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## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

September 23, 2005

The Editor  
Georgia Straight

Editor:

The headline of your article on tree removal in Manning Park was misleading.

It refers to the tree removal in Manning Park as “logging,” which infers it is being done for commercial purposes. The biggest difference between commercial logging and selective tree removal is that in selective tree removal, it is the dead and dying trees that are removed. The most commercially valuable trees are often left standing.

Selective tree removal, recommended by the Filmon Report, will help protect our parks from fires like the one we saw in Okanagan Mountain Provincial Park in 2003. It will also reduce the effects of beetle infestations. Trees are not removed unless they pose a wildfire hazard, are a threat to public safety or are likely to disturb a sensitive ecosystem, such as grasslands.

Tree removal in Manning Park will be carried out in a way that has the least environmental impact and, wherever possible, the sites will be restored as closely as possible to their natural condition.

My primary goals are to protect public safety and maintain the ecological health of the Park.

Sincerely,

Barry Penner  
Minister of Environment