From: BCCFA
To: Info;
Subject: UBCM Resolution - Community Forests
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British Columbia
Community Forest
Association

2010 UBCM Resolution Community Forest Program Expansion Proposed by Logan Lake

Hello Local Government Leaders
If you represent a community with a community forest, you are in the application process, you would like to have a community forest, or you just think that community forests are a good idea, please pay attention to this message.

Forest dependent communities all across the country are looking for alternatives that will help diversify their local economies and provide employment opportunities. Community Forest Agreements (CFAs) in British Columbia are are demonstrating that they are unique and promising tool for forest communities.

We are seeking your support for community forests at the 2010 UBCM Convention in Whistler September 27-October 1 on the following resolution:

COMMUNITY FOREST PROGRAM EXPANSION

WHEREAS
Community forests are area based forest tenures managed by and for BC communities and while the number of Community Forest Agreements (CFAs) has increased rapidly in the last decade, and represent 1.5% of the provincial AAC, the size and area of many existing CFAs are not viable and many additional communities have expressed an interest to participate in the program;

AND WHEREAS
The Community forest Agreements have and will continue to supply benefits such as employment, wood products, timber supply to local milling facilities, aesthetic, recreational and watershed values to 54 communities in the province even during the economic downturn;

AND WHEREAS
As a result of the findings of the Province's Working Roundtable on Forestry's March 2009 Report, Recommendation #23, the Minister of Forests and Range has committed to expanding the Community Forest Program;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Province of British Columbia be petitioned to implement the Forestry Roundtable Recommendation #23 and expand the Community Forest Agreement Program in a

manner that maintains the objectives of this unique tenure.

Background Information

A few facts

- There are 54 CFAs either operating or in the application stage
- The average Annual Allowable Cut (AAC) of an existing CFA is 28,000 m3.
- Of the 54 CFAs, the majority are 20-25,000 m3, with 5 CFAs less than 6000 m3
- Existing CFAs need to be a reasonable size to be economically viable and to maximize opportunities for local community economic development.
- There are over 80 additional communities on record as having expressed interest in securing a CFA.

Key principles for expansion

The BC Community Forest Association has established a set of criteria or key principles they believe must be upheld in an expansion of the existing CFA program:

- The integrity of the CFA tenure must be maintained. CFAs are, by legislation, area-based and have the exclusive right to harvest timber.
- To be a community forest, the license must be managed by the community. This is the cornerstone of community forests.
- The Management Plan must be developed by the community.
- The government objectives of the program must be met and the unique characteristics of the requirements for a CFA must be upheld.
- Any mechanism for expansion must not affect the current pricing of CFAs, or subject them to increased scrutiny through the Softwood Lumber Agreement (SLA).

Excerpt from the Roundtable Report

The Working Roundtable on Forestry (Roundtable) was tasked by the provincial government to consider the long-term future of the forest industry, taking into consideration global changes, and to make recommendations for a vibrant and successful forest industry for future generations.

Priority #5 - Supporting Prosperous Rural Forest Economies
Over the past century, British Columbia's forest sector played a large role in developing the provincial economy, shaping the province's infrastructure and communities, and providing its citizens with a quality of life unsurpassed anywhere in the world. For many years, rural communities have relied on timber harvesting and wood manufacturing for jobs, taxes, and contributions to their local infrastructure. As the industry restructures, many manufacturing facilities are closing, and communities are struggling to adjust to the challenges of a changing economic base. Although the province's economy has matured and diversified over the past decades, the forest sector remains the most important employer in many rural communities. Forests around communities will continue to be used to provide a range of benefits. Communities can and should continue to have opportunities to be engaged in and benefit from the use of the forests, as well as from the resulting jobs and economic benefits. At its

meetings across British Columbia, the Roundtable heard from many communities that they want more involvement in the decision making related to forest management and the use of forest resources around their communities.

Community forests can assist communities to continue participating in the forest economy by giving them the opportunity to manage and harvest timber and benefit directly from the resulting revenue. Communities that establish competitive cost structures can also attract and support forestry businesses. Some Roundtable members felt that government should provide communities with a percentage of the stumpage that is collected through harvesting around their communities.
Recommendation # 23:
We should expand the Community Forest Agreement Tenure program.

Please visit the website at www.bccfa.ca or contact us if you have any questions. Thank you for your support.

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