Dear Premier Horgan:

I am writing to tell you that it is time to declare a moratorium on the logging of old growth forests in BC, and to request you immediately rescind the license of Teal Cedar to log in the Fairy Creek old growth watershed.

The old growth forests in BC contribute to ecosystem resilience in the face of forest fires and extreme weather. They provide habitat for a great variety of unique plants, animals, birds and insects. They mitigate against climate change by absorbing carbon, releasing oxygen, and by providing their own unique water cycle and climate system. BC will be much less resistant to the threats of climate change when our old growth forests are all gone.

Our First Nations are doing their best to steward these sacred areas while faced with the continuous threat of clearcut logging. BC’s old growth forests must be declared as protected areas, with the First Nations of each territory designated as their stewards and guardians.

Your government has promised to protect our old growth forests, but so far, we have seen nothing but reports and no action while the old growth continues to be logged at the rate of a soccer field a day. It is time to stop before it is all gone.

Unitarians value the interdependent web of existence. We understand that diversity is a central principle in the evolution of life on this planet and that we are all interconnected and dependent on each other for our survival. It is morally unacceptable to destroy these incredibly diverse and sensitive ecosystems.

Please rescind the license of Teal Cedar to log in the Fairy Creek old growth watershed.

Sincerely,

Kathryn-Jane Hazel

Environmental Justice Task Force

First Unitarian Fellowship of Nanaimo

cc The Hon. Katrine Conway

Minister of Forest, Lands, Natural Resource Operations, and Rural Development

cc Sheila Malcolmson, MLA, Nanaimo, Minister of Mental Health and Addictions