



# Friends of Clayoquot Sound

*Celebrating the Frontlines of Environmental Conservation Movement Building & Actions for 40+ Years!*

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## B.C. Government Only Protecting 15% of Vital Ecosystems



Photo: Wayne Barnes / Tofino Photography

Significant conservation funding from all levels of government is needed to support the bold land use visions of the Ahousaht, Hesquiaht, and Tla-o-qui-aht Nations for the ecosystem services provided by their territories so that lasting protection of the intact ancient rainforests of Clayoquot Sound can be sustained. #PROTECTWHATYOULOVE

Scientists estimate that 50% of Earth should be in protected areas and climate stabilization areas to maintain the planet's climate regulating capacity to keep global temperatures from rising above the global target of 1.5 degree Celsius. At present, only 15% of the land area in B.C. is in protected areas.

Friends of Clayoquot Sound join with all the Indigenous Nations, organizations, businesses, faith groups, and local governments calling on the B.C. government to take a pivotal step to avert the extinction and climate crises by committing to:

- ◆ Develop science-based protection targets and policies for all ecosystems, from dry forests to rainforests (including old-growth forests), from grasslands to tundra, from freshwater to marine ecosystems.

- ◆ At a minimum, adopt targets that match or exceed the national (25% by 2025 and 30% by 2030) and international (30% by 2030) protected areas targets.

- ◆ Support Indigenous Protected and Conserved Areas (IPCAs), with appropriate policies and sufficient funding for land-use planning, management and stewardship programs such as Guardians initiatives, and associated Indigenous-led sustainable economic development in First Nations communities.

- ◆ Dedicate significant annual funding to purchase and protect private lands of high conservation value.

- ◆ Embrace the federal funding for expanding protected areas in BC for IPCA's and land acquisition.

## WHAT'S UP in this issue

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# Climate Action Requires Canada to Invest to Protect 30% Minimum of Land and Ocean by 2030



Photo: Marnie Recker @marniereckerphoto

Scientists estimate that 50% of Earth should be in protected areas and climate stabilization areas by 2030 yet people are being attacked by their own governments to stop further environmental destruction, as in the case of the Fairy Creek Blockades where this photo was taken. #LASTSTANDFORFORESTS #WORTHMORESTANDING

*Adapted from an open letter to Prime Minister Justin Trudeau from 200 environmental and social justice groups, including Friends of Clayoquot Sound.*

**T**he recent election underscored many issues of critical importance to people in Canada, including the urgency of addressing climate change, spurring nature's recovery and ensuring greater equity. To do so, Canada must act boldly.

Habitat loss is the number one driver of ecosystem degradation. Creating protected areas is an essential tool to address this crisis. The Canadian Government's commitment to establish 10 new national parks and 10 new national marine conservation areas, and co-managing them with Indigenous

nations, is an important goal as part of the commitment to protect 25% of land and ocean by 2025 and 30% by 2030.

A bold strategy must be built with Indigenous Peoples and with full respect for their rights, title and knowledge systems. Our expectation is that every Indigenous Nation that wants to create an Indigenous Protected and Conserved Area (IPCA) or Guardian program to protect their territories will be supported by the Canadian government, including using all possible influence with provincial and territorial governments. Providing capacity-building resources and legal, regulatory and policy conditions for establishment and maintenance of the IPCAs by First Nation, Inuit and Métis communities is a key part of

reconciliation with Indigenous peoples as recommended by Canada's Truth and Reconciliation Commission. We are urging all levels of government to fully implement the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and respect the inherent and constitutional rights of Indigenous Peoples in all conservation initiatives.

Protecting natural carbon storage from being destroyed, alongside dramatic reductions in fossil fuel emissions, is necessary to meet climate targets. Protected areas can contribute to climate change mitigation and adaptation while protecting biodiversity. Integrating climate change considerations into conservation planning will fundamentally improve land and ocean use decision-making and outcomes.



# Fairy Creek Blockades Surpasses Clayoquot Blockades as Canada's Largest Act of Civil Disobedience



Photo: Ora Cogan @fairycreekblockade

RCMP dragging forest defenders from sit-in blockade, among the 1188 arrested this year at the Fairy Creek Blockades.

**T**he Fairy Creek Blockades surpassed the arrest record previously held by the Clayoquot Blockades for Canada's largest act of civil disobedience to protect old growth forests. During the Clayoquot Blockades of the 932 forest defenders who were arrested, 860 were prosecuted in eight trials, and all those prosecuted for criminal contempt of court were found guilty. At the Fairy Creek Blockades, the Rainforest Flying Squad reports 1,188 arrests to date. With this new record in the fight to protect old-growth forests in B.C., criticism of the RCMP's conduct has come from Canada's Supreme Court.

