

Statement to Cowichan Watershed Board
24 February 2020
(By: Roger Wiles)

Thank you Mr. Chairman for this opportunity to speak. I want to praise the Cowichan Watershed Board.

In particular, I wish to commend this Board's written submission to BC's Old Growth Strategic Review Panel. Signed by the co-chairs, this is a seminal document with potentially far-reaching policy implications that should be read and appreciated by everyone in the community.

The Board has signalled that their mandate of concern is not just about a river, or a lake, or an estuary. It is not just about engineering a dam or saving fish. It is about the whole watershed complex.

This substantive document goes to the heart of our collective quest as a community to return the long-suffering land to health and abundance.

I hope the Board will expand its "aspirational targets" to properly encompass what is described in this Old Growth Submission. Our community should have an ongoing measure of full-profile forest cover in the watershed. After all, what target can be more fundamental to tracking whole-watershed health?

Again, thank you for recognizing and upholding the holistic, ecological integrity of our Cowichan watersheds.