

VANCOUVER (UBC) COMMUNITY DIALOGUE SESSION

Forest Sciences Centre, Faculty of Forestry, UBC

**June 23, 2011
(7:00 pm-9:00 pm)**

REPORT

DIALOGUE SESSION FORMAT

The Dialogue Session included:

- Introduction of the *Healthy forest-Healthy communities: A conversation on BC forests* Initiative
- Three member panel discussion on forest management perspectives: Professional Foresters Association (ABCFP), conservation, governance structure
- 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 into the key messages and potential actions

KEY MESSAGES - Potential Actions

- 1) BC needs to create a positive forest culture
 - a) Urbanization is disconnecting people from the forest, need to show how forests are impacting urban residents through:
 - i) Public education programs to demonstrate
 - (1) Value of forests to families
 - (2) Connection between human health and forests
 - (3) Clean air, water and recreation, etc are just as important to health care and education as hospitals and schools
 - ii) Encouraging forest lands recreation as a very positive instrument to generate interest in the forests and their management
 - iii) Government capitalizing on volunteers and NGOs as a resource to improve recreation opportunities (e.g., Government to cover field activity liability)
 - b) Government and industry to finding more funding for public forest education; getting kids into the forest is important

- 2) Improved forest management is required and could benefit from:
 - a) Reversing the last 10 year political decision emphasis from short term forest economics to forest sustainability
 - b) Establishing a legal Provincial Charter and guiding principles regarding forest management developed with community influence
 - c) Actions to reverse the decline in forest health that is impacting other values expected from the forest; climate change will bring forward further impacts
 - d) Providing more funding for good forest management through considering new models for funding
 - e) Deploying Forest Service staff to live in communities to ensure their mandate is met
 - f) Ensuring professional foresters have a role to play
 - i) Professional practice
 - ii) Public expectations
 - iii) Strict rules usually lead to negative consequences for some
 - iv) Concerned the ABCFP is not strong enough to push forward forest stewardship

- 3) Decline in community support for forests needs to be re-invigorated through such actions as:
 - a) Moving away from the centralized management to regional and community influenced management
 - b) Instituting revenue sharing between Victoria and regions/communities
 - c) Realizing more value from the forests but ensuring subsidies for forest products are not created and let markets dictate best use of materials and revenues

NEXT STEPS

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