

100 MILE HOUSE COMMUNITY DIALOGUE SESSION

Valley Room, Lodge Hotel

**June 21, 2011
(7:00 pm-9:30 pm)**

REPORT

DIALOGUE SESSION FORMAT

The Dialogue Session included:

- Introduction of the *Healthy forests-Healthy communities: A conversation on BC forests* Initiative
- Identification of 3 key challenges confronting the management of BC forests in the Cariboo: community involvement in forest management, wildfire protection, and maintaining the forest lands asset
- Facilitated open discussion on challenges, issues, concerns and potential solutions related to the provincial and local/regional forests
- Recording of participants' comments for summarizing into the key messages and potential actions

KEY MESSAGES - Potential Actions

- 1) Community wants more say in the management of local resources by:
 - a) Releasing Government control of local management and enabling more local influence
 - b) Developing an effective process for community involvement in forest lands management
 - c) Giving priority to management of areas around communities for resources and values in addition to timber e.g., water supply, fire protection, local jobs, etc to provide basic services and improve public safety
 - d) Managing local forest lands through management plans
 - e) Encouraging economic development through use of wood from these areas
 - f) Government maintaining the infrastructure asset of roads and bridges for use by the industry and the public
 - g) Government funding research regarding climate change and other impacts on forest management

- 2) Community wants economic diversification through such actions as Government:
 - a) Providing new mechanisms to encourage innovation and diversity
 - b) Encouraging small facilities producing high-value products for niche markets
 - c) Issuing new tenures that support value-added product manufacturing
- 3) Community wants to more fully utilize wood residue by:
 - a) Government modifying the pricing system for residue wood to encourage its use
 - b) Encouraging bio-energy (e.g., pellets, heat) for local use using small scale facilities
 - c) Government providing incentives to utilize wood residue to produce cost efficient energy
 - d) Ensuring cooperative extraction and processing by companies to increase efficiency
 - e) Seeking and building small-scale partnerships regarding wood residue
- 4) Community needs more education related to forest management through:
 - a) Government and others informing urban and rural citizens of the importance of natural resources to their livelihoods
 - b) Government making a concerted effort to inform urban citizens of the importance of natural resources to the urban economy

NEXT STEPS

The *Healthy forests-Healthy communities: A conversation on BC forests* Initiative welcomes additional input from concerned citizens in the 100 Mile House area. These can be provided through the web site e-mail info@bcforestconversation.com or through the facebook and twitter mechanisms accessed through the web site.

An interim report will be prepared summarizing the input from the Community Dialogue Sessions held during June 2011. This will be updated with the views from other communities during the Sessions scheduled for September-October 2011. A final report will be prepared by December 2011. All the information will be posted on the *Healthy forests-Healthy communities* Initiative web site <http://bcforestconversation.com> and provided electronically to key decision makers. The Initiative organizers, partners, communities and concerned citizens will be encouraged to let politicians know of their support for the views from the communities and individuals regarding the future management of BC forests and their expectation for actions on the key messages.