At the end of September, logging corporation Teal Jones applied to extend the injunction against the forest defenders in Fairy Creek and was denied as Supreme Court Justice Douglas Thompson called the protesters "good citizens" and decided the RCMP's misconduct represented a threat to the reputation of the Court. Judge Thompson noted that things had changed at Fairy Creek since the original injunction was granted, noting significant police misconduct

including: stripping protesters' COVID masks before pepper-spraying them; improper constraints on freedom of the press; use of illegally expansive exclusion zones; wearing Thin Blue Line badges contrary to RCMP directives; failing to wear identification; unlawfully seizing and destroying personal effects such as vehicles, tents, sleeping bags, and food; all while using messaging that

their actions are undertaken to enforce the Court's order.

Kukpi7 Judy Wilson, secretary-treasurer for Union of B.C. Indian Chiefs, said the B.C. government has exacerbated tensions at Fairy Creek by not adequately responding to 14 recommendations made last year by an independent Old Growth Strategic Review expert panel. Those recommendations, submitted to the B.C. government in April 2020, called for immediate logging deferrals in old forests "where ecosystems are at very high and near-term risk of irreversible biodiversity loss."

But then in early October, B.C. Court of Appeal Justice Sunni Stromberg-Stein granted Teal Jones another injunction. Since then, blockade camps, arrests by the RCMP, and logging have been ongoing.

"We call on politicians and decision-makers to step up and fulfil their political obligation to protect ancient old-growth forests," said Kathleen Code, a spokesperson for Rainforest Flying Squad. "We invite all those who recognize the vital importance of our remaining ancient rainforests to join us in protecting these forests now, and for future generations."

## 6 ACTIONS WE CAN TAKE FOR OLD GROWTH FORESTS

1. Support Indigenous led protection camps and actions on the ground.
2. Organize local solidarity actions.  
Call / send emails to the Premier, the Forests Minister, and local MLAs.  
**Premier John Horgan / 250-387-1715 / [premier@gov.bc.ca](mailto:premier@gov.bc.ca)**
3. **Forest Minister Katrine Conroy / 250-387-6240 / [flnr.minister@gov.bc.ca](mailto:flnr.minister@gov.bc.ca)**  
**Clayoquot MLA Josie Osborne / 250-720-4515 / [josie.osborne.mla@leg.bc.ca](mailto:josie.osborne.mla@leg.bc.ca)**
4. Sign the [bcgreens.ca](https://bcgreens.ca) and [change.org](https://change.org) petitions - search "Old Growth".
5. Amplify by sharing and resharing in social media.
6. Donate to the Rainforest Flying Squad, FOCS, and organizations working to protect old growth forests.



# Clayoquot Sound Rallies to Oppose B.C. Government's "Talk & Log" Conflict of Interest

Photos: FOCS / Bee Kent Colina @justbeeing\_



Joe David, Gizele Maria Martin, John Tutube, Brenda Wood, Grizzly Waves, Deanna Lankin, Kerry Jonathan Harwood, Chloé Gravel, Luc Kerley, and Toby Theriault are amongst the many across Vancouver Island standing for old growth forests.

**F**riends of Clayoquot Sound organized a rally to build and hold space in solidarity with forest defenders across Vancouver Island and around the world. To date, 1,188 Rainforest Flying Squad forest defenders have been arrested at

the Fairy Creek Blockade protecting the oldest trees that regulate the planet's climate and protect all life from an intensifying climate crisis. The arrests at Fairy Creek have surpassed the arrest numbers from the 1993 Clayoquot Blockades.

Only 2.7% of big tree old growth forests are still surviving in B.C. And if nothing changes, they'll be gone forever within the next decade. 90% of British Columbians want to see an end to old growth logging. Now, climate action also demands that the BCNDP commit to more than just "Talk and Log" policies. The BCNDP needs to implement an immediate moratorium on old growth logging and create a just transition to a sustainable second growth industry, including conservation financing and economic alternatives for First Nations.

Clayoquot Sound sustains a strong legacy and community of forest defenders, and hundreds turned out participated in the solidarity rally to share stories and ideas on how we can protect old growth forests now and into the future. Thanks to all the speakers, performers, and participants.

## Artistic Project Challenges a #MOVEFORTHETREES

**A**s climate catastrophes continue around us, Old Growth Collective-Effort for Sustainability and Friends of Clayoquot Sound released an artistic project in solidarity with Fairy Creek Blockade and the Rainforest Flying Squad. "WAKE OF MOTION: MOVE FOR THE TREES" honours the old growth trees sustaining the conditions for life, and forest defenders who protect them worldwide.

