

# TSTIKKA



S t a t i o n o n m a p i n s i d e .



700 hectare clearcut in the upper Tsitika. " shows the



# Your voice needed NOW!

*In a virtual declaration of environmental war, MacMillan Bloedel Ltd. began logging Block 101 in the Lower Tsitika Valley on October 18, 1990. This marked the first incursion of active clearcutting beyond the line environmental groups have staunchly defended at Catherine Creek ever since they lost the battle to save the entire watershed in 1977.*

*The logging giant's move came before a multitude of public involvement processes and scientific studies on the environmentally sensitive and unique Lower Tsitika Valley had been completed. It also trampled over the local Indian people's publicly declared opposition to logging in this sacred portion of their aboriginal homeland.*

*The logging of Block 101 appears to be a deliberate move aimed at provoking confrontation between honest hard-working loggers on one hand, and environmental and native groups on the other. It was designed to divert attention away from the real threats to logging jobs and ecological balance, namely the forestry policies and logging practices themselves.*

*The B.C. forest industry has chosen the tiny and precious Lower Tsitika Valley to make its stand against the rising tide of public support for aboriginal rights and wilderness preservation. If there was ever an example of complete disregard for due public process, this is it. If there was ever a time for you to speak out against environmental injustice, it is NOW!*



# Is this good fore



## Overcutting dooms jobs

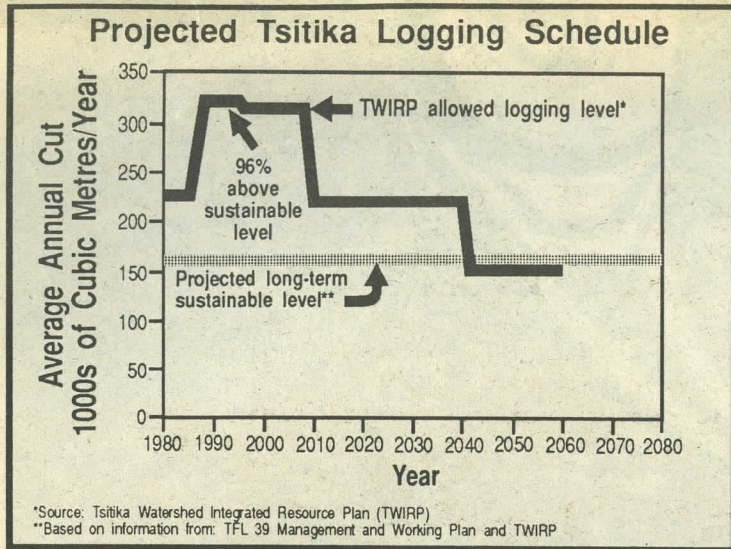
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## Public trust betrayed

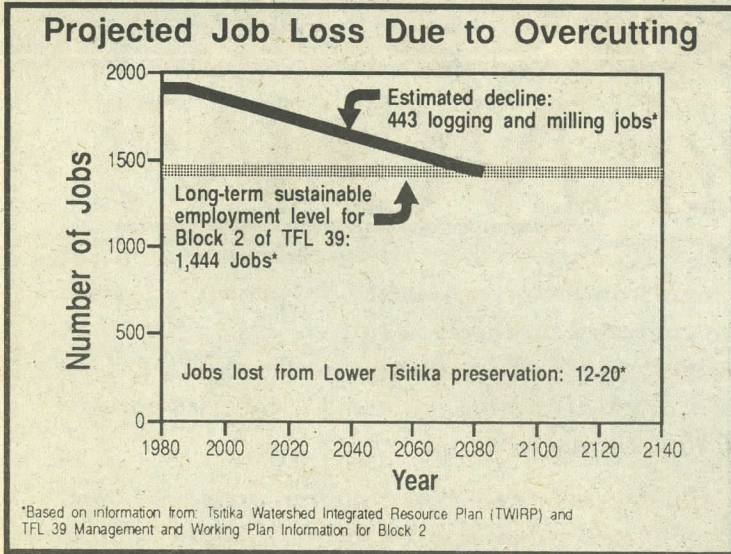
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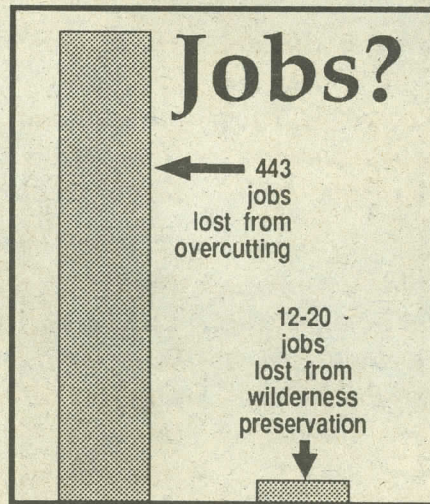


