

Alberta's Forests Feel the Love on Valentine's Day!

This Valentine's Day, more than 170 Albertans braved chilly winter temperatures to attend *Save our Forests* rallies in Calgary and Edmonton. Participants wrote their own valentines to Premier Redford, letting her know how much they love their forests, and asking her to listen to Albertans. Our forests are worth so much more than vertical lumber, yet the government persists in managing them first and foremost to supply timber.

Supporters waved placards calling for protection of the Castle Wildland, while the Raging Grannies sang their own inimitable protest songs and author Sid Marty gave an impassioned talk about the draconian measures being used by the Alberta government to keep him and other Castle protesters quiet. Speakers from AWA and CPAWS joined representatives from Stop the Castle Logging, Wild Canada Conservation Alliance and the Bragg Creek Environmental Coalition to call for changes to the clearcut logging practices so prevalent in Alberta's forests. Nobody called for an end to logging, period. Instead they spoke about how our forests need management that respects all of their non-timber values, including production of clean water and wildlife habitat.

Does the Alberta government love our forests too? Only time will tell. But there is no better time than an election campaign to find out whether our politicians are open to change or to listening to what Albertans are trying to tell them.

