



The Village of
PORT CLEMENTS
"Gateway to the Wilderness"

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March 21, 2018

To: The Honourable John Horgan, MLA
Premier of British Columbia

- : Peter Lantin, President
Council of the Haida Nation
- : Billy Yovanovich, Chief Councillor
Skidegate Band Council
- : Duffy Edgars, Chief Councillor
Old Massett Village Council
- : Warren Mitchell, Chair
Haida Gwaii Management Council
- : Doug Donaldson, MLA
Minister of Forests

RE: FORESTRY AND THE FUTURE OF PORT CLEMENTS

The Village of Port Clements on Haida Gwaii urgently needs your help.

Our residents have long known and come to accept that the face of logging here has changed and will continue to change under new regulations set out by the governing bodies of Haida Gwaii. We see the need for respectful sustainable logging here and have shown our support as signers of the Protocol Agreement. The Haida and the BC Government have co-managed the Forests over the last few years to standards of harvesting to some of the highest in the country. We are proud of this and that logging was done in compliance with the existing Land Use Order. We recognize that the goals of sustainable logging here are still a work-in-progress and support the Haida in their pursuit of respect and preservation of these islands.

Our Community is unique because of its size and the fact that approximately 70% of our residents depend on or are employed in the logging industry. We are also home to small business operations that get their timber supply or other forestry work from BC Timber Sales (BCTS).

Co-management of the Land and Forest is done at the Solutions Table and disagreements between the governing bodies has resulted in a lack of timber sales being advertised, and further resulted in any timber sales that have been awarded being contested and blocked.

Blockage of these awarded timber sales has resulted in worker lay-offs, economic hardship and an unforeseeable future for the residents and companies living and working in Port Clements.

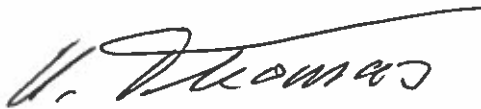
Most recently, one of the major employers of our forestry workers who logs in the Timber Supply Area (TSA) has also been blocked from working which has resulted in even more layoffs in our Community.

It has become very clear to Port Clements that the relationship between the Haida and the BC Government over logging and land control is under negotiation and clearly will take some period of time to be resolved.

Meanwhile, the population of our Village has been rapidly declining and we are now in danger of losing more residents. We are fearful for the future of our Village, and the negative social and economic impacts. These residents who are employed in the logging industry also have a direct effect on the sustainability of other smaller industries and businesses on-island and our island economy as a whole. We have requested answers from both governments about what kind of solutions they can give us to keep our residents and their jobs. We have been given no answers and are running out of time. We are requesting that the Haida and the BC Government come to agreement on an immediate interim solution to help us maintain a sustainable future for Port Clements.

The residents of Port Clements love their Community and its small town lifestyle. We are from diverse backgrounds and choose to live in an intimate setting where we are very closely connected to our neighbours. We respect these islands, our unique environment and the Haida people. We want our Community to be valued and our residents given the support they need to continue to live here.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'U. Thomas', written in a cursive style.

Mayor Urs Thomas

cc: Jennifer Rice, MLA
: Northcoast Regional District – Chair Barry Pages
: Nathan Cullen, MP
: Andrew Merilees, Mayor - Village of Masset
: Greg Martin, Mayor - Village of Queen Charlotte
: Haida Gwaii Observer