



August 4, 2017

Sharon Hadway, Regional Executive Director,
West Coast Operations
Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations
Suite #103 – 2100 Labieux Road
Nanaimo, BC V9T 6E9

Dear Sharon,

Thank you for your letter of July 27, 2017 that I received today responding to my letter of May 3, 2017. I look forward to receiving a formal offer of the community forest agreement tenure in the next few weeks based on your letter. Thank you for the commitment to have government consider amending the regulation to allow for a unique Haida Gwaii solution for the CFA opportunity that could enable 100% of the revenues to remain here and be invested in the communities, rural areas and community forest. That would certainly help to mitigate some of the concerns about the constraints of the tenure and its contribution to the local economy.

I expect that community consultation on a management plan will reconfirm the public's passionate desire for more local control and increased flexibility to offer local employment in forest development and processing opportunities. Residents are also focused on a full flow of revenues to Haida Gwaii after development costs area covered. The respect for, and honour of the Crown and its social licence will rest on the degree to which the concerns of the public are addressed through the proposed business relationship with BC Timber Sales.

Our board looks forward to submitting a management plan upon receiving the offer, and finalizing a Community Forest tenure that will benefit all island residents of Haida Gwaii and showcase sustainable area based forest management for our citizens.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "A. Merilees". The signature is stylized and fluid.

Andrew Merilees, Chair Misty Isles Economic Development Society, Mayor of Masset

Cc. Craig Sutherland, ADM, Regional Operations Division – Coast Area
Chris Stagg, ADM, Timber Operations, Pricing and First Nations Division
Len Munt, District Manager, Haida Gwaii Natural Resource District