



**British Columbia  
Community Forest  
Association**

**BC Community Forest Association  
2009 Annual Conference and AGM  
May 28 - 31, 2009**

Port Alberni Community Centre - Echo Centre



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## Conference Overview

The 2009 BCCFA Conference and Annual General Meeting were hosted by the Alberni Valley Community Forest and the town of Port Alberni. Despite the dramatic challenges of the sagging global economy, changing markets, and the known and unknown impacts of climate change in front of us, 90 people participated actively and with enthusiasm in the event.

With a target to reduce costs, outside speakers and formal presentations were kept to a minimum. Through a series of four 1.75 hour long Dialogue Sessions, the conference program focused on strengthening the network of community forest practitioners, and on sharing experiences, information and strategies for navigating these times in our industry. Participants explored the potential for synergies at regional levels, collaborative marketing of community forest products and partnerships with First Nation communities. We learned about the complexities of climate change, something that promises to challenge how we manage our forests for the long term, and we learned about government initiatives for bioenergy, carbon credits and adding value to logs.

A highlight of the conference was the premier of the ***BCCFA Community Forest Film***. The film, produced by David Springbett of Asterisk Productions, is the primary activity in the *Opening New Doors: Branding BC's Community Forests* project. The purpose of the film is to promote the unique characteristics of community forests and to demonstrate the benefits of local control and management. The message that community forest agreements (CFAs) combine environmental stewardship, economic development and social benefits is told through the stories and activities of six different community forests and a 10 minute overview piece. The film is a very beautiful documentation of the diversity of each community, and tells the story of how we are all linked through this unique tenure. <sup>1</sup>

The Conference Report is a large document. It has a level of detail that will inform the readers who were not able to attend and serves as a record of the discussions and key outcomes. If time is limited to review the document in its entirety, key points are indicated by an

- **arrow bullet throughout the report for a quick read.**

Participants gave high marks for the conference format, topics and venue. Here is a sample of their comments:

- Good networking event-good venue. Very good field day. Exceeded expectations for learning about issues and opportunities for CFAs

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<sup>1</sup> The film was funded by Western Economic Diversification/Community Economic Development Initiative, Southern Interior Beetle Action Coalition, Southern Interior Development Initiative Trust and the Northern Development Initiative Trust

- Awesome! 1st time attending. Great to see the respectful and collaborative relationships at work! If only the entire wood products industry acted as honourably.
- I attend lots of conferences every year, but I have never been at one where the level of participant engagement was so high and sincere. Lots of times people leave a session grumbling about their dissatisfaction or opposition to an issue discussed in the session. Here people talked about those things in the sessions, very transparent, respectful and honest. Congratulations.
- Very good conference. Well organized. Excellent networking. The enthusiastic attitude of all those involved in the community forest program in BC really came through.

Thanks again to the City of Port Alberni, to Councillor and BCCFA Director Jack McLeman for spearheading the hosting activities, to Ken Watson, City Manager, who was the key man on every detail of very smooth conference delivery, to Tanya Meeks for making registration seem simple, to Theresa Kingston who organized the venue to perfection, and to the all those who were so important in making the conference such a professional and enjoyable event.

It is always an adventure to organize and deliver this conference. We begin in October with a host community and a budget. From there the staff and directors work together to shape a conference program that will draw participants, and have some meaningful impact on those who do attend. This year we put a focus on strengthening the community forest network, on finding the new opportunities that can come if we work together, on uniting with others in a shared sense of purpose, and through all of that, increasing the possibility of finding sustainable solutions for our communities. The key take away from the conference is that community forests are nimble and flexible. Through our network we are prepared to work together to meet the challenges of the times, and to grow the opportunities of this unique tenure.

**Respectfully,  
Susan Mulkey  
Proud to be BCCFA Staff and Conference Organizer**



**net work**  
(nĕt wûrk) *n.*

An extended group of people with similar interests or concerns who interact and remain in informal contact for mutual assistance or support.

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## Conference Goals and Key Questions

The BCCFA directors and staff identified a focus for the conference. All presentations and Dialogue sessions were designed to address the following goals and key questions.

### Conference Goals

- To strengthen the network of the people engaged in community forestry
- To share experiences, information and strategies for navigating the changes and challenges in our sector.
- To explore new opportunities and the possibility of finding sustainable solutions that can come when we work together.

