

2. May 20/97

Letter to the Editor, The Powell River Peak

Reach for Unbleached!, an environmental foundation which conducts public education on pulp and paper mill pollution, was one of the three appellants who contested MB's proposal to distribute their assorted industrial wastes, currently landfilled, across the landscape. Now Mr. Drew Kilback appears to be offended that we were represented by Ms. Jane Luke, a lawyer, thanks to the West Coast Environmental Law Dispute Resolution Fund.

I'm not too sure why it is so terrible for an environmental group to use the services of a lawyer, but so be it. It surely does seem that there are different sets of rules for the rich and the poor, the corporations and the citizens, in this world.

Worse than that, Mr. Kilback seems to feel that the appellants should just trust him. A lovely thought. But trust is earned, and neither MacMillan Bloedel Powell River nor the rest of the pulp and paper industry in BC has done much to justify society's trust. After the closure of 800 square kilometres of foreshore due to dioxin contamination from the pulp mills of the province, (and I believe Mr. Kilback was Environmental Officer for Powell River mill during the time of this poisoning), trusting the pulp and paper industry to have changed their polluting ways may be a little difficult. We may need some powerful demonstrations of reason for that faith.

Perhaps several complete chemical analyses of the waste Mr. Kilback thinks should be strewn across the landscape (oops, excuse me, "recycled") now that it can no longer be dumped out to sea, would be a good start. That is all Reach for Unbleached! has been asking for, over and over, for the last year and a half. We want to know what's in the stuff.

Readers might like to know that the one analysis for priority pollutants performed by the mill in March 1995, and given to the appellants on the morning of April 17<sup>th</sup> 1997, showed "unknown compounds" in the mass spectrograph analysis.

While we wait for more complete analyses, we're working real hard on the Trust Thing. Just give us time, Drew, be gentle, and meanwhile, thank you for sharing.

Delores Broten,  
Executive Director, Reach for Unbleached!