very strong links CBT has with the local Indigenous communities. These courses have greatly enhanced the important opportunity for RRU students to learn about and experience Indigenous knowledge and perspectives.
- Research collaborations, including funding, equipment and data sharing in the fields of oceanography and marine geology, in support of climate change monitoring and knowledge which contributes to adaptation planning.
- Co-leading partnerships in Natural Science and Engineering Research Council of Canada (NSERC) PromoScience projects in the region since 2017. These projects work to connect scientists performing research in the local region with the local communities with the intention to accomplish positive outreach and engagement the communities. The projects are also designed to encourage the

participation and interest in science and technology in the under-represented groups of Indigenous Peoples, women and girls.

NSERC PromoScience collaborative projects to date include;

1. In 2017 “*Learning By the Sea Clayoquot Sound*” which brought scientists to the Maaqtusiis Secondary School in Ahoushat, who participated with students in hands on marine science projects in the Ahousat area.
2. In 2018 “*The PromoScience Expedition*” which brought Canada’s inshore west coast marine research vessel the *CCGS Vector* to dock in communities in Clayoquot and Barkley Sounds so community members could meet working marine scientists and science mariners on the ship and learn about their research methods and local projects.
3. In 2019 “*Sydney Inlet Science Field Trips*” bringing scientists and students of the Ucluelet Secondary School together to work on science projects for three day field trips at the CBT field station in Sydney Inlet (delayed to 2020/21 due to the pandemic).
4. In 2020 /21 the “*Clayoquot Sound Storymap project*” to create interactive multimedia engaging local science content online called “Storymaps” (an ESRI GIS program) . The Storymaps will be published online for students, their teachers and also the local communities. Also participating in this project are the following Clayoquot and Barkley Sound region environmental research and education NGO’s; West Coast N.E.S.T., Strawberry Isle Marine Society, Raincoast Education Society, Cedar Coast Field Station, and the Association of Wetland Stewards for Clayoquot and Barkley Sounds.

The complexity and deep local community connections of the projects described above from our collaboration, speak to the depth of CBT’s cross-cultural community connections and understanding which advances reconciliation; their skill and professionalism in engaging with academic and community networks to enhance communication and coordination, and environmental research in the region. As I understand the mission, the CBT is successfully and with innovation and the support of their collaborators and their local communities, contributing to the achievement of the UN Sustainable Development Goals.

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,



Dr. Audrey Dallimore, Professor Emerita.
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