### Key Questions

1. What opportunities exist for community forests to benefit from networking?
2. What opportunities exist for community forests to diversify their products and markets?
3. What strategies are you currently using to manage through lean times?
4. What are you doing to consider long term impacts/uncertainty of climate change?
5. What are the strategic priorities for the BCCFA to most effectively assist all communities engaged in community forestry?

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## Speakers, Guests and Sponsors

The BCCFA would like to thank the following people for their contribution to the conference and to the productivity of the dialogue sessions. Following each name is a “key quote” captured during the conference.



**Jim Langridge, Ministry of Forests and Range-** “Your working relationships and the fact that you are not competing with one another is the foundation of your success. Along with key staff, quiet pressure and the ability to make course corrections, the BCCFA is an unstoppable force. Take advantage of your unique situation. “

**Dave Lewis, Truck Loggers Association-** “In today’s erratic markets, whoever is nimble and flexible will benefit the most. Get small blocks ready to go. That will give you the ability to get in the lead when the markets open up.”



**Hon. Pat Bell, Minister of Forests and Range-** “Through the Forestry Round Table consultations, people told government that they want control of the resource, and that the resource should benefit the local economy. A key part of developing a relationship with rural people is to grow CFAs. Now at 4%, a reasonable goal is 20% of the provincial harvest in CFAs, woodlots and First Nation tenures. The Premier supports this idea. Some cases it will be easier than others. Where do we get the land base for more CFAs? We must look for innovative approaches.”



**Robin Hood, BCCFA President-** “Community forestry makes forestry fun. It is about the people. We work together and feed off each other’s motivation.”



**Richard Hebda, U Vic, Royal British Columbia Museum-** On managing for climate change: Anticipate impacts, understand how forests work, manage on landscape and stand scale, experiment with mixes and techniques, limit major forest disturbance, maintain resilience, strive for

multiple forest benefits, encourage and train thinkers and practitioners



**Don Gosnell, Ministry of Forests and Range-** “Generate local demand for biomass. Explore creation of a CFA that is a forest management tenure, not just a forest harvesting tenure.”



**Hupacasath First Nation, Warren Lauder, Band Councillor** -“Put the forests back in the hands of the community.”



**Tseshaht First Nation, Chief Les Sam-** “With local management, great things can come about.”



**Gina Thomas, First Nations Forest Council-** “We want meaningful and respectful consultation. I encourage CFs to take the lead in this. The community feeling is what makes CFs special. ”



**Ron Greschner, Ministry of Forests and Range-** “There is not minimum cut on 25 year licences as was the case with the probationary period. At the 10 year renewal there could be a reckoning if the AAC has not been harvested resulting in government not meeting its revenue targets.”

**Photo left to right: Ron Greschner, Peter Fuglem**

**Peter Fuglem, Executive Director of Wood First-** “Government’s Wood First Initiative has identified a priority to work to increase the number and size of community forests and to encourage communities to use fibre to support further manufacturing. The Value for Wood Secretariat is a good fit to support individual CFAs.”



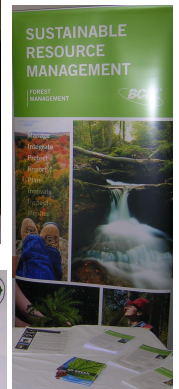
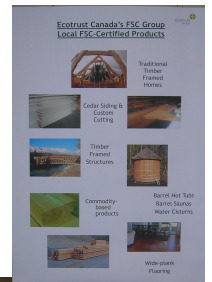
**Port Alberni Mayor, Ken Mc Rae-** Thinking out of the box, Port Alberni wants to explore a business model to offer burial sites on the community forest. “Instead of selling dead trees to live people, we could sell live trees to dead people”

**Sponsors - We are grateful for your generous support of our work**

- City of Port Alberni
- Alberni Clayoquot Regional District
- Island Timberlands
- Chances Rimrock
- Coulson Group of Companies
- Truck Loggers Association
- Western Vancouver Island Industrial Heritage Society

**Exhibitors – Thank you for your participation**

- Alternative Forest Services
- Island Timberlands
- Sylvan Vale Nursery
- WorkSafe BC
- BC Institute of Technology Diploma of Technology in Sustainable Resource Management
- UBC Faculty of Forestry – Community and Aboriginal Forestry
- Ecotrust Group Certifier for Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) Group certified products and Smartwood- FSC Certification
- Royal Roads University – Non- Timber Resources
- Monticola Forest Ltd.
- Port Alberni Community Forest
- Forest Safety Council





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## 2008 The Year in Review

### ***BCCFA Activities – BCCFA Board of Directors and Staff***

To set the stage for the Dialogue Sessions each director and staff member spoke to an aspect of the work of BCCFA over the past year. All activities are fully reported on in the [2008-2009 President's Report](#).



