

# Lax Kw'alaams Band Council

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May 28, 2009

Future Forest Ecosystem Science Council  
Victoria, BC

Dear Madam and Sir:

I write to support Coast Tsimshian Resource's (CTR) proposed Future Forest Ecosystem work to develop a climate adaptation plan with the communities in this region.

CTR is a Limited Liability Partnership, with its limited liability units held by every man, woman and child in the Lax Kw'alaams community. The community is increasingly dependent on the license and looking forward strongly to further developments in the region arising from CTR's strategic initiatives. In addition, the First Nations communities of Kitsumkalum and Kitselas also have Non Renewable Forest Licenses in the study area. The civic communities of Terrace and Prince Rupert where many of our people live, and where the people employed by CTR and the other licenses also live, are also highly dependent on the forest ecosystem and its industrial sectors.

Not far to the east of CTR's licenses, due to fifteen years of unprecedented warm winters, the MPB has grown to catastrophic proportions and devastated the forests. Without warning some 100 neighboring First Nation's communities now face the threat of having lost a large proportion of the mature trees in their region.

Commencing in 2006, Professor Mathews from the sociology department in UBC began to work with the people and elders in our communities, who shared with him their view of the impending impacts of climate change. This work studies how our community, and its neighboring communities understood the impacts and possible opportunities of climate change. It did not work with us to develop adaptation plans which have to be developed by the community, for the community. But for that we need to understand better the range of trends and the effect on the resources we value, that climate change may bring. The Lax Kw'alaams community embodies generations of experience with change taking place in our traditional resources, from which we can draw in developing appropriate adaptive action plans.

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So we look forward over the next two years to working with CTR, UBC, University of Victoria, Ministry of Environment, Cortex, ESSA and WWF to better understand and to collectively develop an adaptive respond to these changes in the best possible way.

Yours Truly  
Lax Kw'alaams Band

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J. Helin', with a stylized flourish at the end.

John Helin  
Chief Councillor