

COMMUNITY FORESTS LANDS VISION

As a complement to the need for a Provincial forest lands vision identified by John Innes, Steve Mitchell, Ken Zielke, Bryce Bancroft and Gordon Weetman in their Background Briefs, communities require a statement to guide the forest lands management in their local and regional areas. The diversity of forest values across BC and the desires of communities to sustain and diversify their economies suggest a “one size fits all” approach to the forest lands is inappropriate. Having said this, the BC’s forest lands are and will continue to be a major economic contributor to the Provincial economy so there has to be acknowledgement of the Provincial vision in the supplemental community statements.

Rob Kozak and Greg Holseth and Tim Brigham and Brian Belcher in their Background Briefs have identified a range of reasons and opportunities for communities to play a more active role in determining their futures and building resilience. A vision for the local forest lands that includes contributions to community diversification and integrates First Nations views and needs is fundamental in moving forward in this regard.

The Community Dialogue Sessions are an initial step in creating or updating a community forest lands vision as a foundation for evaluating land use plan and forest management decisions. It also provides the local forest managers the guidance in preparing plans and conducting operations. Active participation of community residents in both the development of a local forest lands vision and on-going guidance and evaluation of plans is required for communities and families to influence forest lands activities to meet their needs.

- [If British Columbia Managed Its Forests Sustainably](#)
- [Why We Need a New Vision for BC’s Forests](#)
- [A Forest Management Charter for BC](#)
- [Sustainability and the Health of Forest-dependent Communities](#)
- [Managing Non-timber Resources to Meet Multiple Goals: Current Status](#)

Challenge

How do we encourage communities to create a vision for their surrounding forest lands to meet their needs and demand decision makers use it as a guide for management and continue to involve communities in measuring progress to its attainment?