1. Ramona Faust (Harrop-Procter Community Forest) – Branding and Marketing
2. Kevin Davie (Sechelt Community Forest) – Forest Safety
3. Ross Hamilton (Fort St James Community Forest) - Organizational Development establishment of reserve fund, staff contracts, board roles and responsibilities
4. Grant Thompson (Westbank) –Member on line survey
5. Jack Mc Leman (Port Alberni) – Conference Organization
6. Robin Hood (Likely-Xat'sull (Soda Creek) Community Forest) – Forestry Round Table submission
7. Marc von der Gonna (McBride Community Forest Corporation) – Forest Investment Account
8. Dorothy Hunt (Cowichan Lake Community Forest Cooperative) - First Nations Engagement
9. Alistair Schroff (Burns Lake Community Forest Corp) – Bioenergy
10. Jennifer Gunter, BCCFA Executive Director- Working Group (Bill 13 and the work we did on the application and license document) and Pricing S
11. Susan Mulkey, Manager of Communication and Extension - Extension (website, NTFR guide, newsletter, regional meetings) and fundraising



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***The Community Forest Agreement and Related Government Initiatives –  
Jim Langridge and Ron Greschner, Ministry of Forests and Range***

**Ron Greschner, Ministry of Forests and Range**

[Link to Ron's presentation](#)

- The Joint Working Group (MFR and BCCFA) met a twice during the year. working on the details of the removal of the probationary period and long term CFA license and application,
- Tanizul Timber invited to convert a TFL into a CFA 150,000m3
- 4 PCFAs issued over the past year. Creston, Lower Similkameen, Eniyud (Tatla Lake/Alexis Creek IB), Lheidli T'enneh
- Change to Legislation- Bill 13 passed March 31, 2009. Bill 13 removes the probationary period and interim review assessments. All applications go directly to a 25 year replaceable license. Existing PCFA to transition to 25 year CFA, need to surrender existing 5 year licence and get a 25 year licence. Next- regulation changes required to the Act
- MFR is working on a one Cutting Permit (CP) concept – one CP over the whole CFA. All timber is pre-priced at tabular rate, streamlining administration. The concept will be piloted on Woodlots first.
- CFA program continues to expand and continues to be streamlined.

**Jim Langridge, Ministry of Forests and Range**

- COFI conference was cancelled this year. ABCFP's conference was truncated. BCCFA made adjustments in budgets and the conference is happening because you are nimble - to borrow the phrase from Dave Lewis.
- Your working relationships and the fact that you are not competing with one another is the foundation of your success. Along with key staff, quiet pressure and the ability to make course corrections BCCFA is an unstoppable force.
- Take advantage of your unique situation. Explore possibility for carbon credits as a component of the CFA tenure

## **Presentations**

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***Keynote Speaker - Hon. Minister Pat Bell, Minister of Forests and Range***

- This is the Minister's first appearance since election, and until the Premier appoints a new cabinet, he is not officially the Forest Minister, though he is hoping to carry on the work he started since holding the post.
- Through the Forestry Round Table consultations, people told government that they want control of the resource, and that the resource should benefit the local economy.

- A key part of developing a relationship with rural people is to grow CFAs. Now at 4%, a reasonable goal is 20% of the provincial harvest in CFAs, woodlots and First Nation tenures. The Premier supports this idea. Some cases it will be easier than others.



