



Canadian Association of
Nurses for the Environment
Association des infirmières et
infirmiers pour l'environnement

Canadian
Nurses
Association



Association des
infirmières et infirmiers
du Canada

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Solidarity Statement on Old-Growth Forests

The [Canadian Association of Nurses for the Environment \(CANE\)](#) and the [Canadian Nurses Association \(CNA\)](#) expresses support for the Union of BC Indian Chiefs (UBCIC) [Protect Our Elder Trees Declaration](#), the [Indigenous Climate Action's Statement on Fairy Creek Raids](#), and the provincial government's [2020 Old-Growth Strategic Review](#) which call for the immediate deferral of logging in all highly productive old-growth forests in British Columbia.

CNA and CANE represents nurses from across Canada, and we echo the [UBCIC's call](#) to end old-growth logging in the interest of Indigenous rights, biodiversity conservation, climate change mitigation, the health of all peoples, and the ecosystems upon which life depends. [The environmental movement in Canada](#) has perpetuated ongoing colonialism and ecological injustices against Indigenous peoples. In recognition of this unjust history, CANE and CNA support policies that promote [Indigenous-led forest stewardship](#), [conservation financing](#), and [a just transition](#) for communities reliant on old-growth logging.

For the health of BC residents and the land, climate change mitigation is needed now, and old-growth forests are essential in this endeavour. [Old-growth forests](#) store carbon, resist wildfires, are home to vulnerable plant and animal species (including wild salmon), and provide vital ecological services like water filtration. We live in a time where runaway wildfires impact the health of BC residents, [of increasing heat-related deaths](#), and severe drought. It is clear that climate change mitigation strategies are desperately needed, and protecting the remaining old-growth forest is [one crucial strategy](#) that is right at hand.

Climate change is an ecological [public health emergency](#). In the interest of climate change mitigation and climate justice, we call on the provincial government to follow through on their promises to protect old-growth forests, support Indigenous-led forest stewardship, and transition to a truly sustainable forestry industry.

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