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For Immediate Release

## CLAYOQUOT FIRST NATION EVICTS INTERFOR

**Tofino, BC** – The Tla-o-qui-aht First Nations have issued a notice of eviction to International Forest Products (Interfor), informing the logging company to leave their traditional territory in Clayoquot Sound.

“We’ve had enough,” said Chief Moses Martin of the Tla-o-qui-aht. “This logging tenure was given out decades ago without our consent, and Interfor and the government continue to operate without meaningfully accommodating our interests. Distant corporations will only ever pay lip service to sustainability and ensuring long-term jobs and benefits for local communities. The only real solution is for us to manage the tenure ourselves.”

Recently the Ministry of Forests approved a 10-year forest development plan by Interfor for 19,000 logging trucks worth of wood, ignoring the rejection of the plan by the Clayoquot Sound Central Region Board. The Board, a local body established under an interim measures agreement between the Clayoquot Sound Hereditary Chiefs and the Province in 1994, proposed changes to the plan that Interfor refused to make. “This unresponsive attitude makes a mockery of the Board and the agreement we signed in 1994,” said Chief Martin.

The eviction notice, addressed to Ric Slaco, Interfor’s Chief Forester, states:

“Effective immediately, you will cease and discontinue all activities associated with forestry operations within Tla-o-qui-aht Territory, including all engineering, road lay out, road building and forest harvesting.

The Tla-o-qui-aht First Nations demand control over how the forest resources within our traditional territory, as well as all other resources, are managed to enable our people to achieve our goals now and in the future. We will negotiate with the Province of British Columbia in support of transferring control of Tree Farm License 54.

We will explore our full range of options to vigorously defend our Aboriginal rights and title against infringements related to the alienation of resources from our traditional territory.”

The eviction notice comes just weeks before a major gathering in Tofino on August 9 marking the 10-year anniversary of the Clayoquot protests that put BC in the international spotlight for bad forest practices.

*For more information contact Chief Moses Martin, 250-726-8418  
or Councillor Simon Tom, at 250-731-9154*