

Editor, Coast Reporter

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Protecting Watershed is a duty, not an option!

I just returned from a shift protecting our watershed from the chainsaws of Western Forest Products. Perhaps residents aren't aware but our drinking water-watershed is an astoundingly precious ecosystem, characterized by numerous trees 1,000-2,000 years old, interlaced with fauna and flora that add up to the finest water storage and filtering system on earth, bar none.

Protecting our drinking water-watershed from obliteration by WFP and Sechelt Community Projects Inc. for present and future generations is not an option - it is a duty that we all share. We live in a time characterized by governments and government representatives toadying to corporate interests and prioritizing profits before public interests.

After all the public declarations in support of SCRD watershed protection, it is an egregious act of the highest order that this protection has been abrogated by some local politicians. And it is equally beguiling to consider how WFP qualifies for certification from the Canadian Standards Association, which has clear guidelines for 'Sustainable Forest Management', none of which can be squared with roading and logging our watershed.

I appeal to my fellow residents to join those who are standing strong against these acts of defilement. A continent away, the population of Bolivia awoke one morning a few years ago to learn that the rights to all water in their country, including rainwater, had suddenly become the domain of Bechtel Corporation, thanks to government duplicity. When the rights to our drinking water is solely in the hands of private companies, we may face a similar fate as Bolivians. The time to act on behalf of our public interest is now.

- Michael Maser
Gibsons