

Saturday, October 18th, 2021

Honourable John Horgan
PO BOX 9041 STN PROV GOVT
VICTORIA, BC V8W 9E1

Dear Honourable John Horgan,

I am writing to you regarding the global crisis of forest fires and air quality issues specifically in the lake Okanagan area. This is a big problem to the livelihood of thousands of people and if nothing is done it will keep getting worse and worse. This climate crisis is something that you have the resources to help out with. So here is some information that I have found that I hope will show you just how much needs to be done.

If you've been aware of what has been happening in the Lake Okanagan area then you should know what the air quality index (AQI) is, it is something that effect all of our lives and it states that if the AQI level of an area is over 300 it is very hazardous to breathe. At one point this summer the AQI level in Kelowna was 251, an all-time high in something you do not want to be high. Since then it has gotten lower averaging around 54 which is not bad but every summer it gets worse and worse. Also, this summer a beloved town named Lytton completely burned down and it is only 150km of the forest away from Kelowna.

Ever since 2008 there has been a steady increase of forest fires in BC each time costing millions of dollars of taxpayers money and also forcing thousands of people out of their homes and jobs. So instead of spending the money when there are forest fires, use the money before they start to prevent them from happening. A solution for that is to make sure that even if one happens it is a controlled burn so getting on top of it right when it happens, also banning camp fires in any forest area. In the past 10 years, the average of forest fires caused by lightning was only 58%, which means 42% were man made (cigarettes or camp fires) or by the heat of the atmosphere.

What I'm getting at is that instead of spending money on when there is a forest fire, Spend before so it doesn't get the chance to ruin the livelihoods of the thousands of people who have to leave their homes every year because of forest fires or air quality issues in the lake Okanagan area.

You have the power, influence, and money to do so but you don't. So my question for you is "why not spend money on things that benefit us now and will also in the future?"

Sincerely,



Zachary Neil Veitch

