



Reference: 42379

January 23, 2025

VIA EMAIL: info@avicc.ca

Ben Geselbracht, President
Association of Vancouver Island Coastal Communities
PO Box 28058
Victoria, British Columbia
V9B 5K8

Dear Ben Geselbracht:

Thank you for your letter of June 17, 2024, to the Ministry of Water, Land and Resource Stewardship (WLRS), regarding Conservation of the Mount Arrowsmith Biosphere Region (MABR). As Deputy Minister, I am pleased to respond and apologize for the lengthy delay.

We understand that the Association of Vancouver Island Coastal Communities (AVICC) is urging the Province to conserve, through purchase, 30 percent of lands within the Mount Arrowsmith Biosphere Region (MABR) to contribute to the provincial conservation target by 2030.

WLRS is committed to working in partnership with First Nations communities, all levels of government, and other partners to achieve the provincial conservation target. Regarding the Tripartite Framework Agreement on Nature Conservation (TFANC), a recently updated website provides more information and links to funding and application processes: [Tripartite Framework Agreement on Nature Conservation - Province of British Columbia](#).

WLRS is actively engaged in discussions with First Nation, local governments, and other partners about several priority sites in the MABR. These watersheds are indeed notable, given their many ecologically significant species and designation as a United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) biosphere reserve. These discussions extend to existing partnership with Nature Trust of British Columbia and Ducks Unlimited Canada - to acquire, protect and manage lands of ecological significance on Vancouver Island - through the West Coast Conservation Land Management Program

Page 1 of 2

Ben Geselbracht, President

(including the Parksville-Qualicum Beach and Green Mountain Wildlife Management Areas).

For more information regarding the West Coast Conservation Land Management Program, please reach out to Arlette Malcolm, Director of Resource Stewardship Operations, at arlette.malcolm@gov.bc.ca. For more information regarding funding options and application processes that fall within the TFANC, please reach out to Dennis Paradine, Manager, Tripartite Agreement Implementation, at dennis.paradine@gov.bc.ca.

Again, thank you for writing and sharing your concerns.

Sincerely,



Lori Halls
Deputy Minister

pc: Arlette Malcolm, Director of Resource Stewardship Operations
Dennis Paradine, Manager, Tripartite Agreement Implementation