



# Friends of Clayoquot Sound

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## Protecting What We Love Together Celebrating the Frontlines of Environmental Conservation Movement Building & Actions for 40 Years!



Andrew Bailey, westerlynews.ca

The Global Climate Strike Week actions from September 20-27 saw millions of people take to the streets and strike for climate action. In the Pacific Rim, hundreds participated in youth led actions in Tofino and Ucluelet to advocate for all governments to act to reduce carbon emissions at least 50% by 2030. #GLOBALCLIMATESTRIKE #ENDFOSSILFUELSUBSIDIESNOW

**T**ogether we are rising in the millions to demand the world's nations protect our Earth home and the web of life that sustains us. People around the planet are resisting corporate profiteering, governmental corruption, human rights abuses, and environmental destruction. We are experiencing this momentum building more than ever with the youth led climate justice movement's call for immediate action in response to the climate emergency.

Friends of Clayoquot Sound (FOCS) have been a grassroots leader of environmental justice solutions for over 40 years. FOCS Newsletters aim to educate and mobilize readers in solidarity with the frontlines of advocacy. Our concerns for protecting cultural and biological diversity have inspired the articles featured here related to Indigenous rights, allyship, logging, salmon farms, mining, and pipelines. It'll take everyone to secure a better future. No matter where you live, there's a way to take action for environmental justice!

### WHAT'S UP in this issue

System Change,  
Not Climate Change

End In Sight for Open Net  
Salmon Farms in Canada

Tribal Parks Allies Celebrates  
Inaugural Year!

Imperial Metals Moves into  
Skagit Headwaters

# System Change, Not Climate Change



Marnie Becker

Last winter in Tofino, Tla-o-qui-aht First Nation led a march and rally in solidarity with the Wet'suwet'en Nation in saying "No To All Pipelines".

to supply the world's fastest growing single use plastic market, increasing an already alarming epidemic of marine debris across the globe.

This is why a group of youth from all around Canada are suing the federal government for failing to adequately take action on the climate emergency, putting future generations at risk. The 15 youth, who range in age from 11 to 18, are correct. The Canadian Government's contribution to high levels

**D**uring the Government of Canada's recent election, Justin Trudeau campaigned on a promise of more significant action to fight climate change. He even marched with the Global Climate Strike mobilization in Montreal.

Yet Trudeau is still planning to invest billions of taxpayer dollars

in the Trans Mountain tar sands pipeline expansion without the consent of Indigenous Nations, the B.C. Government, and municipalities like Vancouver, Victoria, Burnaby, and Tofino. The proposed pipeline would result in Canada not meeting global climate commitments. Tanker traffic past Vancouver Island would increase 700% to transport tar sands oil to Asia

of climate changing emissions violate their rights to life, liberty and security of the person under Section 7 of Canada's own Charter of Rights and Freedom. The youth are also charging the Government of Canada under Section 15 of the Charter with violating their right to equality, as the effects of the climate emergency disproportionately affect the youngest generations most.

## Taking the Streets for Climate Justice: Time to Follow the Leadership of the Youth

by Toby Theriault, Age 15, Grade 10 @ Ucluelet Secondary School

**//** Let me tell you something adults: look around, as youth we are inspired! But we have no voice. 7 million of us and our government is still building a pipeline, the president of the United States thinks this is a hoax, and our oceans are still littered with plastic. Do you know why?

As inspired as the youth are, there are still so many things we can't do. We should make a difference? How? We can't vote, we don't buy most of our own food or drive, and we definitely don't own major corporations. Why are we expected to change the world when it's been built on the premise that we're too immature to make a difference? How immature can we be when we're the only ones trying and standing up? Are we immature when

7 million of us are trying to inspire adults with votes, cars, and opinions to make a difference?

Help us to do something

to save our future, we don't want your empty words! If we all do something, there's hope. Do it for us, your children and grandchildren. **//**



Toby Theriault and the students of Ucluelet Secondary and Elementary Schools at the Global Climate Strike mobilizing and inspiring the people power we need to end the era of fossil fuels and create a more just world. #YOUTHRISE

Nora O'Malley, westerlynews.ca



# End in Sight for Open Net Salmon Farms in Canada

Canada's federal election of 2019 marked a turn in the tide for protecting wild salmon. The Liberals, NDP, and Greens, all pledged to transition open net salmon farms on the B.C. coast to closed containment systems. Collectively these political parties can hold the balance of power in Canada's new minority government.