As one of the artists, dancer Sandra Katarz reflects: "Inspired by the protests at the Fairy Creek Blockade, the collective created a beautiful video to showcase the contrast between barren lands wiped of forests vs the ones still standing."

Amplifying the demands of the climate justice movement, we are

calling on all levels of government to implement:

- ◆ An immediate moratorium on all old growth logging by redirecting funding from fossil fuels projects to Indigenous Protected Areas.
- ◆ An immediate moratorium on new fossil fuel project approvals and a freeze on all fossil fuel projects under construction -- including the Trans Mountain pipeline.
- ◆ The development of Just Transition legislation to support workers and communities,

especially Indigenous and remote communities as we move towards a more holistic economy where energy conservation is the goal and renewable energy is the source.



The Old Growth Collective are encouraging everyone to show solidarity by posting a video of dancing in the forest or a clearcut to the song "Move For The Trees" by Old Growth Collective, streaming on all platforms. Then share the video on social media and tag friends to challenge them to do the same and #MOVEFORTHETREES #WORTHMORESTANDING

Photos: FOCS / Bee Kent Colina @justbeeing\_



# Prime Minister's Holiday in Tofino Demonstrates Structural Racism in Canada

Photo: Marlie Recker @marliereckerphoto



of a pandemic following an election, just to be heard. But here we are," said Hjalmer Wenstob.

The next day, Trudeau apologized to the Tk'emlúps Secwepemc for not responding to their invitations to attend the Truth and Reconciliation Day Ceremony. The Assembly of First Nations National Chief RoseAnne Archibald responded: "Hollow apologies will no longer be accepted."

While Trudeau vacationed in Tofino, he led an active court challenge to deny Indigenous children set to receive billions in compensation from Canada. But the next week in Ottawa, a judge ruled that Indigenous children are entitled to government compensation as Canada "wilfully and recklessly" discriminated against them.

The evidence of the Prime Minister's racist approach to governance continues to accumulate, just like empty promises of clean water infrastructure for Indigenous communities or pushing pipelines without consent across unceded Indigenous territories, among many others. We stand in solidarity with Indigenous people holding the Prime Minister and colonial politicians accountable for the structural racism they facilitate.

**F**riends of Clayoquot Sound accompanied Tla-o-qui-aht First Nation members of the Masso family who gathered supporters to call on Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau to take accountability for vacationing in Tofino within Tla-o-qui-aht territory instead of attending the first ever Truth and Reconciliation Day. We supported 18 year old Tla-o-qui-aht leader, Timmy Masso, in calling on Canada's Prime Minister to apologize and take accountability for his holiday mistake.

"Due to recent events regarding Prime Minister Trudeau, we will be going to Chesterman Beach to call upon Mr. Trudeau to address the mistakes that he has made," Masso wrote online. A couple hours later, around 20 of us were positioned on the beach in the pouring rain in front of Trudeau's taxpayer funded vacation rental, where his security cameras and guards faced us.

"We use reconciliation as a word right now, but recently it seems like a hollow word. It doesn't seem like there's really that much action that's going into it and it's quite sad to say... If one sitting Prime Minister were to take a vacation on Remembrance Day, the whole country would be in an uproar," Masso said.

Justin Trudeau refused to meet with Tla-o-qui-aht First Nation members and had his security pass along the message that it was his "personal vacation time". The security promised to deliver to Trudeau a paper copy of Timmy Masso's statement, along with a package of handwritten letters from local elementary school students sharing their disappointment in the PM.

"It's sad that we don't expect much from leadership anymore. It's sad we have to stand in the rain in the middle



After the final song, Timmy Masso read the statement and thanked supporters for responding quickly to calls for support as Trudeau remained inside the taxpayer funded vacation rental. #EVERYCHILDMATTERS #INDIGENOUSLIVESMATTER

Photo: Marlie Recker @marliereckerphoto

# Clayoquot Salmon Roundtable's Marine Risk Assessment Moving Forward

Image from Anna Hoover's film "Salmon Reflections" @annahoover



We can protect the life cycle of wild salmon by protecting the forests, rivers, oceans and climate. This image is from Anna Hoover's Vimeo film "Salmon Reflections", featuring clips of the FOCS X Salmon Nation film "Salmon Warriors", that screened at the recent UN Climate Summit in Scotland. #DEFENDWILDSALMON #CLAYOQUOTSALMONFESTIVAL #SALMONNATION

*Adapted from the Clayoquot Salmon Roundtable Letter to Prime Minister Justin Trudeau*

**A**t just 1% of their historic abundance, wild Pacific Salmon are in a state of emergency. On the west coast of Vancouver Island, local salmon stocks have drastically declined in recent years. Watersheds that once supported returns of over 40,000 salmon annually have decreased to roughly 2,000 returning adults. According to the Department of Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO), Clayoquot Sound Chinook

are continually one of the most underperforming stocks in all of B.C. and are one of the first priorities for the rebuilding plan development of the latest Fisheries Act of 2019.

