



## Spirit of the Canoe Society

*Sharing Tla-o-qui-aht cultural practises  
from elders to youth on the water and land*

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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. We are working together to achieve the objectives of sustainable development, biodiversity conservation and reconciliation, through education, research and collaboration such as promoting and supporting projects that develop cross-cultural understanding and advance reconciliation.

The Spirit of the Canoe Society has been working in collaboration with the Clayoquot Biosphere Trust to develop in partnership with local health care organizations and Tla-o-qui-aht First Nations a cultural wellness centre that will provide a safe space where cross-cultural understanding and reconciliation can be fostered. Clayoquot Biosphere Trust has also been supporting through grant funding the development and delivery of programs that provide opportunities for First Nations and non-First Nations to learn about healing practices side by side. In particular the Spirit of the Canoe Society facilitates the participation in a yearly canoe journey on the Tribal Journeys, where cultural healing, connection with nature, and team building occurs. This is only a fraction of the immense support Clayoquot Biosphere Trust contributes to cross-cultural understanding and advancing reconciliation.

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

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