

Sept 19, 2024

Dear Mr John Rustad,

My name is Jonathan Binnington. I'm writing to you on behalf of our group Open The Gates. Our group is a "citizen movement" that has the sole aim of moderating the access restrictions to Vancouver Island forest lands gated by forest management conglomerate Mosaic.

Mosaic, the Forests management conglomerate, manage more than half a million hectares of forest on Vancouver Island on behalf of two government employee pensions investment companies, who in turn are wholly owned by the governments of British Columbia and federal Canada. Wholly owned in the sense that the sole shareholders of these pensions companies are sitting Ministers of Government.

Part of Mosaic's management strategy involves erecting heavy duty security gates and denying access to the majority of the forests they manage to British Columbians who would wish to pursue reasonable, responsible backcountry recreation.

These forests occupy most of the forest lands on Vancouver Island south of Highway 28 (the Campbell River - Gold River connector) and west of Highway 1 and Highway 19 (the north - south Island road corridor). This area is immediately adjacent to the major population centres of Vancouver Island, thus denying recreational activity opportunities to most of the population of Vancouver Island.

We (the Open The Gates leadership, contact details above), understand that you have expressed an interest, should your party be elected as the governing party of BC to look further at the business models of Forestry. It is self-evident that one of the core businesses of BC is primary resource extraction and that this industry is one of the mainstays of the economy both on the Province-wide scale and at the level of individual families.

We do not seek to upset this situation. Indeed, we recognise that access into our beautiful (if somewhat out-of-bounds) backyard is greatly a result of road building activities of the logging industry.

What we seek is moderation of the zeal that Mosaic have for increasing numbers of military-style security gates closing access and opportunity to Vancouver Islanders seeking recreation opportunities. I am sure that if you and your party can engage with us, the pension management companies and their agents, the voters of Vancouver Island will recognise your commitment to Vancouver Island and that they will in turn give you their votes.

I could go on at length about the 150 year history of these island forests, but that will only serve as background. This background can be supplied at your request.

We are looking forward to the future and the future government, seeking to have a constructive dialogue to plan a successful future 150 years for all stakeholders.

Can we meet with you at your Coastal Black gathering, or perhaps sometime later?

Regards,
Graham Lindenbach
Jonathan Binnington
Eric Bentley
Greg Forsythe
Tim O'Brien
John Webb

Open The Gates.