Tofino Creek, for instance, a watershed that historically sustained upwards of 5,000 adult Chinook, had just 2 returning adult Chinook salmon in recent years. Entire stocks of genetically distinct salmon are now thought to be extirpated in Clayoquot Sound. Changing ocean conditions and productivity, habitat degradation, historical over-fishing, genetic

diversity, disease, pathogens and sea lice prevalence are all believed to be leading causes of this decline.

The Clayoquot Salmon Roundtable is currently undertaking the first ever multi-stakeholder marine risk assessment for wild salmon. The objective is to identify and rank the scale and intensity of limiting factors in the marine environment and causes for the rapid decline in wild salmon stocks. The need for this work is urgent as Chum and Chinook populations in Clayoquot Sound are at all-time low. The fish that have returned are noticeably smaller.

Beach seine sampling has confirmed that sea lice loading on juvenile wild Pacific salmon has been higher in recent years than in any previous sampling year on record, 20 times higher in some cases. The success of sea lice populations are influenced by several factors including temperature, salinity and host abundance. Changing ocean conditions, as predicted by climate change, such as increasing sea temperatures and higher salinity, are likely to increase louse abundance on wild salmon. In a rapidly changing climate, protecting the genetic diversity in the remaining wild salmon is critical for long-term viability.

## Salmon Farming Corporations Apply to Expand Despite Canada's 2025 Plan for Removal

**S**almon farming corporations have submitted 12 applications — including 5 from Cermaq in Clayoquot Sound — to increase production and profits. The corporations are looking to do this through a combination of increasing the size or number of the more ecologically destructive open net pen operations, and increasing the amount of fish

produced at open net pen sites on the B.C. coast. Cermaq has applied to expand operations at salmon farms in Clayoquot Sound at Millar Channel, Plover Point, Dixon Bay, Rant Point, and Bawden Point.

The applications are being made despite the Liberal government's promise to phase out open-net pen fish farms in B.C.

waters by 2025. Any expansion of farm production amplifies the risks disease, bacteria and parasites pose to plummeting wild salmon stocks. Considering the salmon emergency, DFO should deny the pending applications. But with DFO's internal contradiction to protect fisheries and salmon farming, we must make our voices heard — online, in the government halls, and on the water.



# Imperial Metals Renews Interest in Clayoquot Sound as Mount Polley Engineers Solely Held Accountable



Photo: Nicky Young

Friends of Clayoquot Sound has organized in solidarity with Indigenous land defenders from the Secwepemc, Tla-o-qui-aht, and Ahousaht Nations to disrupt the Imperial Metals Annual General Meetings and to hold executives and shareholders accountable. #IMPERIALNOMORE #MOUNTPOLLEY #WATERISLIFE

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

This summer, Friends of Clayoquot Sound became aware that Imperial Metals, under the name Selkirk, expressed a renewed interest in Clayoquot Sound by seeking a Notice of Work Permit to conduct exploratory work in the Tla-o-qui-aht Tranquil Tribal Park. The Tranquil area hosts dozens of threatened and endangered species, some of the last high-carbon, high-biodiverse forests on Vancouver Island and supports a rich marine ecosystem. Developing a mine there would cause significant ecological damage and would negatively impact alternative economic opportunities for the Tla-o-qui-aht Nation and the region.

This is especially troubling as the current B.C. mining regime is permitting the ongoing pollution

of watersheds and ecosystems. An internal audit conducted within the Ministry of Energy, Mines and Low Carbon Innovation found that inadequate record-keeping and vaguely worded regulations for tailings storage facilities represent significant challenges for regulation compliance and enforcement. The Mount Polley mine tailings pond disaster that spilled 25 billion liters of toxic tailings into Fraser River watershed in the unceded territory of the Secwepemc Nation serves as an example of this broken regulatory system. Only now, seven years after the disaster, two engineers have been found in breach of their professional codes of conduct as they did not provide sufficient observation and monitoring of the tailings dam. Yet no executives or top managers at Imperial Metals have been held formally responsible.

