

AGENDA INFORMATION	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Regular Meeting	Date: April 26, 2021
<input type="checkbox"/> Other:	Date: _____

_____ Dept. Manager	_____ GM/ Director	_____ CAO
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## The District of North Vancouver REPORT TO COUNCIL

March 25, 2021

File:

**AUTHOR:** Councillor Lisa Muri

**SUBJECT:** UBCM Resolution: Protection of Old Growth Forests

**RECOMMENDATION:**

THAT the UBCM Resolution: Protection of Old Growth Forests is supported for UBCM resolution.

WHEREAS ancient high productivity (big tree) old growth ecosystems are globally one of the most valuable climate mitigation and resiliency assets in terms of carbon storage, sequestration, protection against wildfire, storage of water and bank of biodiversity;

AND WHEREAS, of the miniscule fraction (2.7%) of the original high productivity (big tree) old growth forests (less than 1% of BC's total current forested area), 75% are still slated to be eliminated through logging; BE IT RESOLVED:

THAT the District of North Vancouver call on the Government of British Columbia to immediately defer logging in all and at-risk old-growth forests, as identified by the independent April 2020 Old Growth Strategic Review Panel to the Minister of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development<sup>1</sup>, until all 14 of the panel's recommendations have been implemented;

AND THAT the District of North Vancouver formally oppose the logging of at-risk old-growth forests, including the headwaters of Fairy Creek watershed.

**REASON FOR REPORT:**

To provide Council with a motion to consider and potentially endorse for UBCM resolution as it relates to old growth forests, their protection and relationship with GHGs and climate change.

**SUMMARY:**

On June 25, 2019, the District of North Vancouver Council declared a climate emergency, noting the need to incorporate more urgent climate action and ecological protection into strategic processes. As part of the climate emergency it cannot be ignored that old growth

<sup>1</sup> (<https://engage.gov.bc.ca/app/uploads/sites/563/2020/09/STRATEGIC-REVIEW-20200430.pdf>, n.d.)

forests need the protection of local governments and the action of the Provincial Government to ensure their ecosystems are protected and that greenhouse gas emissions (GHG) targets are met. There is plenty of scientific data that proves the urgent need to protect old growth forests for the health and continuance of not only citizens of BC, but also on a global scale.

The Government of British Columbia states the following data as it relates to climate change and forest management projects: “B.C.’s Provincial Inventory reports the GHG emissions included in the province’s legislated emissions reduction targets (a 16% decrease by 2025, 40% by 2030, 60% by 2040, and 80% by 2050). It also reports emissions from changes in land use and forest management for information purposes only.

The Climate Action Secretariat prepares and publishes the Provincial Inventory annually, with up to a two-year delay to allow time to assemble the information. The 1990-2018 Provincial Inventory was published in August 2020.

In 2018, British Columbia's gross greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, as reported in the Provincial Inventory, were 67.9 million tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent (MtCO<sub>2</sub>e). This is an increase of 4.5 MtCO<sub>2</sub>e (7%) from 63.4 MtCO<sub>2</sub>e in 2007, the baseline year for our emission reduction targets.

Net emissions in 2018, after including 1.0 MtCO<sub>2</sub>e in offsets from forest management projects not covered in the inventory, were 66.9 MtCO<sub>2</sub>e. This is an increase of 3.5 MtCO<sub>2</sub>e (6%) from 2007”.<sup>2</sup>

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) January 2020 Climate Change and Land report states, “Land provides the principal basis for human livelihoods and well-being including the supply of food, freshwater and multiple other ecosystem services, as well as biodiversity. Human use directly affects more than 70% (likely 69–76%) of the global, ice-free land surface (high confidence). Land also plays an important role in the climate system”.

Additionally, the report further states that, “Agriculture, Forestry and Other Land Use (AFOLU) activities accounted for around 13% of CO<sub>2</sub>, 44% of methane (CH<sub>4</sub>), and 81% of nitrous oxide (N<sub>2</sub>O) emissions from human activities globally during 2007-2016, representing 23% of total net anthropogenic emissions of GHGs. The natural response of land to human-induced environmental change caused a net sink of around 11.2 GtCO<sub>2</sub> yr<sup>-1</sup> during 2007–2016 (equivalent to 29% of total CO<sub>2</sub> emissions; the persistence of the sink is uncertain due to climate change. If emissions associated with pre and post production activities in the global food system are included, the emissions are estimated to be 21–37% of total net anthropogenic GHG emissions”.<sup>3</sup>

Forest emissions are largely ignored because they are not counted as part of B.C.’s official emissions in provincial greenhouse gas inventories, as noted in the February 2019 Forest and Carbon in BC report by Dr. Jim Pojar.<sup>4</sup> In addition, the Old Growth Strategic Review [STRATEGIC-REVIEW-20200430.pdf \(gov.bc.ca\)](https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/environment/climate-change/data/provincial-inventory) concludes noting that the understanding of

<sup>2</sup> (<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/environment/climate-change/data/provincial-inventory>, n.d.)

<sup>3</sup> ([https://www.ipcc.ch/site/assets/uploads/sites/4/2020/02/SPM\\_Updated-Jan20.pdf](https://www.ipcc.ch/site/assets/uploads/sites/4/2020/02/SPM_Updated-Jan20.pdf), n.d.)

<sup>4</sup> (<https://engage.gov.bc.ca/app/uploads/sites/563/2020/09/STRATEGIC-REVIEW-20200430.pdf>, n.d.)

**SUBJECT: UBCM Resolution: Protection of Old Growth Forests**

April 12, 2021

forest behaviour and management, as well as the effects of climate change, have made it clear that we can no longer continue to harvest timber and manage forests using the approaches we have in the past while also conserving the forest values we cherish.

**Conclusion:**

The District of North Vancouver, as part of the climate emergency declared in 2019, should forward a motion to the UBCM as it relates to old growth forests, their protection and relationship with GHGs and climate change to ensure the health and safety of BC forests for generations to come.

**Options:**

1. That the motion, as presented in UBCM Resolution: Protection of Old Growth Forests is supported.
2. That the motion is not supported.

Respectfully submitted,



Lisa Muri  
Councillor

REVIEWED WITH:		
<input type="checkbox"/> Community Planning	_____	<input type="checkbox"/> Clerk's Office
<input type="checkbox"/> Development Planning	_____	<input type="checkbox"/> Communications
<input type="checkbox"/> Development Engineering	_____	<input type="checkbox"/> Finance
<input type="checkbox"/> Utilities	_____	<input type="checkbox"/> Fire Services
<input type="checkbox"/> Engineering Operations	_____	<input type="checkbox"/> ITS
<input type="checkbox"/> Parks	_____	<input type="checkbox"/> Solicitor
<input type="checkbox"/> Environment	_____	<input type="checkbox"/> GIS
<input type="checkbox"/> Facilities	_____	<input type="checkbox"/> Real Estate
<input type="checkbox"/> Human Resources	_____	<input type="checkbox"/> Bylaw Services
<input type="checkbox"/> Review and Compliance	_____	<input type="checkbox"/> Planning
		External Agencies:
		<input type="checkbox"/> Library Board
		<input type="checkbox"/> NS Health
		<input type="checkbox"/> RCMP
		<input type="checkbox"/> NVRC
		<input type="checkbox"/> Museum & Arch.
		<input type="checkbox"/> Other:

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