

WILLIAMS LAKE COMMUNITY DIALOGUE SESSION

City Hall Council Chambers

**June 20, 2011
(7:00 pm-9:00 pm)**

REPORT

DIALOGUE SESSION FORMAT

The Dialogue Session included:

- Introduction of the *Healthy forests-Healthy communities: A conversation on BC forests* Initiative
- Identification of 3 key challenges confronting the management of BC forests in the Cariboo: community involvement in forest management, wildfire protection, and maintaining the forest lands asset
- Facilitated open discussion on challenges, issues, concerns and potential solutions related to provincial and local/regional forests
- Recording of participants' comments for summarizing into the key messages and potential actions

KEY MESSAGES - Potential Actions

- 1) Community wants a different system of forest management to:
 - a) Address the increasing level of frustration over forest management decisions that currently lack local input
 - b) Reverse the emerging trend of returning to the land use conflicts of the 1980s
 - c) Provide an opportunity to develop and implement Cariboo-Chilcotin solutions to Cariboo-Chilcotin issues
- 2) Community wants a regional approach to forest lands management decisions, such as:
 - a) Processes to facilitate more community involvement and influence on local forest management decisions that will:
 - i) Encourage both stewardship and jobs
 - ii) Provide municipal politicians opportunities to openly discuss local forest management issues with the provincial Government
 - iii) Develop a plan for long-term resilience of both the economy and the environment for all stakeholders and First Nations
 - iv) Ensure the Cariboo-Chilcotin Land Use Plan reflects the impacts of the MPB epidemic

- v) Encourage more focused land management decisions to reduce growing conflicts among overlapping resources and tenures
- vi) Minimize cumulative impacts expected due to overlapping land uses
- b) Government to:
 - i) Implement the Forest Practices Board report recommendations
 - ii) Rationalize maintenance of forest roads to meet resource management and public demands and capitalize on infrastructure assets
- 3) Community wants Government to limit its involvement to such items as:
 - a) Providing structure to the forest management system
 - b) Allowing local retention of some revenue generated from regional forest lands
 - c) Creating a base policy regarding funding of forest lands research, and maintaining adequate funding levels
 - d) Creating some private land management to reduce conflict and pressures on the entire land base
 - e) Removing the Forest and Range Protection Act constraint regarding limiting non-timber resource (e.g., water conservation) impacts on Allowable Annual Cut
 - f) Developing a system to encourage investment in forest lands management
- 4) Community needs more education and advocacy related to forest management through:
 - a) ABCFP providing public information
 - b) Forest companies telling more about what they do and why
 - c) Government and industry committing to informing the public regarding their forest management decisions and actions
 - d) Government informing urban and rural citizens of the importance of natural resources to their individual (urban or rural) livelihoods
 - e) Government making a concerted effort to inform urban citizens of the importance of natural resources to the urban economy

NEXT STEPS

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