This graph shows how the Tsitika Watershed Integrated Resource Plan (TWIRP) provides for massive overcutting in the Tsitika as the old growth forests are liquidated in the first 80 years.



This graph shows how the projected decline in the logging rate of Block 2 of TFL 39 (which contains the Lower Tsitika) translates into the loss of over 440 logging and milling jobs over the next 90 years! Continuing mechanization of logging and milling procedures will no doubt devour many more jobs. By comparison, logging the Lower Tsitika Valley would support approximately 12 to 20 sustainable logging and milling jobs.

from future timber shortages caused by massive overcutting. One obvious solution to these future job losses is to employ more people for every tree cut, not to oppose preservation of tiny and precious areas of ancient forest like the Lower Tsitika. B.C. currently employs the fewest people per cubic metre of wood cut of any province, state or country for which statistics are available. The B.C. government must force the logging companies to either employ more people in value-added manufacturing and second growth forest management, or take away their tree farm licences. Your voice is needed NOW to urge the B.C. government to take responsible leadership action, instead of pitting loggers against environmentalists and natives in needless and bitter confrontations.



The recent commencement of logging of Block 101 in the Lower Tsitika Valley was an insult to fair democratic public process. It came while a total of eight public involvement processes or scientific studies directly relevant to the area were still either incomplete or unresolved. They are:

1. **Native Land Claims** - The Tlowitsis-Mumtagila First Nation, the aboriginal owners of the Tsitika watershed, have repeatedly made public statements opposing logging in the Lower Tsitika. This area is a sacred part of their aboriginal homeland, and is included in the comprehensive land claim of the Kwagwilt First Nations which has been accepted for negotiation by the federal government.

2. **Public Hearings** - On November 10, 1989, B.C. Forests Minister Claude Richmond promised public hearings before any logging took place in the Lower Tsitika. To date only one public hearing has been held - in the logging-dependent North Island community of Port McNeill.

3. **Public Input Sessions** - On June 2, 1990, B.C. Forests Minister Claude Richmond ran full page ads in the Vancouver Sun and other major newspapers promising public input meetings on the Tsitika in October. The meetings were rescheduled to late November by Mr. Richmond in a press release dated November 7, 1990, three weeks after the logging in the Lower Tsitika began.

