huu ay aht

ANCIENT SPIRIT, MODERN MIND

STATEMENT FROM HUU-AY-AHT CHIEF COUNCILLOR ROBERT J. DENNIS SR.

# Huu-ay-aht believes constitutional rights and title should be considered before making decisions on old-growth logging

June 24, 2021 - Huu-ay-aht First Nations is disappointed that the Ancient Forest Alliance released a report today calling for the immediate end to all old- growth logging without taking into consideration the constitutional rights and title of First Nations or their social, cultural, and economic needs.

Just over two weeks ago, Huu-ay-aht, Pacheedaht, and Ditidaht First Nations issued the Hišuk ma c̓awak Declaration announcing that going forward, we - the First Nations - would be deciding how to manage our ḥahahuuɬi.

We have committed to developing and implementing world-class integrated resource management plans that will draw on the teachings of our ancestors, wisdom of elders, input from citizens and valued partners, and the best forestry, fishery, and integrated resource management advice available. This plan will balance the development of an economy that meets the needs of our people and future generations with the healing of our lands, waters, and fisheries in accordance with our values as is our constitutional right.

The Ancient Forest Alliance report gives little consideration to the economic and social needs of First Nations. Just like the rest of BC, we need to develop a strong and vibrant economy so we can look after the needs of our people. We will follow the guidance of our elders and citizens to make the decisions we think are right – we are asking others to respect that process and follow our direction on our territory.

For the past 150 years, we have watched as others have decided what is best for our lands, water, and people. The Hišuk ma c̓awak Declaration brings this practice to an end. The damage to our natural resources did not happen overnight and repairing it will take time. We will lead that process, and we ask others to respect our rights and follow our direction on our territory.

**Link** to the Hišuk ma c̓awak Declaration
**Link** to the Ancient Forest Alliance Report Release