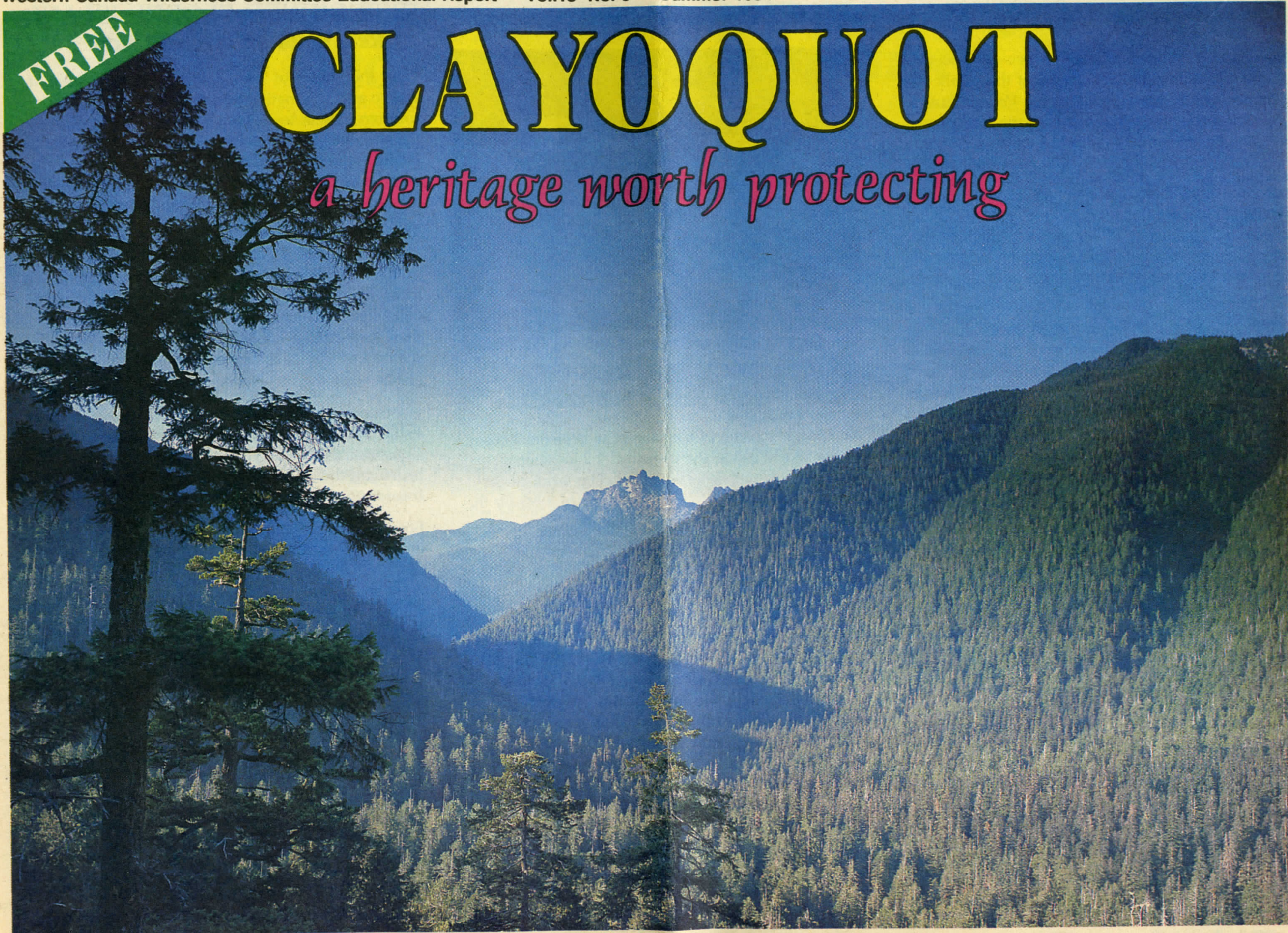


FREE

# CLAYOQUOT

*a heritage worth protecting*





# Scientific support increases for preserving Clayoquot's magnificent ancient rainforests



Ancient redcedars growing in lower Clayoquot River Valley.

Coastal temperate rainforests have always been a rare ecotype on Earth. After the last ice age they covered only 0.2 percent of Earth's land area. Today 90 percent of these wild forests are gone. The 10 percent that is left—one-quarter of it in B.C.—is disappearing at an accelerating rate. One of the largest contiguous tracts of ancient temperate rainforest left on the planet is found in Clayoquot Sound on Vancouver Island. Its "crowning glory" is, at the same time, its nemesis...the huge trees with strong wood that make the best lumber in the world.