Friends of Clayoquot Sound has been sounding the alarm for decades. Open net pen salmon farming harms wild salmon and ecosystems through disease transmission, parasite infestations, predator culls, and the introduction of antibiotics, biocides, untreated waste, and invasive species into marine waters. Coastal B.C. has millions of farmed Atlantic salmon in open pens on the migratory routes of wild salmon. Recognizing these risks, the B.C. Government has said it will not renew or issue new salmon farm tenures after 2021 unless corporations can ensure consent from the Indigenous Nations of the territory, while proving "no harm" to wild salmon.

In recent years, Indigenous leaders have occupied fish farms and delivered eviction notices, demanding that salmon farms shut down. The B.C. Government and two salmon farming corporations – Cermaq and Mowi (formerly Marine Harvest) – have signed a monitoring and inspection plan with the Namgis, Mamalilikulla and Kwikwastu'inuxw Haxwa'mis in the Broughton Archipelago. The agreement gives First Nations oversight during a transition period that will see most, if not all, open net salmon farms in the area shut down or moved.

Of the 17 salmon farms that have operated in the Broughton Archipelago, five have already been decommissioned. Of

the 12 remaining salmon farms still operating in the area, at least seven will be decommissioned over a four-year period. The fate of the other five will depend on whether First Nations agree to allow them to continue operating.

Across Vancouver Island, FOCS stand in solidarity with the Indigenous Nations defending wild salmon. We have supported the Swanson Occupation led by Chief Ernest Alfred in the Broughton Archipelago as well as the independent monitoring led by Chief George Quocksister Jr. of more than 40 salmon farms. We have organized and participated in office occupations of B.C. Government Ministers, and rallied at the Legislature, to ensure the calls of Indigenous Nations are heard.

In Clayoquot Sound, we have supported Skookum Lennie John and the Warriors for Yaakswiis of Ahousaht in evicting Cermaq's Atlantic salmon farm from the Yaakswiis area, and in dealing with the legal charges from

Cermaq aimed at dissuading salmon defenders from future actions. We have amplified the work of the Tla-o-qui-aht Guardians in monitoring viruses such as piscine orthoreovirus (PRV), as well as independent researchers including Mack Barlett in monitoring sea lice outbreaks where Cermaq operates in Ahousaht territory.

Over the winter FOCS will be engaged in Canada's first ever marine ecosystem risk assessment for wild salmon through the Clayoquot Sound Salmon Roundtable. We expect this assessment will arrive at similar conclusions to the federally appointed Cohen Commission which found that the precautionary principle requires the removal of open net salmon farms from coastal waters. All signs are indicating that the end is now within sight for profit driven salmon farms irresponsibly polluting coastal waters and risking entire marine ecosystems. It's time to end the practice of open net farms to protect wild salmon and every species that relies on them.



Juvenile wild fish swim past an Atlantic salmon farm, putting them in the danger zone for infectious diseases and sea lice.

Simon Ager

# 40 Years on the Frontlines of Ancient Rainforest Protection!

FOCS Archives



Participants in the 1993 Protests organized by Friends of Clayoquot Sound to stop old growth logging in region.

**F**riends of Clayoquot Sound was established in Tofino in 1979 in response to the logging activity on nearby Meares Island. The small group of activists set their sights on protecting Clayoquot Sound's ancient temperate rainforest as a globally rare ecosystem.

In 1984, FOCS joined the Tla-o-qui-aht and Ahousaht First Nations in one of the first logging blockades in Canada to prevent the logging of Meares Island. MacMillan Bloedel held the rights to clear cut 90% of Meares Island at the time. As a result of the peaceful blockade direct action and the court injunction that followed, Meares Island was protected and declared a Tribal Park by Tla-o-qui-aht First Nation. Today Meares Island remains unlogged, providing the drinking water for Tofino, and the centrepiece for Tofino's tourism economy.

FOCS led blockades in 1988 and 1992, stopping an illegal logging road in Sulphur Pass, and protesting against MacMillan Bloedel's logging on the edge of intact Clayoquot River valley. Responding to the B.C. Government's decision to allow logging in 74% of Clayoquot Sound's ancient rainforests, FOCS organized the largest peaceful civil disobedience protest in Canadian history, in collaboration

with other environmental groups. In 1993, the Peace Camp in the "Black Hole" clear-cut was established. Daily blockades and arrests on a logging road near Kennedy River Bridge took place during the "war in the woods". Over 12,000 people attended the "Clayoquot Summer" blockade, where 856 were arrested and charged for protecting the ancient rainforest.

