



SEP 12 2013

Reference: 199053

Ruth Simons Executive Director
Future of Howe Sound Society
Box 465
Lions Bay, BC V0N 2E0

Dear Ruth Simons:

Thank you for your letter of April 24, 2013, to the Honourable Christy Clark, Premier, requesting that the Province of British Columbia initiate a Land and Resource Management Plan (LRMP) process for the Howe Sound area and place a moratorium on approvals of any heavy or non-renewable industry in Howe Sound. I have been asked by Premier Clark to respond.

An LRMP process would require substantial financial and staff commitments, including government-to-government negotiations with First Nations. At this time, the province believes that there are a number of existing processes available to address public interests related to development in the Howe Sound area; these processes are less costly while also ensuring that environmental, economic and social interests are balanced in decision-making. These tools include: environmental assessments; public consultation on specific resource applications; biodiversity and wildlife management initiatives; visual quality objectives for forestry; and land use planning by local governments.

The provincial government is committed to growing a strong economy and creating high-paying jobs for British Columbians across diverse economic sectors. It is equally committed to environmental sustainability, as demonstrated by the fact that almost 37 percent of the South Coast Region, of which the Howe Sound area is a part, has already been designated for parks, protected and conservation areas.

I understand that staff from the Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations (FLNR), and the Ministry of Jobs, Tourism and Skills Training, attended as observers at the April 13, 2013 forum organized by the Future of Howe Sound Society. FLNR is interested in continuing to attend these types of meetings to provide advice and assistance where it can. The FLNR contact is Jeff Juthans, Land and Resource Specialist, South Coast Region. He can be reached at 604-586-4287 or by email at Jeff.Juthans@gov.bc.ca. I have asked FLNR staff to provide me with updates on this initiative.

Thank you for writing and sharing the information on the work of the Future of Howe Sound Society.

Sincerely,



Steve Thomson
Minister

Pc. Honourable Christy Clark, Premier
Honourable Shirley Bond, Minister of Jobs, Tourism and Skills Training
Jordan Sturdy, MLA, West Vancouver-Sea to Sky