

SHUSWAP COMMUNITY DIALOGUE SESSION

Prestige Inn, Salmon Arm

**September 14, 2011
(6:00 pm - 9:00 pm)**

REPORT

DIALOGUE SESSION FORMAT

The Dialogue Session included:

- An introduction to the *Healthy Forest-Healthy Communities: A conversation on BC forests* initiative
- A facilitated open discussion on the following 6 questions to generate key messages and potential actions:
 - What key forest values and resources do we need to ensure the health of our community?
 - To what extent are these needs captured in the *draft statement of a forest lands vision for British Columbia*, stated above?
 - What specific aspects of this vision would we emphasize as objectives in our community to reflect key forest values and resources important to us?
 - What issues or other obstacles stand in the way of us achieving these specific objectives?
 - What information and involvement do we require to have confidence that progress is being made in addressing issues and moving us towards achieving our objectives?
 - What other strategies or priority actions do we feel are needed to address the issues or obstacles we have identified?
- Comments from the participants were recorded and summarized

KEY MESSAGES - Potential Actions

- 1) Community wants involvement in local forest lands decisions by:
 - a) Establishing a provincial forest lands vision that legally guides legislation, regulation, policies and practices to reduce impacts caused by frequent changing priorities and conflicting policies
 - b) Establishing a local-regional forest lands vision and objectives to guide forest practices
 - c) Providing more information on forestry and forest practices for effective engagement in the process
 - d) Providing more information regarding the forest lands decision making process
 - e) Providing mechanisms for formal community involvement in land use and forest lands decisions
 - f) Providing more local civil servants available to provide information on local-regional forests

- 2) Community wants forest lands to support all sustainable services and experiences and not just forest products by:
 - a) Insisting forest lands decisions lead to supporting viable and sustainable local forest businesses
 - b) Encouraging a robust local forest economy that supports creation of resilient communities
 - c) Encouraging diversity from forest lands products and services (environmental, social, cultural, economic)
 - d) Requiring forest lands decisions to be made at different scales to ensure all values (ecological, social, cultural and economic) are addressed
- 3) Community wants good information for decision making by:
 - a) Acquiring sufficient resource inventory data to ensure forest management decisions can address community needs
 - b) Ensuring adequate resources are available for monitoring the state of resource inventories and forest management practices
 - c) Ensuring information is transparent and readily available to the public
 - d) Ensuring information includes Aboriginal knowledge
- 4) Community wants more relevant and meaningful public education on forestry by:
 - a) Making a concerted effort to inform the local and provincial publics regarding forestry
 - b) Ensuring efforts are directed to public understanding of forestry and generate a feeling of 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 Shuswap region. 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.