



February 22, 2012

Hon. Steve Thomson, Minister of Forests,
Lands and Natural Resource Operations,
Government of British Columbia
Via Email

Re: Proposed Log-drop Zones at Flores Island, Clayoquot Sound

Dear Mr. Thomson,

We understand you have received an application by lisaak Forest Resources Ltd. for log-drop zone permits for Flores Island.

We are aware that lisaak has been working toward this stage for more than a year, with a road-building permit obtained, cut-blocks marked out and helipads cleared. We urge you not to approve the log-drop zone permits, so that ongoing efforts to seek alternative economic options for the Ahousaht people can continue.

We know you are familiar with the importance of the world-renowned pristine forests on Flores Island, which along with Meares Island and surrounding intact forest areas make Clayoquot Sound such an important tourist destination. We have no doubt you are as interested as we are in finding an alternative economic solution for the Ahousaht. In 1999 a Memorandum of Understanding was signed by the Central Region First Nations of the Nuu-Chah-Nulth Tribal Council / lisaak and four Environmental Groups to ensure, among other commitments, that the "eehmiis" areas, the pristine areas, of Clayoquot Sound, identified on a map, would not be logged. The proposed Flores Island logging runs counter to this MoU.

We would be grateful if you would disallow the proposed log-drop zone permits, and look forward to knowing your decision.

Regards,

John Neville, President
Federation of BC Naturalists (BC Nature)

cc Premier Christy Clark
South Island Natural Resource Acting District Manager- Calvin Ross
Opposition Forestry Critic Norm Macdonald