The blockades brought Clayoquot Sound and the issue of temperate rainforest destruction to world attention. FOCS held MacMillan Bloedel publicly accountable which helped position the regional Nuu-chah-nulth First Nations of Clayoquot and Barkley Sound to eventually buy out the logging company and attain control of the tree farm licences in Clayoquot Sound. However, the

B.C. Government's outdated forestry system required the First Nations' owned company, MaMook, to pay hundreds of thousands of dollars in annual fees to hold the "rights to log". To ensure the logging licences were retained by MaMook, the company was coerced into logging their First Nations' territories to finance "the rights to log" to service the annual payment required by the B.C. Government.

In 2006, FOCS, Greenpeace, Wilderness Committee, Sierra Club, and Stand (formerly Forest Ethics) formed the Clayoquot Sound Conservation Alliance (CSCA) to support discussions with regional First Nations about protecting the intact valleys through conservation investment. Since then, FOCS has worked continuously towards permanent protection by supporting local First Nations in securing conservation investments privately and through governments.

For 2019, we were honoured to congratulate the Ahousaht and Tla-o-qui-aht First Nations for securing a key federal commitment to advance their land-use visions in Clayoquot Sound. FOCS look forward to hearing more details from both the federal and provincial governments of their support for this reconciliation-based conservation investments initiative to safeguard the ancient communities and rainforests of this iconic region.



Friends of Clayoquot Sound joined Tla-o-qui-aht First Nations' members to document logging taking place in their territory near Virgin Falls in 2017. The current systems requires First Nations to log to pay the B.C. Government for the "rights to log".

Tsimka Martin



# Indigenous Rights Recognized in B.C. Law with New Legislation

If proposed legislation passes, British Columbia will become the first province in Canada to enact the internationally recognized standards of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (U.N. Declaration) into provincial law. Over time as laws are modified or built, they will be aligned with the U.N. Declaration.

Elements of the bill include:

- a requirement to develop an action plan to meet the objectives of the U.N. Declaration, in collaboration with Indigenous peoples;
- annual public reporting to monitor progress;
- discretion for new decision-making agreements between the Province and Indigenous governments where decisions directly affect Indigenous peoples and mechanisms exist in applicable legislation – with clear processes, administrative fairness and transparency; and
- recognition for additional forms of Indigenous governments in agreement-



In October the B.C. Government proposed legislation to update B.C. laws and policies to align with the United Nations' Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. B.C. is primarily "unceded" with no treaties or purchases of territories from Indigenous Nations.

making, such as multiple Nations working together as a collective, or hereditary governments – as determined and recognized by the citizens of the Nation.

In 2017, every cabinet minister in the B.C. Government was

tasked with a mandate to implement the U.N. Declaration and the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Calls to Action. A commitment to adopting the U.N. Declaration in B.C. is a component of the Confidence and Supply Agreement with the B.C. Green Party caucus.

B.C. Government

## Tribal Parks Allies Celebrates Inaugural Year!

by Tribal Parks Allies

On November 21st, we celebrated the first anniversary of the Tribal Parks Allies Certification Standard. For 35 years, Clayoquot Sound has inspired the world as a case study of successful environmental stewardship and an example of what can be achieved when First Nations and non-Indigenous Allies stand together to protect the lands and waters we all depend on. Over the years, the role of Allies has shifted.

In the '80s and '90s, we relied on our Allies to spread the word about our struggles and blockade loggers and RCMP when they tried to force their way into our Sacred Garden. Today, we ask our Allies to contribute 1% of every dollar earned within the Tla-o-qui-aht Tribal

Parks to help us steward our Tribal Parks, service our communities, and restore our language. In 2019, we raised \$105,794 with the support of 27 Tribal Parks Allies. These funds put three new Guardians on the ground last summer and we developed essential infrastructure.

When European explorers and traders first visited our shores, they found a densely populated, ecologically abundant, and culturally vibrant society thriving along this coast. Today, our vision is to restore the abundance which is our birthright: an ecosystem as rich as the memories of our grandmothers, and a culture as rich as the dreams of our grandsons.

