June 23, 2016

Re: Letter of Support for the Coming Home to Our Land (CHOL) application to the Local Poverty Reduction Fund: Indigenous-Led Projects

On behalf of the David Suzuki Foundation (DSF), I am writing to express our support for the Coming Home to Our Land (CHOL) Indigenous Healing Centre.

This program, which seeks to develop a place of healing for Indigenous peoples through holistic therapies based on Indigenous cultural traditions, aligns very well with DSF’s Aboriginal Peoples Policy. Our policy, which is the foundation for DSF’s relationship with Indigenous peoples, commits us to respectfully engage with Indigenous communities when our work concerns their interests. To this end, we have had considerable experience working in the Boreal and Boreal mixed-wood forests in Ontario, particularly on preserving habitat for endangered species.

As part of a collaboration of partners, DSF has been approached to support the initiative through providing sustainability monitoring and consultation with respect to salvaged forest wood, for the wood aspect of the CHOL project. We have experience in this area, through our conservation work, our sustainability work, and our history of engaging with Indigenous communities – and feel we have the necessary expertise to help the CHOL project succeed.

Furthermore, my experience as the CEO of Mountain Equipment Co-op for 8 years has provided me with the expertise to develop fully-sustainable supply and logistics chains for the CHOL.

We are confident this project will support youth and communities to be resilient, collaborative, and innovative leaders to address the complex challenges facing the globe today. In fact, we believe the earth depends on it.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Dr. Peter Robinson
Chief Executive Officer