



## Prioritizing Healthy Forests in British Columbia

It's clear. The way we are managing B.C.'s forests is not working. Lumber mills are shutting down and laying off thousands of employees, old growth forests are being logged putting animals and fish at risk, and each year we are experiencing more intense flooding and fires. Without healthy forests, we risk losing the benefits they provide for our wildlife, for our economy, and for us and our children.

A **Biodiversity and Ecosystem Health Law** co-developed with and respecting the authority of our province's Indigenous Peoples should focus on restoring and improving our relationship with the natural world we depend on.

This law would give B.C.'s wild species and ecosystems a fighting chance to adapt to the harmful impacts of climate change and protect them from other human-caused disturbances. Strong protection will benefit us too, because the healthier our natural resources are, the better they will be at providing stable jobs, storing carbon, giving us clean air and water, and preventing major floods and landslides from ruining our roads and properties.

We've heard that passing this Law can't happen before the fall provincial election. So, until then, there's one way this Government can show they are serious about passing this law. They can write a letter instructing our forest directors in Castlegar and across BC to manage lands right now for biodiversity and ecosystem health, and not wait for the law to be passed. This is something that can happen before the fall provincial election.

**Ask your local MLA to internally push the B.C. government to write a letter, instructing our forest directors in Castlegar and across B.C. to manage lands right now for biodiversity and ecosystem health, and not wait for a law to be passed.**

Our community and forests can't wait for a law, we need the government to take action **right now**. If enough of us come together and tell our MLA that this law is a priority for our community, they will listen.

Take a **separate piece of paper** and write or type a letter to your MLA.



*Today's date at the top of your letter*

**Send a letter to:** your MLA

**Address:**

Ideas for your letter to your MLA:

- How would this Biodiversity and Ecosystem Health Law benefit you and your community?
- How will defending more land from logging improve life for you and your family?
- Why do you want a Biodiversity and Ecosystem Health Law?
- Encourage your MLA to request the need for a Biodiversity and Ecosystem Health Law, now!

## Letter Template

**Katrine Conroy**  
**1006 3 St #2,**  
**Castlegar, B.C.**  
**V1N 3X6**

**[Today's date]**

Dear Katrine,

My name is **[insert name]** and I live in **[insert current location]**.

I am writing to ask you to internally push the B.C. government to write a letter, instructing our forest directors in Castlegar and across B.C. to manage lands right now for biodiversity and ecosystem health. While I understand that a Biodiversity and Ecosystem Health Law will not be in place by the election this year, I want to see immediate action being taken to prioritize healthy forests, biodiversity, and good jobs in the province.

**(Optional)** I have a personal interest in this law because... **[insert testimony and/or statement of interest]**.

**(Optional)** I have concerns about **[logging mills shutting down/lack of protection of species at risk in BC/wildfires]**. The way we are currently managing forests in the province is not working. The draft Biodiversity and Ecosystem Health Framework is a step in the right direction, but it is crucial for these changes to happen right now. Our communities and forests can't wait for a law to be developed so until then, I want to see interim measures that are prioritizing healthy forests and good jobs in the province. By pushing the B.C.

*Neighbours United is a local non-profit community-driven organization that brings together local residents to protect the natural environment while building just, equitable, healthy, and livable communities.*



government to write a letter to forest directors, you can ensure our communities are being cared for until long-term legislation is in place.

Some reasons why I think we need to prioritize biodiversity and ecosystem health right now in the province: **[insert reasons (eg. to support stable jobs, protect wildlife, save old-growth forests, protect property from floods, wildfires and landslides... etc.)]**.

I appreciate you reviewing my comments and trust that you will take my request into serious consideration.

**[insert signature, location]**