- Where do we get the land base for more CFAs? We must look for innovative approaches. BC Timber Sales (BCTS) is utilizing all of their land. Currently BCTS supplies me with important information I need to set market based prices.
- New silviculture regime for 21<sup>st</sup> Century. There are dramatic results to be seen in spacing and pre-commercial thinning beyond free growing. We can do more in our forests beyond just cutting timber. We must fully utilize our waste. Used a stand treatment in Terrace- amabilis fir with treatments spacing in 1985 and pre commercial thinning – 400m<sup>3</sup>/ha to 600m<sup>3</sup>/ha, available for harvest sooner with stand tending and results in trees increasing diameter and higher quality logs.
- Pacific Carbon Trust. \$5 million available. Wants proposals from community forests. Get value out of all of your wood. Ethanol will grow. Funding can make it happen. Incremental dollars are available. Take advantage of it. 1 year ago we did not use this waste. More utilization of resource- biomass industry – now 14 grinders producing 1,000,000m<sup>3</sup>
- In Europe industrial wood pellets are replacing coal. In BC pellets can supplement pulp mills and also be used to heat green houses
- University of Northern BC in Prince George is selecting Nexterra Energy to install a biomass gasification system to heat the campus instead of using natural gas
- \$35 million in BC bioenergy network
- BCIT is collaborating with Lignol Energy Corporation -Biorefining Technology Development Centre- cellulosic ethanol process

- Phase II Hydro – diesel powered costs 18-24 cents/KWH, bioenergy can replace. CFAs did not fit into phase 1
- China is the emerging market – US could be 3-5 years to recover. US formerly took 10 billion foot board measure (fbm) of 14 billion fbm. Cheaper to ship to China. China will be largest consumer -11 billion fbm goal. China is about lumber – not logs. 6% a year china growing. Roof truss market infill walls. Japan is next.
- BC Non residential market for large wood buildings. Wood First program focus. Buildings must be built out of wood. Cancer clinic in PG. Change paradigm away from concrete steel and glass. Software is designed to utilize concrete and steel – talked about 6 floors vs. 4 floor construction in BC .Training should create incentive and innovation in wood design. Seeking applications for hemlock. In a low carbon economy wood buildings are important and they sequester carbon.
- Wood Enterprise Centre, Value for Wood Secretariat. Peter Fuglem coming to explain. Download the policy paper off the MFR website. Make sure the policies fit for CFAs.
- Must make connections with diverse remanufacturers. Regional clusters are a high priority. Merchandising is what minister calls it. Support will be established at the district level
- Web based log market – how to use newer technologies particularly on smaller demands. Some sites online are already functioning well. Must develop technology if necessary
- Highest priority– support to individual CFAs through the Value for Wood Secretariat
- The Secretariat can assist with linkages - key pieces and potential customers.
- Comment from Marc von der Gonna– If you need access to fibre for diverse manufacturers –we have the tenure for you. Is there money to help us buy the linkages?
- Response - In some cases it will take partnerships and some investment. Pointing people to the right place to generate the business. There will not be direct financial investment.
- Can offer “hosting” conditions – based on business models through the Value for Wood Secretariat. There will be help where needed. There will be an individual with significant responsibility at the district level to coordinate.
- Forest Innovation Investment (FII) is the mechanism to focus on marketing
- Softwood Lumber Agreement (SLA) is still lurking. Must always apply the SLA lens.

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***Climate Change, Carbon Sequestration and Communities - Richard Hebda, School of Earth and Ocean Science, U of Victoria and Royal BC Museum***

[Link to the presentation](#)

## Key Messages

- All avoidable CO2 emissions whether from fossil fuels or green fuels must be eliminated
- There are no green CO2 molecules they all warm the atmosphere
- Forests cannot become human energy slaves (bio-energy)
  - Carbon sink, sequestration and adaptation role are first priorities
- Cannot avoid all emissions and eco-impacts
- Offset/replace them by equivalent or better. No net loss of wetlands for example
- Investors in offsets:
  - compliance = required to do so
  - voluntary = want to do so
- Keeping track of carbon is hard, the science is evolving, some of it is complicated (soils)
- The business of accounting and trading is really hard, very different than science.

## Strategies

- Anticipate impacts with sensitivity maps
- Understand how forests work (i.e. soil processes)
- Manage on landscape and stand scale
- Experiment with mixes and techniques
- Limit major forest disturbance
- Maintain resilience (avoid invasive species)
  - Strive for multiple forest benefits
- Encourage and train thinkers and practitioners

## Dialogue Sessions

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### ***Emerging Opportunities for Community Forests - Bioenergy and Carbon Credits***

The focus of the session was on the opportunities and barriers of bioenergy, carbon credits and the marketing of non traditional fibre. Logically there are opportunities for small operations like ours to contribute to reducing greenhouse gas and to positive actions on climate change. Don Gosnell, Manager Bioenergy Tenures, Ministry of Forests and Range was the resource person for the session.