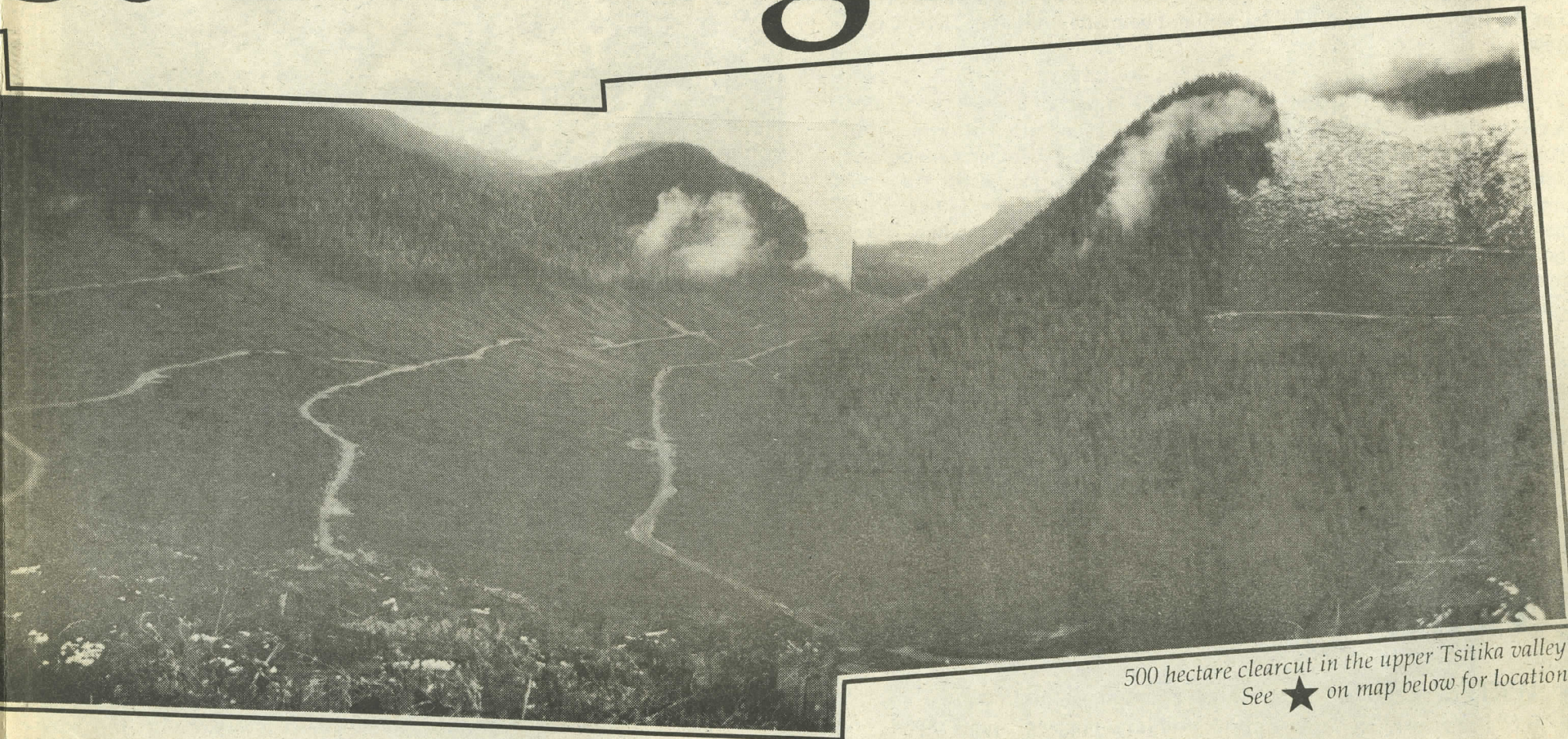
4. **Federal-Provincial Killer Whale Committee** - A joint federal/provincial government committee studying the impacts of human activities (including logging) on the killer whales has not yet released its background report to the public or conducted its public hearings.

5. **Federal Environmental Assessment Review Process (EARP)** - In October, 1990, an EARP report by the federal Fisheries Department concluded that the impacts of Lower Tsitika logging on marine animals (eg. killer whales), tourism, and native interests are unknown and that these issues required more study.

Continued on back page...



# st management?



500 hectare clearcut in the upper Tsitika valley.  
See ★ on map below for location.

## Global heritage of forest and sea

The Lower Tsitika Valley is truly a global wilderness heritage. Sheltering the world-renowned killer whale habitat at Robson Bight, the Lower Tsitika's valley bottom old growth forests provide a much needed buffer protecting the whales from easy human access by logging roads, and from other possible impacts of nearby industrial logging.





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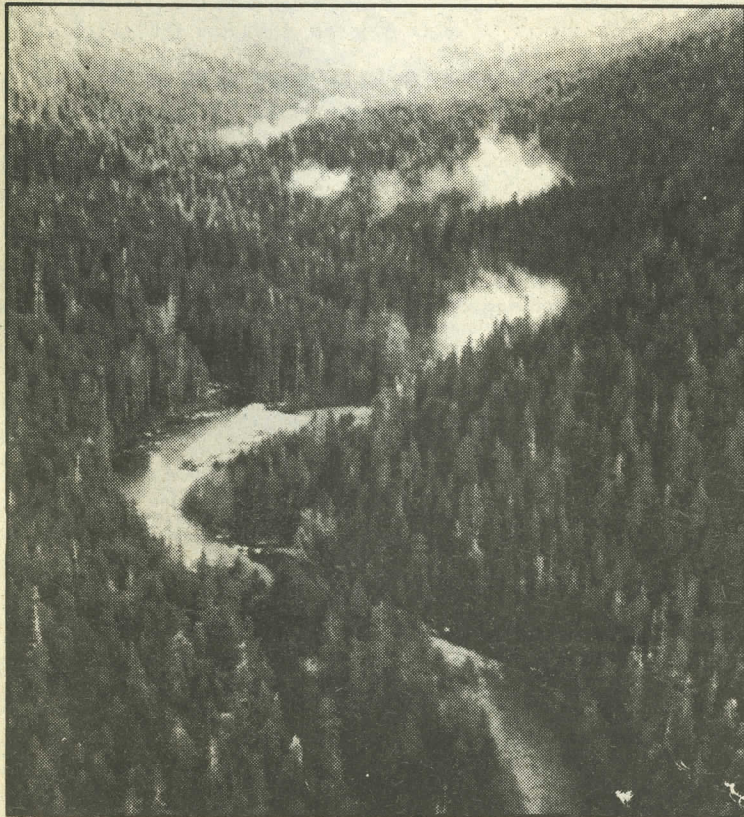
The pristine forested slopes overlooking Robson Bight also provide the spectacular visual backdrop that gives the area's whale-watching industry its internationally acclaimed status.

