

joining hands across the waters ...

Gulf Islands Alliance

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February 27, 2012

Hon. Steve Thomson
Minister of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations
P.O. Box 9049, Stn. Prov. Govt.
Victoria, BC V8W 9E2

VIA EMAIL: steve.thomson.mla@leg.bc.ca

Dear Minister Thomson,

RE: Exemption of the Coastal Douglas-fir zone from Section 21 of the PMFL Act

I write to you on behalf of the Gulf Islands Alliance to request that your Ministry support a Cabinet exemption for the entire Coastal Douglas-fir zone from section 21 of the *PMFL Act*.

Following the March, 2011 Coastal Douglas-fir (CDF) Stewardship workshops, the Ministry has requested that local governments seek ways to regulate land use for the protection of ecological values within the CDF zone.

It is ironic that the Ministry makes this request while simultaneously preventing such action on lands regulated by Section 21 of the Private Managed Forest Land (PMFL) Act. We suggest that the Ministry has created the legitimate expectation that local land use authorities within the CDF can act to protect environmental values on PMFL parcels. Details of our request are contained in the attached background paper.

The Gulf Islands Alliance is a grassroots organization made up of islanders actively dedicated to support the Islands Trust in achieving its legislated Object; to preserve and protect the trust area and its unique amenities and environment. Founded in 2006, the Alliance consists of members from throughout the Islands Trust Area. The Islands Trust Area geographically lies at the heart of the Coastal Douglas-fir zone.

Thank you for your consideration of our request.



Misty MacDuffee,
Chair, Gulf Islands Alliance