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Sheila Malcolmson, Chair
Islands Trust Council
200 - 1627 Fort Street
Victoria, British Columbia
V8R 1H8

Dear Ms. Malcolmson:

Thank you for your letter of November 24, 2009, regarding unique ecosystems such as the coastal Douglas-fir in the Islands Trust Area and the proposed Commercial Forest Reserve.

I believe a new approach that focuses forest management activities more intensively on a subset of the forested land base is a positive concept for British Columbia, both economically and ecologically. However, many areas and land uses will likely not be compatible and will not be considered into a potential Commercial Forest Reserve area.

As we further develop this concept and the associated provincial forest policy evolves, I will be looking for public input and look forward to comments from Islands Trust. Future consideration of any specific area for designation as a Commercial Forest Reserve will be done with full consultation with local governments, First Nations and local stakeholders.

Thank you again for writing and bringing this matter to my attention.

Sincerely,

Pat Bell
Minister