April 4, 2011

Mayor Darren Inkster and Council
District of Sechelt
PO Box 129
Sechelt BC V0N 3A0

Re: Block EW002, Wilson Creek Watershed

Dear Mayor Inkster and Councillors;

The Roberts Creek Community Association (RCCA) is a local group of concerned citizens that has been active on the Sunshine Coast since 1934. Our board is elected from our community on an annual basis in part to speak to local issues and community concerns.

At our March 23, 2011 RCCA General Meeting all present voted to communicate with the District of Sechelt our concerns about the planned logging of the 27 hectare Block EW002 and any other remaining intact forest in the Wilson Creek Watershed.

We agree with the Elphinstone Logging Focus group with regards the following:

1. The highest priority for all local citizens and their elected representatives must be the protection of the remaining remnants of older intact and old growth forest for all our health and well being.

2. The Community Forest clearly sees one purpose for this remaining old growth and older intact forest and that is as a commodity.

3. That as a commodity, the community itself sees few benefits. Trees are simply logged and most raw logs are sent elsewhere for processing. This is an irresponsible and unsustainable practice that we do not support or agree to.

4. When intact and old growth forests are logged indiscriminately we lose the many services provided by those forests, all of which we must assume that in this day the District of Sechelt is well aware of. They include, however, flood control, carbon sequestering, water filtration, moderating air and water temperatures, wildlife habitat, wild food harvesting areas, and more.

The Sunshine Coast Community Forest’s Mission Statement is to profitably manage the Sunshine Coast Community Forest in a sustainable, effective and environmentally sensitive manner with broad community participation and support. Further to the above points, we question how the logging of the last remaining remnants of old growth and older intact forests in any way relates to a ‘sustainable, effective and environmentally sensitive’ approach to managing our Community Forest.
As such, the only wise and informed option for us is to insist the District of Sechelt immediately halt planned logging activities in Block EW002 and any other remaining intact forest in the Wilson Creek Watershed.

Regards,

Mary Degan, President
Roberts Creek Community Association

CC
Sunshine Coast Regional District
Sunshine Coast Community Forest
ELF – Elphinstone Logging Focus
Sunshine Coast Conservation Society
Ministry of Forests
The Local
The Coast Reporter