This 262,000 hectare region has become a global flash point in the effort to define and put into practice the murky concept of "sustainable development". Who owns and controls the resources? How much of the natural, wild ecosystem must be preserved? What types of activities are compatible with the conservation of biodiversity? What methods of resource "harvesting" will keep them sustainable?

The B.C. government claimed it could "sustain development" through its April '93 decision to allow logging in over two-thirds of Clayoquot's remaining ancient forest. Dr. Brent Ingram of U.B.C.'s Faculty of Forestry issued a report in February of 1994 concluding that this decision is not based in science and will result in the loss of biodiversity. Developments that sacrifice biodiversity are not sustainable over time. Science and the traditional knowledge of First Nations will help to change the government's short sighted Clayoquot decision. The Nuuchahnulth Central Region's *Interim Measures Agreement*, ratified with the provincial government this spring, along with the recommendations of the Scientific Panel for Clayoquot Sound present a new vision for Clayoquot Sound (see articles p. 3). But will the spirit of these documents be implemented with their vision intact?

The Wilderness Committee believes that these brave new steps towards sustainability are hampered by the fact that the logging rights to almost all the forest resource in Clayoquot are vested in two big forest companies. The government has given them the right to cut unsustainable amounts of timber—600,000 cubic metres of wood—15,000 logging trucks worth—annually in Clayoquot Sound.

Conservation biologists tell us that to conserve biodiversity we need to protect large wilderness areas. All of the remaining still-wild valleys and islands must be protected. If we hope to hand on Earth's natural bounty to sustain future generations, compromise is not the answer. There is too little left.

Last year more than 850 people were arrested in Clayoquot Sound for defying court orders outlawing the blockading of logging roads. It was the largest expression of civil disobedience in Canadian history. So far the efforts of conservationists, both legal and illegal, have been in vain. But the fight to achieve truly sustainable development in Clayoquot Sound continues.



## Clayoquot Valley Witness Trail a wild success

This summer, Wilderness Committee volunteers will be scrambling to keep ahead of the public that is clamouring to hike the *Clayoquot Valley Witness Trail*. The problem is that much of the trail goes over wet boggy soils that could be trampled into a mud wallow. Thus the need for cedar boardwalks.

Last year more than 10,000 volunteer work hours went into clearing the *Witness Trail* and boardwalking its first 2.5 kilometres. Much of the rest of the approximately 23 kilometre long trail must be boardwalked before heavy use damages the forest floor.

WCWC needs two things to finish the trail: donations to cover the \$15 a day it takes to feed and provide supervision for trail building volunteers...and volunteers. WCWC's trail projects coordinator Joe Foy knows that both are equally important. As Joe puts it, some people have more time than money, others more money than time, and both are needed to complete this project. **A \$50 donation gets your name carved in a boardwalk plank.**

If you visit Clayoquot Sound and have even half a day to spare, take a walk on the *Witness Trail* and experience just a bit of Clayoquot's ancient temperate rainforest. You'll know why there's the passion to protect it.

WCWC is building the trail with the permission of the Tla-o-qui-aht First Nations, who are the traditional owners of Clayoquot Valley. Both ends of the *Witness Trail*—in the upper Kennedy Valley and along Desilero ("No Road") Creek—were flagged as logging road routes by MacMillan Bloedel in the spring of 1994.



Witness trail boardwalk features sponsorship planks.

### EXPERIENCE MEARES ISLAND —take a walk on the boardwalk!

You can see some of the largest western redcedars in the world along the beautiful 1.2 kilometre *Meares Big Cedar Boardwalk* trail. The work-of-art boardwalk was built in the summer of 1993 by the Tla-o-qui-aht First Nations. Revel in the surrounding rainforest as you make your way to the "Hanging Garden" tree, B.C.'s second largest cedar. Feel the power of the ancient giants. It's an experience you will always cherish.

The 8,000 hectare Meares Island was declared a Tribal Park by First Nations in 1984. The Tla-o-qui-ahts and Ahousahts reconfirmed Tribal park status in 1993. Together, the Nuuchahnulth central region tribes have spent more than a million dollars on legal fees defending Meares from logging. The native owners of Meares welcome visitors who come to enjoy the beauty of their island in a non-consumptive way.

On right - wild forested mountains occupy the centre of picturesque Flores Island - Ahousaht homeland.

