



Dan Rogers, Chair
Galiano Island Local Trust Committee
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July 19, 2019

File Number: 3026-01; 4960-30

Via Email: FLNR.Minister@gov.bc.ca

The Honourable Doug Donaldson
Minister of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations
and Rural Development
P.O. Box 9049, Stn Prov Govt
Victoria BC V8W 9E2

Dear Minister Donaldson:

Re: Private Managed Forest Land Act (PMFLA) Consultation Feedback from Galiano Island Local Trust Committee

The Galiano Island Local Trust Committee is writing in response to the *Private Managed Forest Land Act* review consultation and asks that the Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development amend Section 21 of the *Private Managed Forest Land Act* since it supersedes local trust committees under the *Islands Trust Act* to implement bylaws and Official Community Plans within the Islands Trust Area.

The regulatory framework, while intended to support the achievement of key environmental management objectives, provides very little oversight and enforcement, provides no public engagement opportunities, and has no requirement for stewardship plans to be filed before activities take place.

The current benefits for owners of their land being in the Private Managed Forest Land Program are considerable; however, a subscriber to this program is not required to share harvesting plans with the public or local government, sustainable forestry practices are only suggested, and the subscriber is free to exit the program after 15 years. Should the property owner exit the program before 15 years, the only obligation is to remit the taxes that would have been owed should the owner not have entered into the program by paying taxes at the regular rate.

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While the broad goals of the *Private Managed Forest Land Act* may have been relevant when it was enacted in 2003, they fail to incorporate the climate crises that we are currently facing. Governments, and those they govern, are just beginning to understand how closely linked the health of humanity is with that of the environment. While the *Private Managed Forest Land Act* supports many environmental values, stronger regulations and enforcement measures are necessary to ensure sustainable forestry practices are followed.

The impacts of forestry practices on Galiano's community are significant, since approximately 13% of Galiano is private managed forest. Communities deserve improved communication and regulation regarding these lands as they impact watersheds, economies, and other key community values.

The climate crises is stressing and will continue to stress our Island's resiliency. Governments must now tailor legislation, whenever possible, to better support our ecosystems, which in turn will support our economy, our food security, our freshwater supply, and our community's viability. It is for these reasons that we request the Minister amend Section 21 of the *Private Managed Forest Land Act* and allow local governments to implement bylaws in support of Official Community Plans within the Islands Trust Area.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Dan Rogers', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Dan Rogers, Chair
Galiano Island Local Trust Committee

cc: Galiano Island Local Trust Committee
Robert Kojima, Regional Planning Manager, Islands Trust
Brad Smith, Island Planner, Islands Trust