

Letter to Editor  
Chilliwack Progress  
February 28, 2005

Re: Joe Foy (Western Canada Wilderness Committee article)

Dear Editor;

I am writing to express my disgust with Joe Foy's personal attack of a professional public servant in the letter "Protesters urged to continue to fight," Feb. 22.

There may be a difference of opinion when it comes to the right balance between recreational use and logging on Vedder Mountain, but there is no justification for Foy's personal attack on the District Manager of the Chilliwack Forest District. As the Crown's representatives, Mr. Kerry Grozier and his staff have worked diligently to open up dialogue between the district, the forest licensee, and local recreation users. They are working completely within the law to carry out their legislative responsibilities and work wholly for the public interest.

In fact, the District's efforts to ensure public opinion is reflected in logging plans have been praised by the very members of the public involved. The measures that these public servants have taken to ensure appropriate scientific, public and First Nations input and advice are extraordinary and rival any resource management jurisdiction in this country and beyond.

Foy's use of highly-charged vocabulary to discuss issues of genuine public concern is not constructive, and should simply not be acceptable in today's society. Certainly we've moved beyond this level of rhetoric. British Columbians want us to work together on solutions, and that's exactly what the District is doing.

Sincerely,

Michael de Jong

Minister of Forests

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