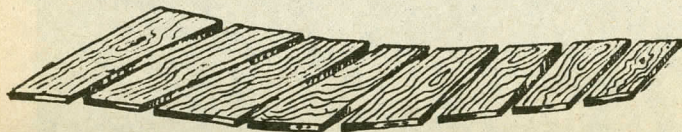
### EXPERIENCE FLORES ISLAND —take a walk on the wild side!

Over the winter of 1994, some Ahousat women of native and non-native descent developed an eco-tourism project to create employment, provide training and foster awareness of their home, Flores Island. This spectacular 15,000 hectare island, mostly covered in ancient temperate rainforest, is located in the centre of Clayoquot Sound.

This non-profit First Nations' Ahousat Women's Initiative, called a *Walk on the Wild Side*, includes guided boat trips from Tofino to Ahousat, interpreted forest walks, exploration of wild west coast beaches, interaction with Ahousat artisans at their new *Arts of Paawac* centre and sumptuous seafood meals. Take this opportunity to experience Flores with its First Nation owners.

For information and reservations for *Walk on the Wild Side*, water taxi service to the *Meares Big Cedar Boardwalk Trail*, or for other Nuuchahnulth tours call the Nuuchahnulth Booking and Information Centre 1-800-665-9425.

For information about other eco-tourism opportunities in Clayoquot Sound call the Tofino Chamber of Commerce Information Centre at 725-3414.



## Pristine Watersheds and Islands in Clayoquot Sound







# CLAYOQUOT FIRST NATIONS AND BC GOVERNMENT SIGN INTERIM AGREEMENT

On March 19, 1994, in the village of Ahousat on Flores Island, the First Nations of the Central Region of the Nuuchahnulth Tribal Council and the Province of B.C. signed an historic two year *Interim Measures Agreement*.

This legal document sets out how decisions regarding resource development in Clayoquot Sound will be made until a treaty with the First Nations, who have aboriginal title to the region, is successfully negotiated. The federal government is expected to initiate these treaty negotiations in the very near future.

The B.C. government, embarrassed by First Nations' criticisms that they'd been left out of the infamous April 13 decision to clearcut in two-thirds of Clayoquot Sound (the B.C. Ombudsman later confirmed that government had indeed failed to consult with the First Nations), went to the negotiating table last winter to rectify this oversight. The resulting *Interim Measures Agreement* establishes a Central Region Board which gives the First Nations virtual veto power over resource management and land use planning within Clayoquot Sound.

The goals of the Agreement include:

- to apply the concept of a tribal park to areas within Clayoquot Sound including all or part of Flores Island, Meares Island and the Clayoquot River Valley;
- to protect Culturally Modified Trees (evidence of continuous occupancy and use of the forest by First Nations);
- to conduct a complete forest audit of Clayoquot Sound including all plant, bird, fish and animal species;
- to restore and enhance levels of fish and wildlife and damaged stream and forest areas within Clayoquot Sound;

- to increase local ownership within the forest industry; and
- to establish a Working Group to consider, amongst other things, forest tenures or licences, road reclamation, trail construction, and tourism opportunities.

**"The Hawiuh (Hereditary Chiefs) of the First Nations have the responsibility to preserve and protect their traditional territories and waters for generations which will follow." - *Interim Measures Agreement***

Through a double majority vote system, First Nations' board members can reject development plans which don't meet their criteria for sustainability. The Central Region Board can choose to send a controversial decision to B.C. Cabinet for review. But if Cabinet refuses to support their decision, the issue ends up in a public debate between hereditary chiefs and members of Cabinet, which is not something that the B.C. government would relish.

The spirit of the Agreement, according to both the B.C. government and First Nations representatives who spoke at the ratification ceremonies, is not, however, to freeze all development but to work cooperatively towards truly sustainable land use. Conflicts, however, are bound to occur as the Central Region Board takes on its challenge of land use management, especially since the First Nations are on record supporting a ban on clearcut logging in Clayoquot Sound and have expressed enthusiasm for the ecosystem-based recommendations coming out of the Scientific

Panel, which was set up to provide direction for new forestry in Clayoquot Sound.

The Wilderness Committee believes that it is impossible to implement ecosystem-based forestry which will protect soils, water, fish and biodiversity and, at the same time, maintain the annual allowable cut of 600,000 cubic meters of wood which the big company Tree Farm License (TFL) holders—MacMillan Bloedel and International Forest Products—are expecting out of Clayoquot. We believe that our only solution is to hold the federal government to its promise to provide greater protection in Clayoquot and demand that it provide the necessary resources to unencumber the land from current tenures. Then, the Central Region Board can take direction from nature, not industry cut levels, in planning the protection and use of Clayoquot.