Learn more about Tribal Parks Allies @ [www.tribalparksalliance.com](http://www.tribalparksalliance.com), or follow us on Facebook (@tribalparksallies) and on Instagram (@tribal.parks.allies).



# Clayoquot Salmon Festival Rocks the Sound in 2019!



Fever Feel at The Maq rocking the Clayoquot Salmon Festival Concert Series! #DEFENDWILDSALMON

The 2019 Clayoquot Salmon Festival was a huge success with over 1,000 people participating in 14 events over 9 days of the Festival from August 30th to September 7th! This year's Festival events included some incredible partnerships: the Mackenzie Beach Clean Up with Surfrider Pacific Rim, a

Salmon Monitoring Demonstration with Cedar Coast Field Station, the Centennial Creek Restoration with Central Westcoast Forest Society, a Salmon Forest Walk guided by Raincoast Education Society, a Salmon Stories Documentary Film Night, and the Voices For Salmon Speakers Night with the Nuu-chah-nulth Salmon

Alliance, Tribal Parks, and Salmon Nation.

A big salmon THANK YOU to all the groups, musical artists, and local businesses who contributed to making all the events possible. A special THANK YOU shout out to the Nuu-chah-nulth Salmon Alliance, Tla-o-qui-aht Tribal Parks, Surfrider Pacific Rim, Cedar Coast Field Station, Central Westcoast Forest Society, Raincoast Education Society, Salmon Nation, Blissology Eco Karma Yoga, Caleb Hart and the Royal Youths, Fever Feel, The Window Girls, Grizzly Waves / Sad Beach Boys, The Funkee Wadd, Morien Jones Trio, Grego, Chloe Gravel, Alle Bernardi, Mike Jennings, Joel Gray and Sam Billington, The Maq, The Hatch, Tofino Resort and Marina, Tin Wis, the Clayoquot Sound Community Theatre, Tuff City Radio, Octopus Events, West Coast NEST, Westerly News, Tofino Time, Tourism Tofino, and the District of Tofino! Clayoquot Salmon Festival is made possible with the support of our west coast community - together let's continue to protect what we love!

# Imperial Metals Moves into Skagit Headwaters After No Charges for Mount Polley Disaster



With federal and provincial governments neglecting to enforce environmental protection laws, mining corporation Imperial Metals is positioning to expand in Clayoquot Sound and in the Skagit Headwaters. But at what cost?

This summer as Justin Trudeau took a taxpayer funded luxury vacation in Tofino, the deadline for the Government of Canada to charge Imperial Metals for the 2014 Mount Polley Mine disaster passed. Inaction, despite the Government of Canada's own Joint Task Force recommending in the spring that the Imperial Metals' Mount Polley Mine disaster be charged for design failure negligence. Taxpayers

will pay an estimated \$100 million for the clean up of the 25 billion litres of toxic mining waste released into the Fraser River watershed by Imperial Metals. The disaster occurred within the territory of the Secwepemc First Nation, home to one of the largest salmon spawning grounds in the world.

No charges, fines or penalties means Imperial Metals gains greater potential to expand unsustainable

mining operations in B.C. Within Clayoquot Sound, Imperial Metals holds the mining rights to assess the development of a gold mine, called the Pandora project, within the unceded territory of Tla-o-qui-aht First Nation, as well as an open-pit copper mine on Catface Mountain in Ahousaht First Nation's unceded territory. Both Nations are adamant that mining will not be allowed in their territories.

Friends of Clayoquot Sound joined 30 B.C. organizations, including the B.C. Union of Indian Chiefs, the Guide Outfitters Association of B.C., and others urging the B.C. Government to reject the plans in the Skagit Headwaters. Opposition to proposed mineral exploratory work in the Manning Park "donut hole" continues to grow while the B.C. Government considers the application from Imperial Metals to probe the area for copper and gold.



# Massive Call for B.C. Government Action Targets Minister on Forests and Climate



TJ Watt

On Vancouver Island alone, the equivalent of 34 soccer fields of the last remaining ancient rainforests are logged every day. #PROTECTWHATYOULOVE #CLIMATEACTIONNOW

by Forests For Climate Coalition (40 groups including Friends of Clayoquot Sound)

**O**n September 24th, as part of the global week of Climate Strike actions, over a hundred citizens picketed the B.C. Ministry of Environment and Climate Change. This action received support from major unions, BCGEU and PEA, who instructed members to respect the citizens' picket lines in solidarity with the global week of Climate Strike.

