



THE CONFEDERATION OF CANADIAN UNIONS LA CONFÉDÉRATION DES SYNDICATS CANADIENS

February 6, 2018

Premier John Horgan
PO Box 9041
Stn Prov Govt
Victoria, BC V8W 9E1

Re: Protection of BC Forests, Jobs and First Nations Communities

Dear Premier,

The Confederation of Canadian Unions (CCU) is the largest affiliation of independent unions in the country, representing over 15,000 workers in various unions.

One of the presidents of our member unions, Arnold Berkov of the Public and Private Workers of Canada (PPWC), wrote an article featured in the *Vancouver Sun* (<http://vancouver.sun.com/opinion/op-ed/opinion-status-quo-a-non-starter-in-b-c-s-forest-industry>) which calls on yourself and Forestry Minister Doug Donaldson to follow through on campaign promises and take the lead in protecting jobs, revitalizing forests and rural areas, and defending First Nations communities.

Since the early 1970s, the CCU has advocated for environmental sustainability, full employment and the protection of First Nations rights.

I want to echo Mr. Berkov's statement. After more than a decade and a half of Liberal neglect on those issues, there was finally a ray of hope last May when an NDP government was formed with support from the BC Green Party.

Having said this, jobs in the pulp and paper industry continue to be destroyed because of raw log exports, while BC's diminished forests and First Nations communities are under continuous assault, without any intervention or help from your government.

I urge you and Minister Donaldson to develop a specific plan that would end raw-log exports, protect BC forests and bring First Nations into partnership with resource industries. This will not happen by itself. Only bold action by your government will accomplish these most important goals.

Many PPWC members throughout British Columbia voted for your party in the last election, and many still want to do so in the next.

But as Mr. Berkov states, doing nothing in the face of more mill closures, forest depletion and continued failure to reconcile with First Nations isn't an option. As premier, the buck stops with you now.

If you or a member of your government would like to speak about these issues, please do not hesitate to contact me. The PPWC and the CCU are ready to talk about doable, straightforward policies that can be implemented where **everyone comes out a winner**: workers, the environment, First Nations, and your government.

I look forward to speaking with you about these matters.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'K. Johnson', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Kelly Johnson
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