Last but not least, the Lower Tsitika is the last large unlogged tract of natural forest on the entire east coast of Vancouver Island. Its quiet, moss draped forests harbor a complex ecosystem of countless plant and animal species ranging from mighty trees to tiny microbes - a network of life and regeneration not yet fully understood by science. As a last-chance sanctuary for wildlife, it is home to deer, bear, and other animals following their ancient seasonal movements free from the disruptive effects of clearcut logging.

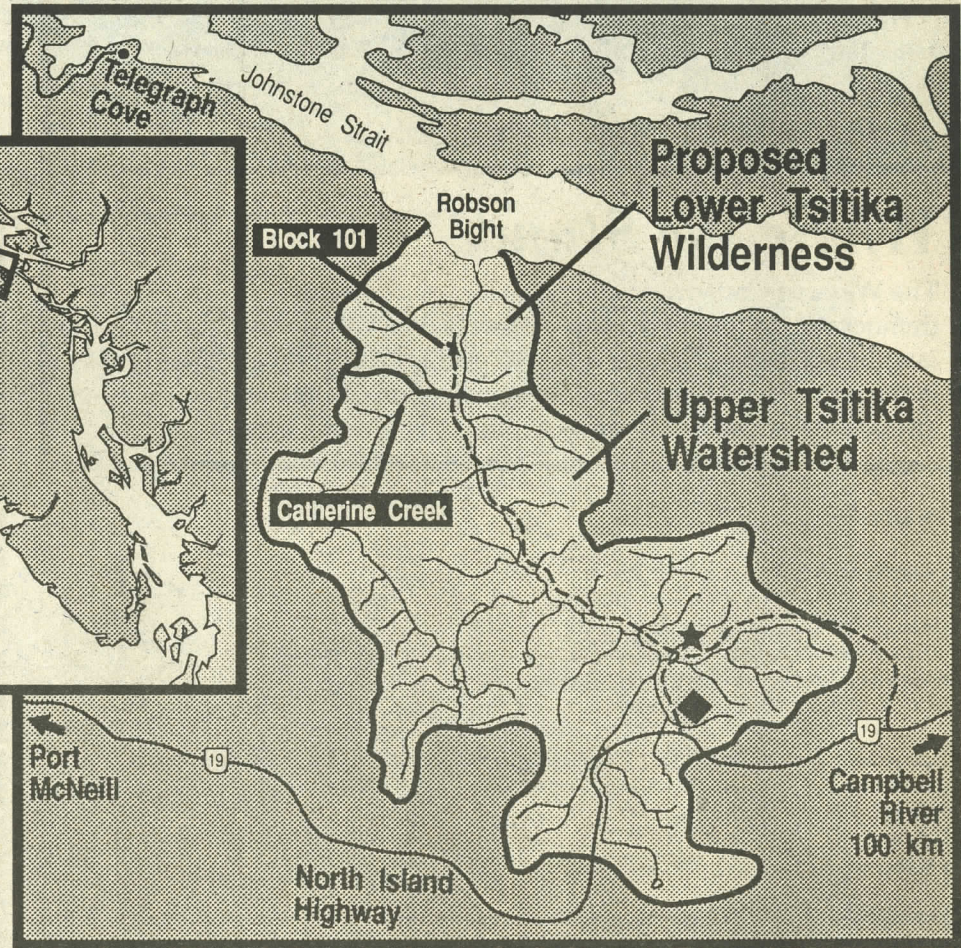
What a tragedy it would be to pass this wilderness heritage on to our descendants as just another few kilometres of logged out valley. The Lower Tsitika forests cannot speak for themselves, they need your voice NOW!



