

OLD-GROWTH ACTION GUIDE

On British Columbia's coast, old-growth forests can harbor trees that grow to be 1800 years old, have trunks as wide as living rooms and grow as tall as skyscrapers. Old-growth forests are home to many species that can't live in younger forests. They also sequester more atmospheric carbon to counteract climate change than second-growth forests do. In addition, old-growth forests are fundamental pillars of BC's multi-billion dollar coastal tourism industry. And they are of great cultural importance to coastal First Nations people. Unfortunately, over 70% of the productive old-growth forests on Vancouver Island and the Southwest Mainland have been logged, including 90% of the valley bottoms where the biggest trees grow.

The BC government is expected to announce a new Coastal Old-Growth Plan soon. If you care about this incredible environmental treasure, please take action! Here's what you can do:

1. WRITE a LETTER to the BC government.

Do letters help? YES! Every letter politicians get represents hundreds of others who feel the same way. Start with BC's Premier Gordon Campbell. Handwritten letters are better than emails.

Premier Gordon Campbell premier@gov.bc.ca

Rich Coleman, Minister of Forests and Range rich.coleman.mla@leg.bc.ca

Barry Penner, Minister of Environment barry.penner.mla@leg.bc.ca

All at: Legislative Buildings, Victoria, BC V8V 1X4

Let the BC Liberal government know if you think it should:

- Enact a short timeline to end the logging of old-growth forests on Vancouver Island and the Southwest Mainland where old-growth forests are scarce, in order to protect wildlife, tourism, and the climate.
- Ensure that second-growth forests are logged sustainably.
- Ban raw log exports to foreign mills in order to protect BC forestry jobs.

2. SIGN and CIRCULATE our PETITION at www.viforest.org

Sign online and also download hardcopies to circulate among neighbors, classmates, co-workers, at church, and on busy streets. Return signed hardcopies to our office (see below).

3. ATTEND upcoming RALLIES and EVENTS.

- Sat., Oct. 13 in Victoria: Ancient Forest Rally, 11:30 am Centennial Square, march to Legislative Buildings by 12:00 noon for Speeches
- Wed., Oct. 17 at BC Liberal constituency offices across BC: Petition drives and info pickets.
- Wed., Oct.24 in Cities around the World: Petition drives and Protests. Contact us to take part! See below.

4. HOST a LETTER-WRITING POTLUCK

Have friends, acquaintances, and extended family over for food and to write brief letters. Use this guide.

5. Volunteer, join, or donate to the Wilderness Committee's coastal old-growth campaign. Contact us at:

Wilderness Committee, 651 Johnson St., Victoria, BC V8W 1M7 wc2vic@island.net 250-388-9292

See photos, maps, stats, info at: www.viforest.org and www.wcvcvictoria.org