**Talking Points – Old Growth Campaign**

* Declare a moratorium on the logging of the oldest areas of old growth left in BC (only 2.7% of the original forests).
* Rescind logging licenses currently operating in these old growth forests in BC including the license of Teal Cedar at Fairy Creek.
* We are living in a time of climate emergency and mass extinctions.
* Large areas of Old Growth Forest mitigate against climate change.
	+ Old forests meld light and dark; their structural complexity can include large old living trees, large standing dead snags, a multi-layered canopy
	+ They absorb carbon, give off oxygen, and mitigate against forest fires
	+ They give us resilience against climate change
	+ They protect the habitat of a great variety of diverse plants, animals, and insects.
	+ They have a big impact on weather systems, with their own natural water cycle.
	+ Many areas of old growth forests include sacred sites to our First Nations, including Fairy Creek.
* Our government has promised to preserve the old growth forests but so far it is all reports, and no action. Meanwhile we continue to log old growth on Vancouver Island at the rate of a soccer field a day. We are down to 2.7% of the original old growth forest in BC and still cutting.
* One of the favoured uses of Canadian forests is the [production of soft toilette paper.](https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/british-columbia/toilet-paper-wars-contested-report-claims-tp-production-devastating-canadian-forests-1.5577467) (toilet paper is spelled incorrectly)
* Interdependent web of existence values the diversity and interconnectedness of all life. Our human survival is interconnected with the survival of all this diversity. We have to learn to manage our economy so that all life has a chance to survive.

Key actions include the following: • Immediately stop harvesting the rarest of the rare. › Retain all old forest in any ecosystem with less than 10% old remaining in order to preserve opportunities to implement existing old forest targets effectively. › Focus retention on higher productivity sites and irreplaceable very old/ ancient forests. › Where little to no old remains today, focus retention on productive mature stands, particularly in places with a long harvest history. • Develop and implement ecologically defensible targets for old forest (e.g., minimum of 30%). • Improve implementation to ensure that old forest retention protects the last remaining productive old forests, and protects functional forests for the future.