The goal of this action was to expose the undeniable link between bad forest management and the climate crisis, the elephant in the room in both forestry and climate policy in B.C. The message targeted George Heyman: It is time to step in to address the crisis in the woods in this province as a basic duty of your mandate as Environment and Climate Change Strategy Minister.

On Vancouver Island alone, the equivalent of 34 soccer fields of the last remaining old-growth rainforests are logged every day. Meanwhile, in the last decade, 10,000 jobs were lost in the forest sector to raw log exports and a lack of leadership to ensure the maximum number of jobs per tree cut. First Nations and forest-dependent communities - those most immediately impacted by these disturbing trends

- still struggle to gain control over land-use decision-making that has for too long been in the hands of large, unaccountable logging corporations that prioritize short-term profit over Indigenous land rights, job stability, biodiversity and a safe climate future.

Coastal old-growth temperate rainforests are a rare, globally significant carbon sink which play a critical role in buffering against catastrophic climate change. Less than 5% of the remaining low-elevation old-growth forests remain on Vancouver Island and they too are being systematically liquidated and replaced with biologically barren tree plantations.

The B.C. Government has accelerated logging of some of the last stands of coastal old-growth forests through its own BC Timber Sales program, started by the BC Liberals in 2003 and recently found chronically non-compliant of the government's own inadequate regulations around old-growth forest management. The widespread practice of slash pile burning contributes to placing BC forestry at the top of all sectors in the province for carbon emissions. This is a backwards situation that dramatically needs to be fixed.

In a climate emergency, protection of old-growth forests is a key natural climate solution we cannot afford to waste. The world has now entered a wave of human-caused mass extinction, the result of endless capitalist growth and resource extraction. The world's leading climate scientists have given humanity eleven years to avoid runaway climate change, now considered the greatest existential threat facing humanity and currently displacing millions of people world-wide

This is our call to action for Environment and Climate Change Minister George Heyman:

- 1** Insist the B.C. Government protects the last low and medium elevation coastal and interior old-growth rainforests;
- 2** Recognize Indigenous authority, governance and stewardship in forest management; and
- 3** Implement sustainable forestry practices that protect the environment and local community jobs, once and for all, as a central and unavoidable feature of the B.C. Government's Climate Change Policy. We are running out of time.

# Support the Wild!

Friends of Clayoquot Sound is a grassroots organization advocating protection for the ancient temperate rainforest ecosystems of Clayoquot Sound. We are part of an international movement calling for a shift of consciousness in the way humans relate to the Earth. We need your support to continue to educate and inspire people. Please send in your donation today to help protect one of the most spectacular places on Earth.

Visit our website to find more ways to help: [www.focs.ca](http://www.focs.ca)

Send your donation to:

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## Remembering Dorothy Baert



April 18, 1950 – July 17, 2019

We are mourning the loss of a great supporter of the Friends of Clayoquot Sound. Dorothy Baert pioneered ecotourism in Clayoquot Sound with the Tofino Sea Kayaking Company. She served almost four terms as a Councillor for the District of Tofino, continuously supporting First Nations, environmental sustainability, and the arts. Her family has asked for memorial gifts to be made to the Friends of Clayoquot Sound. We are determined to carry on her legacy.

### Join our Wilderness Team by becoming a monthly donor!

Includes annual membership.

Monthly donation: ☐ \$15 ☐ \$25 ☐ \$35 ☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_

☐ Credit card (please write details below)

☐ Direct debit to my chequing account  
(please attach a VOID cheque)

SIGNATURE OF ACCOUNT HOLDER \_\_\_\_\_

DATE \_\_\_\_\_

Thank you! Payments will continue automatically on the first of each month until you notify the Friends of Clayoquot Sound of any changes or cancellation by calling 250-725-4218 or emailing [info@focs.ca](mailto:info@focs.ca). You can also donate by credit card on our website: [www.focs.ca](http://www.focs.ca)

### Become a Friends of Clayoquot Sound member!

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Annual donation: ☐ \$25 ☐ \$40 ☐ \$100 ☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_

All members receive the informative Friends of Clayoquot Sound newsletter hot off the press!

☐ Check here if you prefer to receive the newsletter by email.

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