

## BUILDING ON TLA COMMUNITIES SURVEY REPORT

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The TLA should be commended for conducting the communities survey regarding views on the coastal forest industry (<http://www.tla.ca/furtherperspectives>). One of the key results included “...**nearly 60 per cent of people living in coastal communities believe our forests are being managed sustainably.**” This is very positive from the perspective of the industry but there are 40% of the respondents that do not know or disagree. The recent *Health Forests-Healthy Communities* (HFHC) initiative *Update Assessment Report* (<http://tinyurl.com/kmq5o59>) is consistent with the views of this latter group. This does not mean we are degrading our forests but we need to do more if we are to practice long-term forest stewardship and sustain the economic benefits for communities and British Columbians over the long-term.

The TLA believes, “With responsible harvesting and sustainable forest management practices, our province’s fish, wildlife, forests, watersheds and outdoor recreational activities can co-exist in a vibrant healthy ecosystem, one for British Columbians to enjoy for generations to come.” This is a very positive statement. However, it should be noted that decisions regarding where harvesting is to occur reside with the licensee, not the TLA contractors. Contractors have some flexibility regarding how harvesting will occur so they can influence some aspects of forest practices but not the location and amount.

The TLA *Communities Survey Report* identified that “...**66 per cent of coastal British Columbians feel the provincial government should be doing more to support their forest industry.**” A priority should be initiating actions that lead to real action on long-term forest stewardship. The 2011-2013 HFHC community dialogue report (<http://tinyurl.com/m9grfz4>) provided a number of recommendations based on input from concerned citizens across BC, forest professionals and experts in various forest related fields. The results are applicable today. These should be used in identifying the focus of decision-makers in moving toward long-term forest stewardship. The HFHC *Update Assessment Report* identifies we have a significant way to go to achieve sustainability and community resiliency through long-term forest stewardship. Based on this report, priority actions have been identified (<http://tinyurl.com/l77tqnu>) as a start to moving forward.

When you combine the TLA commitment to “...responsible harvesting and sustainable forest management practices” with the leadership demonstrated in conducting the communities survey, they are in a very positive position to champion movement to long-term forest stewardship on the coast and possibly BC as a whole. The TLA should encourage Government, industry and communities to fill the deficiencies identified in the HFHC *Update Assessment Report*, starting with the identified priority actions?

**RECOMMENDATION:** The TLA accept the champion role for long-term stewardship of coastal forests, and through this, encourage Government, industry and communities to fill the deficiencies identified in the HFHC *Update Assessment Report* and subsequently identified priority actions in moving toward long-term forest stewardship and subsequently community resiliency.