## Scientific Panel says "avoid clearcutting" in Clayoquot Sound

Attempting to make its April '93 decision to allow logging in most Clayoquot Sound acceptable to the public, the B.C. government set up a Scientific Panel to ensure that any logging there would meet the "highest scientific standards" in the world.

The panel is not allowed to consider whether or not the "islands of preservation" established by the decision will adequately protect biodiversity.

But the Panel's March, '94 interim report concludes that current forest practices lead to the loss of biodiversity. It recommends new, holistic "ecosystem-based" practices that:

- maintain the integrated functions of soils, freshwater, marine and forest ecosystems.



# Look who's watching the forests now!

by Garth Lenz - Friends of Clayoquot Sound

On March 30th, 1994 I sat with Valerie Langer, also a campaigner for the Friends of Clayoquot Sound, in a London boardroom with representatives of Greenpeace U.K., the B.C. government, B.C. forest industry giant MacMillan Bloedel (MB), major U.K. publishers and the press. We explained why clearcut logging is not a sustainable forest practice in the ancient temperate rainforests of B.C.

MB representatives and B.C.'s Chief Forester, John Cuthbert (flown in especially for the meeting) chanted their familiar mantra—all the problems in B.C. forestry are past history. It's all changed. Now we have world-class "performance-based" logging.

"These changes you speak of, are they being undertaken due to the work of the environmentalists?", asks one of the paper buyers. "Yes," answers Mr. Cuthbert, as numerous journalists recorded his honest response. Then he noticed "looks that could

kill" directed at him from B.C. industry reps. Cowering like an animal caught in the head-lights of an oncoming vehicle, Cuthbert recants, "If this is for the record, then my answer is no."

As our Chief Forester spoke in London, MB's chainsaws were ripping through ancient hemlock, cedar, and spruce in Clayoquot Sound's Bulson Valley, creating clearcuts in this 8,000 hectare watershed, which is still 97 percent pristine. We also knew that there is no "performance-based logging in B.C."; that there are no laws to stop clearcutting. The 40 hectare clearcuts proposed under the new *Forest Practices Code* (which won't be fully implemented for two-and-a-half years!) are no cure for the eco-destruction going on. It's simply window dressing.

This summer the Friends of Clayoquot Sound are establishing a Forestwatch Programme. It will address the need for effective monitoring of

• avoid clearcutting.

The panel also recommends that road construction and logging in any of Clayoquot's pristine valleys be delayed until full resource inventories and long-term plans have been approved and exemplary forest practices have been demonstrated elsewhere.

The big question is, will the B.C. government act on the Scientific Panel's recommendations?

logging activities in Clayoquot Sound. A team of trained activists will examine and document current and proposed cutblocks in the region and alert the public and the government to the reality of current forest practices. The so-called "World Class logging" will not stand up to the world class scrutiny we will give it.

*- The Friends, who last year ran the Peace Camp and helped organize logging road blockades where more than 850 people were arrested, are also continuing to campaign to gain protection for the large areas of ancient forest still remaining in Clayoquot Sound.*



Valerie Langer of FOCS overlooks new road and clearcut in Bulson Valley.



On left - Spring 1994 Bulson clearcut. Above - Ms. Langer beside fallen cedar giants in the Bulson.



# Stumping the world to save Clayoquot's ancient rainforest

Nicknamed "Stumpy", WCWC's four-ton, six-foot in diameter redcedar stump has logged over 50,000 kilometres so far on its journeys to raise support for WCWC's Clayoquot campaign, especially the building of its Clayoquot Witness Trail boardwalk. Stumpy even has a passport, issued by Greenpeace U.K. who "adopted" Stumpy for a European tour this spring.



## \*\*\*\*\*Special Warning\*\*\*\*\*

The new *Forest Practices Code* now before the B.C. legislature proposes to make it illegal to build new trails and maintain existing trails on public provincial forest lands without prior government approval. Offenders are liable to a maximum fine of \$100,000 and one year in jail. WCWC won the right to build trails in a 1988 court decision. Its Carmanah trail was instrumental in raising public support to save Canada's finest Sitka spruce.

## KIOSK GETS MESSAGE OUT

For the second summer in a row, visitors travelling Highway 4 from Port Alberni to Pacific Rim Park National Park Reserve and Tofino will know when they enter the Clayoquot Sound ecosystem. The Wilderness Committee information kiosk and huge banners saying *Welcome to Clayoquot Sound - Nuu-chah-nulth First Nations Territory* and *Save Clayoquot Sound - Protect B.C.'s Ancient Rainforest* along side the road at Sutton Pass make it unmistakably clear.

