



a place of mind
THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

January 6, 2021

To Whom It May Concern:

I submit this letter of support as the independent evaluation consultant who has conducted the two most recent comprehensive evaluations of the performance and impact of the Clayoquot Biosphere Trust (CBT) in its efforts to support ongoing biodiversity conservation and sustainable development in the Clayoquot Sound Biosphere Region. The evidence I collected, analyzed and presented in my evaluation studies offers strong support for the continued designation of the Clayoquot Sound UNESCO Biosphere Region.

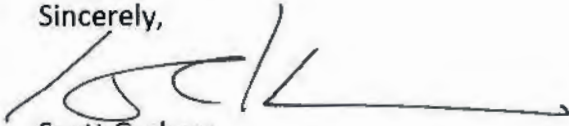
In my evaluation work, I observed and documented many excellent examples of partners in the region working together to advance the objectives of the UNESCO Biosphere Reserve program. It is clear there is very strong endorsement for and work to collectively achieve the objectives of sustainable development, biodiversity conservation and reconciliation, through education, research and collaboration.

The following exemplary programs in the region are and will continue to effectively realize the UNESCO Biosphere Reserve Program objectives:

- Co-leading sustainable development and biodiversity conservation projects;
- Participating in programs and events that develop cross-cultural understanding and advance reconciliation;
- Developing alliances and partnerships to strengthen the development of citizens, communities, and ecosystems as well as stewardship of ecosystem services;
- Developing and promoting education tourism opportunities through participation in the West Coast N.E.S.T.;
- Contributing data and knowledge to the Vital Signs program or Living Wage calculation;
- Advancing climate change research, monitoring, mitigation and adaptation projects;
- Participating in processes for implementing, managing, and monitoring community and ecosystem health; and
- Contributing to the achievement of the UN Sustainable Development Goals.

The remarkable effort of staff and volunteers in the region will continue to ensure that UNESCO Biosphere Reserve program objectives guide the work of people who live work and play in the Clayoquot region. This strong alignment leads me to be a proud supporter of the continued Clayoquot Sound UNESCO Biosphere designation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Scott Graham', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Scott Graham
Adjunct Professor
University of British Columbia
School of Community and Regional Planning
scott.graham@ubc.ca
604.240.3941