

GRAND FORKS COMMUNITY DIALOGUE SESSION

Boundary Community Futures Office

**June 21, 2011
(1:00 pm-4:00 pm)**

REPORT

DIALOGUE SESSION FORMAT

The Dialogue Session included:

- Introduction of the *Healthy forest-Healthy communities: A conversation on BC forests* Initiative
- Introductory presentation by a City Councilor, Chris Moslin, talking about the present and future importance of forests and the industry to the community
- Facilitated open discussion on the draft forest lands vision, issues, concerns and potential solutions related to the provincial and local/regional forests
- Comments from the participants were recorded and summarized into the key messages and potential actions

KEY MESSAGES - Potential Actions

- 1) Local citizens and politicians want to be more informed regarding the state of local forest lands through:
 - a) Mechanisms to provide information and education regarding local forest lands and processes
 - b) Government foresters available locally to:
 - i) Monitor ground activities
 - ii) Identify the status of the local forest lands
 - iii) Be available for educational purposes
- 2) Community wants more influence on decisions regarding management of local forests by:
 - a) Processes designed for the community to have a say in creating local sustainability
 - i) Hear the views of all resource users through a local dialogue process
 - ii) Take control of the land base by local citizens
 - iii) Land based activities affecting the condition of the Kettle River
 - b) A governance system that encourages local sustainability plans and decisions
 - c) A Government without the main priority being to serve the industry
 - d) Government providing an option for a local oversight group/committee to monitor performance and inform the community of the status and plans

- 3) Community wants:
 - a) A forest lands vision that incorporates all users and addresses their activities on the land base and not just forestry
 - b) A plan that addresses the needs of today without compromising the needs of future generations
 - i) Balances the needs of all users (e.g., cattlemen, forest companies, etc), including carbon management
 - ii) Balances the needs of industry with those of the community
 - c) Consistent regulations across sectors (forests, mining, cattle, etc)
 - d) Programs and conditions that support more small scale tenures (e.g., Community Forests) to meet community needs with particulars that promote long term viability and encourage local forest sector diversification
- 4) Some support exists for the Ministry re-organization and Forest and Range Protection Act and professional reliance
- 5) Community wants an independent assessment of the state of BC forests (e.g., Royal Commission on Forestry)

NEXT STEPS

The *Healthy forests-Healthy communities: A conversation on BC forests* Initiative welcomes additional input from concerned citizens in the Boundary 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.