WCWC staff and volunteers at the Kiosk are heartened by the supporters—over 3,000 last

Last September WCWC extracted Stumpy from a clearcut near the start of its *Clayoquot Valley Witness Trail*. "When cut down it was still a baby tree, only about 390 years old, but it was all we could haul on the trans-Canada highway," says Adriane Carr, WCWC's Clayoquot campaign coordinator. It took a crew of eight volunteers five days to get the redcedar stump out of the ground and onto a specially built trailer.

Stumpy is due to return to Canada in July of '94. It will resume touring Ontario to increase pressure on the federal government to help resolve the Clayoquot controversy.

On left - Volunteers extract "Stumpy" from clearcut.  
On right - "Stumpy" debuts at B.C. legislature rally.



## Save Clayoquot Petition presented to Federal Government

One year less a day after the disastrous Provincial government decision to "compromise" Clayoquot Sound, Adriane Carr presented to Deputy Prime Minister Sheila Copps the Wilderness Committee's official *Save Clayoquot Sound* petition with over 120,000 signatures. It asked the Federal government to initiate negotiations with the First Nations and the Provincial Government with the view to ending the big forest company logging rights and protecting Clayoquot's irreplaceable wild forests.

Surprisingly, Ms. Copps intimated that this was not yet a strong enough show of support to get her government to act.

Since then the Wilderness Committee has gathered another 20,000 signatures and is distributing

100,000 opinion poll postcards to educate the Prime Minister as to how people feel about Clayoquot. Use the tear-out on this paper to request postcards and petitions. Your message to the Prime Minister is a crucial part of our Clayoquot campaign.



Ms. Carr (rt.) gives Ms. Copps (lt.) Clayoquot petition.

Write two letters... *your voice*  
really makes a difference.

Prime Minister Jean Chretien

Premier Mike Harcourt



as a Clayoquot Valley trail volunteer or donate to the Clayoquot campaign. The vast majority of tourists say they're turned off by the horrendous damage already done by clearcut logging visible from the only road into Clayoquot.

Re-opened on June 17, 1994 visitors to the Kiosk already have included a university hiking club, a team of German scientists studying amphibians, families on vacation, local residents and MacMillan Bloedel personnel.

#### CREDITS

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(no postage required in Canada)

*Let him know whether or not you think he should initiate talks to buy out the Tree Farm Licences in Clayoquot Sound and make good on his pre-election promise to help save the ancient forest there.*

(postage required)

*Let him know how you feel about his decision to allow clearcut logging of most of the big-treed ancient forest in Clayoquot Sound and whether or not you want further protection for biodiversity, salmon and First Nations' heritage there.*

## Opinion polls say public anti-clearcut logging

- Only 14 percent of Canadians surveyed nation-wide feel that the B.C. Government's decision to allow clearcut logging on approximately two-thirds of the land area in Clayoquot Sound was a good one.
- 67 percent of Canadians oppose the practice of clearcut logging. - Angus Reid poll, January, 1994
- 62.3 percent of British Columbians think that the government's new *Forest Practices Code* (now before the B.C. legislature) should allow only selective logging and ban all clearcut logging in British Columbia.  
- B.C. Ministry of Forests poll, March 31, 1994

**JOIN together with the tens of thousands who have already said...**

***Yes!* I will help save Clayoquot Sound's threatened ancient temperate rainforest!**

- ☐ I will distribute your opinion poll postcard and gather signatures on your official Clayoquot petition calling on the federal government to help protect Clayoquot's ancient forests. Please send me \_\_\_\_ copies of the postcard \_\_\_\_ copies of the petition.
- ☐ I can help financially. I understand WCWC is in great need of money and that you work entirely within the law and do not participate in any form of civil disobedience. Please use my tax deductible gift of \_\_\_\_\$25 \_\_\_\_\$50 \_\_\_\_\$100 \_\_\_\_\$500 \_\_\_\_other to:
- [ ] Please carved my name into a boardwalk plank (\$50 or more donation for this sponsorship). Revenue Canada Tax Reg. No. 0587113-21-28
- ☐ I want to become a Western Canada Wilderness Committee member. Enclosed is my \$30 annual membership fee.
- ☐ Enclosed is \$45 for a copy of *Clayoquot - On the Wildside*, your beautiful full-colour, hard-cover 144 page coffee table book that celebrates the wilderness on the west coast of Vancouver Island. I understand this price includes all applicable taxes, postage and shipping.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ Postal Code \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_



Please return to Western Canada Wilderness Committee (WCWC) , 20 Water Street, Vancouver, BC V6B 1A4