

## WalbranWednesday Sample Script – Wednesday, September 7<sup>th</sup>

*\*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. Depending on Teal Jones' 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 Teal Jones notes your call and registers your opposition to their logging plans in the Central Walbran Valley. When you are speaking to representatives of the company, please remember to be respectful.*

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Hi, my name is \_\_\_\_\_, and I'm calling to ask Teal Jones to not log cutblock 4424 and the other planned cutblocks in the endangered Central Walbran Valley on southern Vancouver Island.

Who can I talk to about cancelling these logging plans?

*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 finest intact tracts of old-growth temperate rainforest left on southern Vancouver Island. Over 90% 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. A 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.

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 your company to show leadership by listening to the thousands of people speaking up about this issue and saving this very special area of ancient forest from being destroyed.

*If they respond by stating that Teal Jones uses industry-leading sustainable forest management practices, or tell you that their logging plans have been approved after an environmental review and First Nations consultation:*

I know that any industrial logging in an old-growth area as rare as the Central Walbran Valley will have serious lasting impacts, no matter how "sustainable" the logging practices claim to be. I have seen [the photos of your company's cutblocks logged this past winter](#), and the damage is appalling.

*If they say that they've met with ENGO's and the provincial government and tried to reach a solution:*

I know, and these talks broke down after your company retracted an offer to do a site visit, and declined further discussions about setting the Central Walbran aside.

If they say they need to harvest those cutblocks in order to ensure a supply for their mill and keep their employees at work:

**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](http://WildernessCommittee.org/walbran))**

If they mention that the area in question is right next to Carmanah-Walbran Provincial Park, which has already been protected:

**The unprotected Central Walbran Valley forest contains monumental trees of a large size and great age that is equal to or better than what's found in the park, and this area is worthy of full protection. Our goal is to have it added to the park.**

If/when they try to end the call:

**Please cancel all plans to log in the eight planned cutblocks in the Central Walbran Valley, north of the Walbran River. Please know that I will continue advocating against Teal Jones until this happens. 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 the company.

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#### **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 several [municipal governments 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