Questions explored included:

- What are the new green energy policy and initiatives, and how do they work for CFAs?
- What are the opportunities and barriers of the provincial bioenergy and marketing of non-traditional fibre initiatives and how can community forests get in the game?

- What is the Pacific Carbon Trust? What is going on in BC in relationship to the private and public trading systems?

### **Biomass tenures**

- Bioenergy tenures don't really exist. "Biomass" tenures on the other hand, do exist. The Forest Act has been amended to enable the issuance of forestry licenses to cut and fibre supply licenses to cut for roadside and landing located harvest residues. A regulation is required to enable this amendment and that is expected to come into force this summer.
- BC Timber Sales (BCTS) and Forests for Tomorrow (FFT) are collaborating to improve the harvest economics for stands severely damaged by the mountain pine beetle (MPB). The project involves BCTS's Innovative Timber Sale and FFT holding reforestation obligations.

### **Electricity from wood**

BC Hydro has announced that Phase 2 of their bioenergy call for power will include 2 streams:

- The first stream is for community energy projects where the quality of energy supplied by the grid is poor and/or the community can leverage energy other than electricity from a project that also supplies electricity to the BC Hydro grid. These projects can range in size from 0.5 MW to 10 MW. This stream is expected to be launched in July.
- The second stream is for industrial scale electricity projects of 10MW or larger. This stream is supported by MFR via a number of 20 year non-replaceable forest licenses (subject to consultation with affected First nation Communities) totalling 1.9 million m<sup>3</sup>/year.
- The limiting factor with energy from biomass is economics. Electricity in BC primarily comes from heritage large scale hydro dams and is among the cheapest energy in North America. Electricity from biomass will cost 2 to 4 times as much.
- The BC Utilities Commission regulates BC Hydro energy contracts to ensure the rate payer's interests are protected. Government has provided some direction to BCUC to consider things other than price, but price still dominates the contract review process.

### **Biomass Opportunities for CFAs**

- The community energy project call noted above may be worthy of CFA consideration. Small energy plants have the advantage of manageable biomass supply requirements and relatively small capital requirements.
- Don't wait for Victoria to come up with a solution. Work on local solutions and then go to government.
- With low value material and high transportation costs, CFAs may be well positioned to support modest local energy demand. A 5 megawatt plant powers 4000 local homes and requires less than 100,000 m<sup>3</sup> of biomass. A

secure land base and fibre supply close to town means that CFAs have better than average opportunity.

- Mr. Gosnell suggested the exploration of a CFA that is a forest management tenure, not just a forest harvesting tenure. This links with the idea of the BCCFA “blue sky” explorations of alternative tenure arrangements.

### **Carbon Management**

We have 3 types of carbon markets around the world.

- 1) BC Government will invest in things that create carbon offsets through the Pacific Carbon Trust.
- 2) Voluntary markets (E.g.: the Chicago Climate Exchange - Rainer Muentner noted - 15 year commitments. .
- 3) Regulated market under cap and trade. – Western Climate Initiative plans to create a cap and Trade system by 2012, but is challenged with complexity due to 11 member states and provinces. The key is in creating and maintaining a level playing field.

### **Pacific Carbon Trust**

Pacific Carbon Trust (PCT) is a Crown Corporation established in 2008 to help the Government meet its 2010 commitment to be GHG neutral via the purchasing of carbon offset credits. PCT has launched a call for forest emission reduction projects. The scope of eligible activities include afforestation, fertilization and use of improved seed. Spacing and thinning are not eligible yet. Pacific Carbon Trust is targeting \$25/ton, and they are looking to buy \$4 – 5 Million worth in 2009.

### **Eligible land base includes:**

- Private land;
- Municipal lands;
- First Nation’s Treaty land and Indian Reserves (subject to Federal Gov. agreement)
- Provincial Forest
  - Area-based tenures (TFL, WLs, CFAs).
- We are talking 100 year projects. The carbon offset credit you are going to sell must be maintained for 100 years. Doesn’t mean the tree itself has to be there for 100 years. Just that the equivalent amount of carbon has been retained.
- First you have to establish the baseline – how much carbon is on the site to begin with and would occur in the absence of a carbon market. The only thing that counts is what is incremental. The difference between the two is the carbon offset.

In future calls and in other markets, the scope of eligible activities may well increase to include things like avoidance of deforestation through permanent reductions in the AAC over a specified area (without increasing the harvest on another area).

