November 27, 2017

Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development  
PO Box 9352,  
STN PROV GOVT  
Victoria, BC  
V8W 9M1

Dear Minister Doug Donaldson:

The elected leadership of the five signing local governments support a resource and tourism based economy on Haida Gwaii. We continue to support and stand together with the Council of the Haida Nation, in asking that the offer for a community forest be issued immediately and the current proposed Nadu Area and Lawn Hill Area Timber Sales be withdrawn prior to their sale on November 30, 2017. This volume should be replaced in a timely manner, with volume outside the proposed community forest area and with blocks that are agreed to at the Solutions Table in accordance with the Kunst’aa Guu – Kunst’aayah Protocol (2009).

There is agreement between the communities and the CHN that a two-year non-replaceable forest license, which was discussed in principle by Ministry of Forest, Lands and Natural Resources representatives and CHN and MIEDS staff, should be offered to the Council of the Haida Nation. The CHN staff have committed to work with Misty Isles Economic Development Society to propose forest development that is aligned with the principles that are agreed to by the CHN and Misty Isles Economic Development Society (representing the communities) for forest management on Haida Gwaii. We expect that the vision of the island communities and leadership will be respectfully discussed and positive actions will be taken in a very timely manner.

In collaboration,

Mayor Andrew Merilees, Village of Masset
Mayor Greg Martin, Village of Queen Charlotte
Regional District Director, Bill Beldessi
Chief Councillor, Ken Rea, Old Massett Village Council
Chief Councillor, William Yovanovich, Skidegate Band Council
Chair Barry Pages, North Coast Regional District
cc. Honourable John Horgan, Premier of British Columbia
Honourable Selina Robinson, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing
Honourable Scott Fraser, Minister of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation
Don Wright, Deputy Minister to the Premier