*A wide variety of tree sizes and ages, as well as large quantities of nutrient-rich woody debris, characterize old growth forests such as this in the Lower Tsitika.*



*Left:  
Aerial view  
down Lower  
Tsitika Valley*



◆ shows location of 700 hectare clearcut photographed on front cover.



Continued from page 2...

6. **Provincial Old Growth Strategy** - The B.C. Ministry of Forests is conducting a public involvement process to identify critical areas of old growth forest for two-year logging moratoriums. Both WCWC and the Sierra Club requested that the Lower Tsitika be considered for a logging moratorium, but the final government decision will not be made until after December 1, 1990.

7. **Siltation Studies** - Studies assessing the impact of logging on siltation levels in the Tsitika River were supposed to have been started before 1980 but never were. In May, 1990, B.C. Forests Minister Claude Richmond announced siltation studies would finally be started, however these studies did not begin until after MacMillan Bloedel began logging in the Lower Tsitika. Even preliminary results are not expected until next spring. Meanwhile, heavy rainstorms continue to trigger logging-related mudslides and road washouts in the upper Tsitika valley which pour countless tons of sediment and debris into the Tsitika River and its estuary.

8. **WCWC Report Unanswered** - In June, 1990, WCWC submitted a report to the government-appointed watchdog group, the Tsitika Follow-up Committee (TFC), which is charged with overseeing Tsitika logging. The report, entitled **Lower Tsitika Valley - A Case for Preservation**, documented the environmental abuses and broken promises in the Tsitika to date. Six months later, as this paper goes to press, the TFC has answered satisfactorily only one of the 20 WCWC charges. To order a copy of this report see the order form on the back page of this newspaper.

# Natives take a stand



*Tlowitsis-Mumtagila declaring aboriginal rights in the Tsitika Valley, June 1990*

## What you can do!

**WRITE!** Let B.C. Forest Minister Claude Richmond and B.C. Premier Bill Vander Zalm know how you feel about the lower Tsitika wilderness. Please write to them at: Legislative Buildings, Victoria, B.C., V8V 1X4

Also write federal Environment Minister Robert deCotret to ask that a full federal Environmental Assessment Review Panel (EARP) be appointed immediately to hear public concerns for the Lower Tsitika. Please write: Minister of the Environment, House of Commons, Ottawa, Ontario, K1A 0A6.

**SPEAK OUT!** Plan to attend Tsitika public meetings in your area. Don't miss WCWC's Tsitika art exhibition: see below

The Tsitika Valley-Robson Bight area lies within the traditional territory of the Tlowitsis-Mumtagila First Nation, and is included in the comprehensive land claim of the Kwaigul First Nations (which includes the Tlowitsis-Mumtagila First Nation) that was accepted for negotiation by the federal government in 1988.

The Tlowitsis-Mumtagila and their ancestors have utilized the area sustainably for hundreds of years. In June 1914, the Tlowitsis tribe asked the Royal Commission on Indian Affairs to register the Tsitika River-Robson Bight area as an Indian reserve for a village site, fishing station, and trapping base. Despite the recommendation for a two hectare reserve by the Indian Commissioner at the time, no re-

Robson Bight is also special to the Indian people in being known as a place where the killer whales have always come. Killer whales are believed to be reincarnated human spirits, and as such are powerful and sacred creatures which retain a prominent place in native history and legends.

Since May, 1990, the Tlowitsis-Mumtagila have taken a strong public stand against the proposed logging in the Lower Tsitika. Maintaining that they have never given up their aboriginal title to the area, and vowing to stop the "brutalization" of the Tsitika by MacMil-

lan Bloedel, the Tlowitsis-Mumtagila have courageously and honourably tried through the courts to stop the logging in this tiny remnant





**SPEAK OUT!** Plan to attend Tsitika public meetings in your area. Don't miss WCWC's Tsitika art exhibition: see below for schedule.

**SIGN THE TSITIKA PETITION!** ...at any WCWC store or office. 23,000 people have already signed. Write us and we'll send you a copy so you, your family and friends can all sign!

