

Bowen Island, July 24th, 2017

To the Honourable Doug Donaldson  
Minister of Forests, Lands, & Natural Resource Operations  
Victoria, BC

Dear Minister Donaldson,

**IMPORTANT & URGENT: Commercial Logging on Bowen Island: A BAD idea for Bowen Island, Vancouver, British Columbia and Canada!**

With this email I would respectfully ask you to take Bowen Island out of the BC Timber Sales Forest Stewardship Plan. I'm sure you are currently receiving many emails requesting you to do this with a multitude of reasons why and so I would like to focus on the big picture in this email.

Firstly, Bowen Island is part of Metro Vancouver and tourism is the main driving force of the local economy. We're a community of young families, IT and other professionals and artists etc that have moved to Bowen Island for its natural beauty and tranquility while still only being a twenty minute ferry ride away from mainland Vancouver. Bowen Island has a population of 3680 people and is 50.14 km<sup>2</sup> in size with a population density of 73.4/ km<sup>2</sup> and thus is too small and too populated to sustain commercial logging without dire consequences for the local community.

Commercial logging on Bowen Island would make our streets unsafe for our children due to logging truck traffic, pollute our water supply by undermining our watersheds, cause commuter delays by putting further load strains on our ferry services and destroy our tranquility and the natural beauty of our island. Any economic gain through timber extraction, which would be minor at best, would be offset tenfold and more by a decline in property values with the corresponding loss in property taxes (the combined property values on Bowen Island currently likely exceed a BILLION DOLLARS) and a decline in tourism to Bowen Island with the corresponding loss of local revenue, employment, and taxes.

Additionally, the negative impact on Vancouver should also be considered as ten million tourists come to Vancouver every year and one of the main attractions is the natural beauty surrounding our city with Bowen Island being one of Vancouver's greatest natural assets. Bowen Island is less than 20 kilometres away by water from Downtown Vancouver and is clearly visible from many parts of Vancouver and so any logging activity would be a nasty scar in the landscape easily seen by visitors to the city which would undermine the natural beauty and tourist attraction of Vancouver. Also many Vancouverites and tourists come to Bowen Island on weekends and as day trippers, searching for nature and tranquility.

Finally, Bowen Island is pretty unique in the world in being such a naturally beautiful and peaceful island so close to a major urban centre. Destroying that beauty and peacefulness would send the wrong message to the world and would give Vancouver, British Columbia and Canada a bad reputation as stewards of our natural wonders. Furthermore, since the economics of commercial logging on Bowen Island don't seem to add up, as any benefit from lumber

extraction is outweighed tenfold and more by the loss in tourist revenue and property values, not to mention the Bowen Islanders' reduction in quality of life, I conclude that it's a BAD idea for Bowen Island, Vancouver, British Columbia and Canada!

Sincerely,  
Eric Waschke  
1279 Scarborough Road  
Bowen Island, BC  
V0N 1G1  
Tel: [604-927-2477](tel:604-927-2477)

P.s. Please also see this link to an online petition against commercial logging on Bowen Island that in just a week has already attracted almost 1600 supporters:  
[https://www.change.org/p/bc-timber-sales-stop-bc-timber-sales-from-logging-28-of-bowen-island-s-forests?recruiter=747978331&utm\\_source=share\\_petition&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=share\\_email\\_responsive&utm\\_term=share\\_email\\_responsive](https://www.change.org/p/bc-timber-sales-stop-bc-timber-sales-from-logging-28-of-bowen-island-s-forests?recruiter=747978331&utm_source=share_petition&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=share_email_responsive&utm_term=share_email_responsive)

cc Jason Fisher Associate Deputy Minister – Forest Sector  
cc Mike Falkiner, Executive Director, BC Timber Sales  
cc Enrique Sanchez, Planning Forester, Chinook Business Area, BC Timber Sales  
cc Jordan Sturdy, MLA  
cc The Honourable Lisa Beare  
cc The Honourable John Horgan  
cc The Honourable Andrew Weaver  
cc Pamela Goldsmith-Jones, MP  
cc The Right Honourable Justin Trudeau  
cc The Honourable James Gordon Carr  
cc The Honourable Bardish Chagger  
cc His Worship Murray Skeels  
cc Bowen Island Mayor and Council  
cc His Worship Gregor Robertson  
cc His Worship Michael Smith  
cc His Worship Richard Walton  
cc His Worship Darrell Mussatto  
cc Peter Luckham, Trust Council Chair, The Islands Trust  
cc Tony Law, Chair, Trust Fund Board, Islands Trust Fund  
cc Neil Carley General Manager, Parks, Planning and Environment  
cc [Defend Island Forests](#)  
cc [Bowen Island Conservancy](#)  
cc Editor Bowen Island Undercurrent  
cc Harold Munro, Editor-in-Chief, Vancouver Sun  
cc Valerie Casselton, Managing Editor, Vancouver Sun  
cc Matt Robinson, Vancouver Sun Reporter  
cc [Wendy Cox](#), British Columbia and Alberta Editor, Globe & Mail