## **Near Term**

Gosnell: To allow CFAs to be eligible for carbon credits, government needs to either put in an order in council that would allow them to issue a different permit to CFs that would go through First Nation consultation; it also requires a directive from treasury board to assign carbon offset ownership to the CFA holder.

## **Long Term – Cap & Trade**

A number of policy challenges exist that we must work through over the next year or so. For example:

- On what basis do we grant rights on crown land to participate in voluntary carbon markets?
- How do we enforce it?
- Is there a revenue expectation?
- How do you manage all the different rights that are out there, over 100 years?

Only big industrial emitters are going to be subject to cap and trade. This was a political decision.

## **How do you establish your project's carbon baseline and project the incremental carbon?**

- There is a set of protocols under development that you will be required to follow and third party certified audits will validate that your proposal is going to do what it proports to do. Then you have to verify that the carbon is actually being sequestered as your proposal projected that it would. This verification is repeated periodically to provide the buyer with certainty that they are getting what they paid for.
- Don wants feedback from the BCCFA – would you prefer to take on the risk associated with growing the carbon stock (fire, pests, wind etc) and receiving payment for that risk (at least to the degree the market will bear the cost)? Or would you prefer to merely identify the land base, the treatment and to undertake the work and have government manage the risk? (Note this only applies to the situation where government is the buyer).
- We need to differentiate between the short term and the long term strategy. Cap & Trade will take some time and may have benefits.
- Potential for CFAs to become a pilot for carbon management with cap and trade. BCCFA should be proactive and promote the idea. You can build a proposal that is complex and includes soil carbon, moss etc, or you can just use tree growth.
- BCCFA needs to share information with the members about protocols and should distribute protocols from Pacific Carbon Trust as soon as they become available. But also be aware that Pacific Carbon Trust is not the only game in town.



(However, on Crown land, the Crown retains ownership of carbon offset credits unless they are assigned to the CFA holder in writing.)

- CFAs are unique in that they have the ability through Div. 7 Section 43.3 (ii) “the right to harvest, manage and charge fees for botanical forest products and other prescribed products”, this clause could conceivably be expanded to include carbon offsets, but that is not currently the understanding.
- CFAs need to explore climate change impacts on long term management approaches and take a holistic view in conjunction with carbon credits.

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### ***The Way to Operational - Community Forest Applications and new Start Ups***

Q & A and roundtable discussion session for applicants and new community forests. Resource people - Ron Greschner, MFR, Senior Timber Tenures Forester, Andrea Inwards Southern Interior Region, Ministry of Forests and Range.

Questions to be explored included:

- How will the removal of the probationary period be handled?
- What assistance and tools do applicants and new CFAS need to create efficiencies?

#### **Tools We Need for Efficiency**

- Information on the range of options for administrative and governance structures and partnerships and associated tax implications of each structure.
- Templates for governance, organizational policy, board roles and responsibilities, community engagement, and hiring
- Start up funding sources
- Guidance on First Nation consultation, relationship building, and traditional use
- Collect stories of community forests

#### **Program Expansion**

There is allocation from the 20% take back left in the north. Options are very constrained in the south and on the island.

#### **Cut Control**

There is not minimum cut on 25 year licences as was the case with the probationary period. At the 10 year renewal there could be a reckoning if the AAC has not been harvested resulting in government not meeting its revenue targets.

#### **New Licence Document & Management Plan**

With the removal of the probationary period, and a roll over into the long term agreement there is a new requirement in the management plan that will have to be completed by some communities. The new requirement was created in complete

cooperation with the BCCFA and is intended to keep the community in community forestry.

The objectives of the new requirement are:

1. To ensure that the social and economic objectives of community forests are kept alive as PCFAs transition to CFAs.
2. To formalize the linkage to the provincial objectives for the program and to provide a reporting framework.
3. To ensure that CFA holders are accountable to their communities.

Management Plans in the long term license document will be required to include:

- A description of the social, economic and resource management guiding principles and goals
- A brief summary statement of how Provincial CFA Program Objectives have been considered and how the Management Plan is consistent with the Program Objectives

BCCFA staff is available to help members navigate the new management plan requirements as needed.

### **Annual Rent**

The timing that the first bill is issued when the CFA is issued is new. If you are not ready to start harvesting, then it may make sense to delay the acceptance of a CFA, because as soon as you get a licence, you get a rent bill. Licenses that are issued to a FN as part of an interim economic measure, annual rent bill may not be collected.

