



File: 19720-01

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November 21, 2022

VIA EMAIL: mail@northislandwoodlot.ca

Wolfram Wollenheit, President
North Island Woodlot Association
PO Box 3604 Stn Main
Courtenay, BC V9N 6Z8

Dear Wolfram Wollenheit:

Thank you for your letter of September 14, 2022, to Doug Routley, Parliamentary Secretary for Forests, regarding the Woodlot Licence Program and in follow-up to last summer's field trip in the Campbell River area. I have been asked to respond.

I am sure you can appreciate the challenges government faces in meeting multiple resource objectives on our provincial Crown land while also addressing First Nations interests in their ancestral lands. The history of the Esquimalt & Nanaimo (E&N) Land Grants of 1884 has made it very challenging for government to reconcile with First Nations on eastern Vancouver Island. Most of the timber volume in British Columbia is fully allocated and it is very difficult to locate alternate areas for area-based tenures, including woodlots.

I can assure you Ministry of Forests staff are working with the Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation to explore solutions to this issue. I would encourage woodlot licensees to work with government to explore viable options should the K'omoks First Nation ratify the proposed treaty agreement. In some cases, this may include compensation.

I fully support the Woodlot Licence Program and agree it provides individuals the privilege to manage Crown lands in a unique way that benefits local communities and creates opportunities to demonstrate forestry excellence. I wish you success in your endeavours and appreciate your commitment to the program.

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Ministry of Forests

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Wolfram Wollenheit, President

Again, thank you for writing to express your concerns.

Sincerely,



Matt Austin
Assistant Deputy Minister

pc: Honourable Katrine Conroy, Minister of Forests
Doug Routley, Parliamentary Secretary for Forests
Leslie Fettes, District Manager, Campbell River Natural Resource District,
Ministry of Forests
Steve Rogers, Forest Tenures Section Head, West Coast Region, Ministry of Forests
Doug Kelly, Director, Forest Tenures Branch, Ministry of Forests
Heinz Dyck, Chief Negotiator, Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation
Paula Mackay, Resource Manager, West Coast Region, Ministry of Forests
Randy Husband, Director Pricing, Tenures and Administration, West Coast Region,
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