

QUESNEL COMMUNITY DIALOGUE SESSION

Tower Inn

**September 28, 2011
(7:00 pm - 9:30 pm)**

REPORT

DIALOGUE SESSION FORMAT

The Dialogue Session included:

- An introduction to the *Healthy Forest-Healthy Communities: A conversation on BC forests* initiative
- A presentation on the current and future situation regarding the timber availability for the Quesnel Timber Supply Area and Tree Farm Licenses supplying the Quesnel mills
- Clarification that:
 - A consensus among the participants is not an overall objective
 - The objective was to have a dialogue regarding the desires for the future forest from the participants
- A facilitated open discussion on challenges, 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

Based on the perspective representation at the session (i.e., industry, Government, First Nations, Non-timber Forest Products industry, local government, concerned citizens), the following were identified as key messages and potential actions:

- 1) Participants want the BC Government to develop a clear vision for BC forests to guide management decisions (consensus was reached on this message)
- 2) Participants want more diversification associated with the forest lands resources by:
 - a) Increasing overall land management planning rather than focusing on timber production
 - b) Integrating non-timber forest products opportunities into forest management planning and operations
 - c) Increasing value-added manufacturing
 - d) Encouraging the establishment of viable and sustainable local businesses, especially focusing on value-added products

- e) Maintaining a safe network of roads to access forest lands for a diverse range of values and products
 - f) Encouraging innovative ways to pay for the maintenance of the forest lands road infrastructure
- 3) Participants want to maintain as many jobs as possible with the expected 50% decrease in timber availability by:
- a) Increasing value-added manufacturing to get more jobs per cubic metre
 - b) Increasing silviculture activity to create jobs and tree growth for mid-term timber production
- 4) Participants want more involvement of the public through sharing their views regarding forest lands management by:
- a) Identifying and using reliable methods of getting the public to become involved
 - b) Ensuring efforts directed to public understanding of forestry and generating a feeling of being connected to the BC forest

NEXT STEPS

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