

Walbran Wednesday Sample Script – Wednesday, November 2nd

**We can't predict exactly how your conversation will go, but this script can help guide your call and provide you with sample responses to possible scenarios with the staff at Minister Polak's office(s). Depending on the staff's response, you may not have the opportunity to express all the points you want to make during the call. But at the very least, be sure that they note your call and register your opposition to logging in the Central Walbran Valley. When you are speaking to staff, please remember to be respectful.*

Hi, my name is _____, and I'm calling to urge the Minister to listen to the public and formally oppose cutblock 4424 and the other planned cutblocks in the endangered Central Walbran Valley on southern Vancouver Island.

Why hasn't Minister Polak opposed the destruction of the Walbran, and what will it take for her to stand up on this critical issue?

If they allow you to proceed with voicing your concerns, or transfer you to someone else who will take your call:

I'm very concerned about logging in the Central Walbran Valley because this area contains some of the last intact tracts of old-growth temperate rainforest left on southern Vancouver Island. Over 90 per cent of low-elevation old-growth on the Island has been removed, and there simply aren't enough of these monumental forests left to continue to log. Recent research published by Sierra Club BC shows that the current rate of old-growth logging will lead to ecosystem extinction if continued.

Old-growth forests provide habitat for endangered species, they purify water, and they store more carbon than younger forests, which we need to reduce the impacts of climate change. Intact forests with extremely large and old trees are also irreplaceable resources for culture and tourism.

This isn't just an activist issue, calls to protect Vancouver Island's old-growth have been made by hereditary chiefs, union leaders, and some of Canada's top scientists:

<http://vancouver.sun.com/opinion/opinion-remaining-old-growth-forest-must-be-protected>

I have a personal connection to the Central Walbran because... *(use your own words and explain your own personal reasons for wanting to protect this area – be yourself!)*

This is an opportunity for Minister Polak to show leadership by listening to the thousands of people speaking up about this issue and calling for this very special area of ancient forest to be protected.

If they say that BC government staff have met with ENGO's on this issue:

I know, but these discussions have not gone anywhere because the company has refused to stay out of the Walbran. It's time for the Ministry of Environment to get involved in this crisis.

If the staff says that the Minister is aware of the issue and further comments can be made by email:

I know, but the Minister has remained silent on this issue, despite receiving thousands of emails on this already (Minister Polak has received more than 8,000 emails on the Walbran Valley just through the Wilderness Committee’s website).

If the staff says that the BC government has to ensure that any forest policy decisions don’t negatively affect jobs or the local economy:

The area we are asking to protect in the Central Walbran Valley is just 486 hectares, which is a very small fraction of Teal Jones’ licence area in TFL 46. (You may refer them to the Wilderness Committee’s map of the area, which was shared with the company months ago and is available at WildernessCommittee.org/walbran) Additionally, motions against old-growth logging in areas like the Walbran Valley have been passed by the Union of BC Municipalities and by the BC Chamber of Commerce, who cited the importance of intact old-growth to local economies.

If/when they try to end the call:

Please formally oppose all planned cutblocks in the Central Walbran Valley, north of the Walbran River. The Environment Minister’s job is to protect the environment, and I urge Minister Polak to stand with citizens, municipalities and local businesses on this important issue. Thank you.

If they ask if they can take your contact information and have someone call you back:

It’s up to you – you can either give them an opportunity to return your call, or use some of the points in this script to write an email to Minister Polak.

Other helpful points, facts and statistics:

- Some of the biggest trees in the world are within Teal Jones’ cutblocks – including 1,000-yearold trees, some with circumferences as big as a living room. Forests with trees like this are living monuments, and should be treated as such.
- More than 90% of low-elevation old-growth on Vancouver Island has already been logged.
- More than 8,000 people – in addition to [the Union of BC Municipalities](#) and [the BC Chamber of Commerce](#) – have written to the Minister of Forests and asked him to rescind the permit for Teal Jones’ cutblock 4424 and stop old-growth logging in the Walbran Valley