

PORT MCNEILL COMMUNITY DIALOGUE SESSION

Port McNeill Legion

**September 15, 2011
(6:30 pm-8:30 pm)**

REPORT

DIALOGUE SESSION FORMAT

The Dialogue Session included:

- An introduction to the *Healthy Forest-Healthy Communities: A conversation on BC forests* initiative
- A three member panel discussion on forest management related perspectives composed of a representative from the Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations, a small business and professional forester and a Regional District Administrator
 - Panel presentations were intended to stimulate discussion regarding the audience's vision for forestry on Northern Vancouver Island in 2050
 - Panel topics included impact of climate change, state of forest tenures and inventories and importance of the forest industry's continuity in contributing to local economy and government
- A facilitated open discussion on issues, concerns and potential solutions related to the provincial and local-regional forests
- Comments from the participants were recorded and summarized

KEY MESSAGES - Potential Actions

- 1) Community wants forest management to contribute to community diversification by:
 - a) Balancing multiple land uses and creating a working forest land base
 - b) Providing public access through a maintained road network to make available forest related social values
 - c) Providing more Woodlot and Community Forest tenures, especially near communities
 - d) Encouraging Government to continue research on climate change adaptation
- 2) Community wants to be assured a suitable forest management workforce is available by:
 - a) Encouraging training and skills development
 - b) Ensuring adequate local staffing of the Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resources Operations

- 3) Community wants an informed public by:
- a) Providing forest education initiatives for youth and the public
 - b) Providing efficient and effective mechanisms to inform the public of forestry in general and the status of the local-regional forest

NEXT STEPS

The *Healthy forests-Healthy communities: A conversation on BC forests* initiative welcomes additional input from concerned citizens in the northern Vancouver Island area. These can be provided through the website e-mail info@bcforestconversation.com or through the facebook and twitter mechanisms accessed through the website <http://bcforestconversation.com>.

A final report will be prepared by January 2012 summarizing the input from the Community Dialogue Sessions held during 2011. All the information will be posted on the *Healthy Forests-Healthy Communities* initiative website and provided electronically to key decision-makers. The HFHC 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 action on the key messages.