Since the incident in 2014, the Mount Polley Mine has continued to dump wastewater into Hazeltine Creek and Quesnel Lake – a source of drinking water and significant spawning grounds for sockeye salmon – while also missing several deadlines to comply with the terms of

its wastewater permit. This is a troubling example of the weak environmental oversight in the Canadian mining industry which has renewed the call for mining law reform. The overall insignificance of enforcement measures against Imperial Metals for the Mount Polley disaster sent a signal to the mining industry that current laws and regulations can be disregarded. With no charges, fines or penalties directed towards the corporation, Imperial Metals increases its potential to expand unsustainable mining operations in B.C.

Imperial Metals shareholders and executives have been held accountable at their Annual General Meeting by Friends of Clayoquot Sound in solidarity with Indigenous land protectors from the Secwepemc, Tla-o-qui-aht, and Ahousaht Nations. The Indigenous land defenders and water protectors have warned the Imperial Metals investors they should be aware of the serious financial risks in investing in poorly run companies like Imperial Metals. Since 2014, Imperial Metals' share price has dropped from \$18 to \$3.38 at present. After bottoming out at \$1.27 in 2018, the current price is being artificially inflated by Imperial Metals claiming a mining interest in Clayoquot Sound when mining is banned by the Ahousaht and Tla-o-qui-aht Nations.

# Protect What You Love!

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:

Friends of Clayoquot Sound

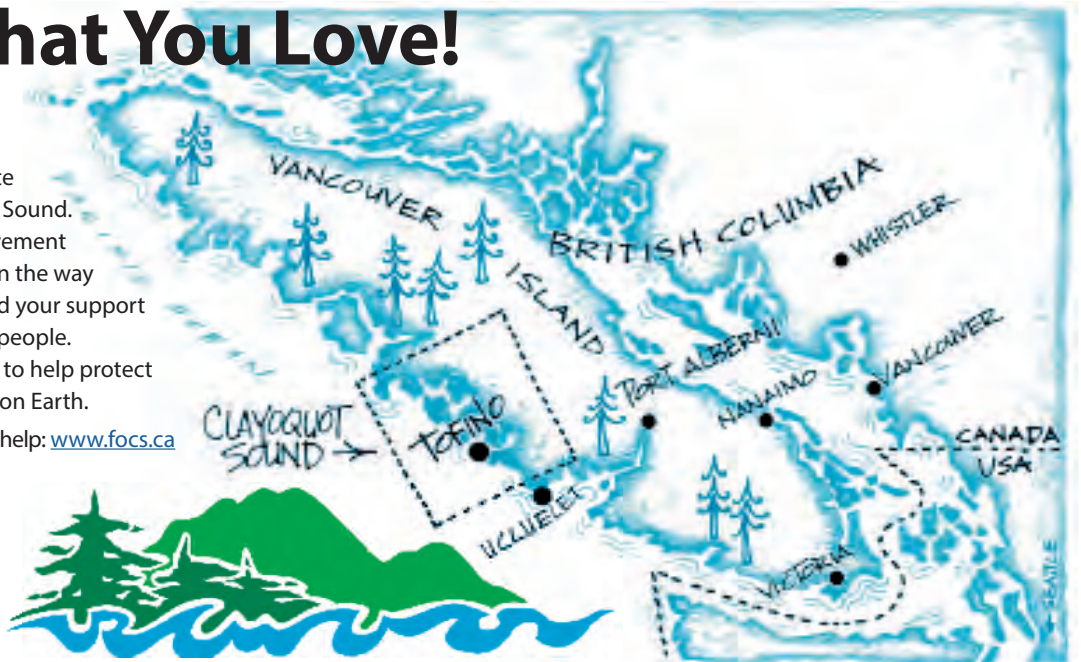
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## Remembering Susan Bloom



1936 – 2021

We kindly remember Susan Bloom for her philanthropic work that helped Friends of Clayoquot Sound and small groups of passionate people do extraordinary things. She purchased Clayoquot Island (aka Stubbs Island) in 1990 and kept it as a nature sanctuary and garden, until she donated it to Nature Conservancy Canada in 2016. Many people were able to enjoy this special place when it was open to the public each May long weekend for many years. Friends of Clayoquot Sound plan to carry on her commitment to the protection of ancient forests and oceans.

### Join the FOCS Coast Action Team by becoming a monthly donor!

Includes annual membership.

Monthly donation: ☐ \$10 ☐ \$40 ☐ \$100 ☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_

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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 supporter!

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Annual donation: ☐ \$20 ☐ \$100 ☐ \$1000 ☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_

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