## Tsitika art exhibition and silent auction

*Over 100 donated works of art by Canadian artists!*

Victoria - Crystal Gardens - Nov. 26 to Nov. 30

Vancouver - Robson Square Media Centre - Dec. 6 to Dec. 9

Courtenay - Wilsden Galleries - Dec. 12 to Dec. 15

Nanaimo - Nanaimo Art Gallery - Jan. 2 to Jan. 6

All openings 7:30 p.m., continuing hours 10:00 a.m. - 9:00 p.m.

## Where We Stand

The Western Canada Wilderness Committee believes in using our democratic system to achieve its goals. We work entirely within the law, firmly believing that massive public education and awareness is the surest way to achieve both protection of the natural environment and a full-employment, sustainable economy.

### CREDITS

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Tsitika whale artwork - from Fight for the Bight by Sue Coleman

Design and layout - Kelly Pearce, Randy Stoltmann

Map - Kelly Pearce, Clinton Webb



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base. Despite the recommendation for a two hectare reserve by the Indian Commissioner at the time, no reserve was granted. Instead, in September 1914, a 5300 hectare pulp lease for the Tsitika valley bottom forests was taken over by the Powell River Company Ltd., later to become part of the Mac-Millan Bloedel Ltd. empire.

The Tsitika River-Robson Bight area is not only an important resource base for the Indian people, it holds a sacred place in their history and culture. It is one of their "places of descent" where their ancestors landed after the great floods, and it is believed that the mouth of the Tsitika River was the site of an Indian village in ancient times.



Chief Charlie Matalpi, elder of the Mumtagila tribe

Mumtagila have courageously and honourably tried through the courts to stop the logging in this tiny remnant of their aboriginal homeland. In two decisions in November, 1990, the B.C. Supreme Court and Court of Appeal first denied the Tlowitsis-Mumtagila an injunction to stop the logging, and then denied them leave to appeal the first decision. Their appeal continues.

*The Tlowitsis-Mumtagila need YOUR support. The struggle for aboriginal justice is at the roots of the struggle for environmental justice, fairness and wisdom for our whole society and for the future. Contributions toward court costs can be sent to: Tsitika Valley Support Fund, c/o WHE-LA-LA-U, P.O. Box 150, Alert Bay, B.C., VON 1A0*

## YES! I want to protect the Lower Tsitika Wilderness!

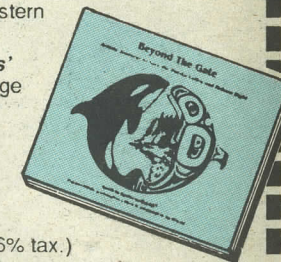
I want to help. Please apply my tax deductible gift of  \$500  \$100  \$65  
 \$35 other \$\_\_\_\_\_ to help protect the Lower Tsitika from further logging.

Sign me up. Here's \$25 for an annual membership in the Western Canada Wilderness Committee.

Please rush me \_\_\_\_\_ copies of **BEYOND THE GATE--Artists' Journey to Save the Tsitika and Robson Bight**. - A 48-page documentary filled with stunning colour and B/W photos that tells the story of an artist's expedition to the lower Tsitika Valley and Robson Bight. Soft cover, Members: \$10.95, non-members: \$12.95 ISBN# 1-895123-09-7

I'm enclosing \_\_\_\_\_ x \$4.50 (non-memb: \$5) for your full-colour **Tsitika Valley / Robson Bight Wilderness Treasures** poster--as seen from the ocean. (B.C. residents please add 6% tax.)

I need more information. Please send your fact-filled report, **LOWER TSITIKA VALLEY--A Case for Preservation**. I'm enclosing \_\_\_\_\_ x \$50 for full-colour editions, \_\_\_\_\_ x \$15 for B/W copies. Soft cover, with photos and graphs, 73 pages.



### ALL PROCEEDS GO TOWARD SAVING THE LOWER TSITIKA

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Street: \_\_\_\_\_

Town/City: \_\_\_\_\_ Prov.: \_\_\_\_\_ Postal Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Please make your cheque or money order payable to **Western Canada Wilderness Committee** and mail it to **WCWC, Victoria Branch, Suite 102 - 19 Bastion Square, Victoria, B.C. V8W 1J1**. Phone: (604) 388-WCWC Fax: (604) 388-9223 registered charity #0587113-21-28