Proposals from the heart were often better than those done by consultants. Use volunteers in your community that have expertise.

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## ***Widening the Circle - Dialogue with First Nations***

**Jack Mc Leman and Dorothy Hunt**

Over the past year, the BCCFA has been working to promote cooperation and build connections to meaningfully include First Nation voices and needs in the work of the BCCFA. The goal of this session is to widen the circle of the past conversations.

Dorothy Hunt a BCCFA Board member, Manager of the Pacheedaht First Nation, and member of the Cowichan Community Forest and Gina Thomas, First Nations Forestry Council/FORREX were the resource people for this session.



Questions considered in this dialogue:

- What practices are you currently using that demonstrate effective cooperation and collaboration?

- What advice do you have for building successful partnerships between First Nation and rural communities?
- How can the BCCFA more effectively provide outreach and support services to First Nation communities engaged in community forestry?
- How might the BCCFA collaborate with other provincial organizations to best support First Nation communities engaged in community forestry?

Cowichan Lake Community Forest (CLCF) described the partnership between the Pacheedaht and the Cowichan Lake community. The CLCF is within Pacheedaht Traditional Territory. They have a non-replacable forest licence (NRFL) that is going to expire in about 8 years. They are working together to apply for a CFA. They are two businesses that are partners in a new business, a limited partnership, 50% to each community .

- “Communications are very important. We are individuals. Don’t ever take anything for granted; make sure that you know where everyone is at. “ Gina Thomas

Whistler is set up as a three way equal partnership, the town, and two First Nations. In both Whistler and CLCF, decisions are made by consensus.

Westbank First Nation Community Forest- Grant Thompson – Westbank is overseen by Chief & Council, as well as Heartland Economics. We are in an urban setting, and so to spark interest in forestry jobs is challenging. Trying to slowly build capacity. Biggest challenge was to be able to provide buyers with a consistent product in a timely fashion. We are one of the few operations where people are buying equipment at auctions. Contractors had been working in PG or Northern Alberta for that last 20 years. We had experienced people – 3 or 4 generations working in the bush. Bring the loggers home and give them some certainty in their work. CFA has made Westbank a player in the forest industry.

What advice do you have for consultation with FNs?

- Dorothy Hunt “It is about respect. It is no different for anyone. If you had a family burial site, you wouldn’t want me to go logging there. Traditional territory must be respected.”

Gina Thomas - Gina is bringing the CF idea to First Nations (FN) and can share with people information about the CF and the BCCFA. All FN want meaningful and respectful consultation. I encourage CFs to take the lead in this. The community feeling is what makes CFs special.

Feedback to MFR from FNs involved in the CF would be very useful to bring to the tenure discussions between MFR and the FN Forestry Council.

How to include FN in a CFA?

- Could offer them a seat on the board.
- The government may be happy to help with this. Need an outside person to come and talk to all of them and the Valemount CF.
- They may not realize what the expectations are of them. What is the benefit to them being on the board?

The Community Forest DVD will be an excellent tool for getting the word out about CFs and the BCCFA.

- Jim Langridge– “The strength of CFs is that you are not competing with one another. Take advantage of that unique situation. Other licensees are not like that.”

### **Next Steps**

- BCCFA Extension —The power of the Association is in our members stories. We need to write up the technical details (including the range of governance structures, board roles and responsibilities, freedom of information implications with municipalities, tax implications) of all our different stories which could then be shared with others. Here is what works with us and what didn't. Sharing mistakes is important too. Look to a role for university research.

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## ***Managing a Community Forest in Lean Times and Value Added Opportunities***

This session covered two components: 1) Advice from community forest managers on the strategies they are using to navigate the next 2-3 years. 2) Peter Fuglem, the Executive Director of Wood First, part of the new Value Added Secretariat, talked about this new initiative and potential opportunities for CFAs to add value to their logs.

### **Questions to be addressed in the session:**

- How are managers working their activities and cut control in today's market?
- What is the new Wood First program and how can needs of CFAs be addressed in the program?
- How can the Wood First Program support value added investment in communities?

### **Outcomes**

#### **1) Summary of the Advice from Managers – Managing in Lean Times**

- Be ready and nimble to take advantage of openings in the market
- Know your costs
- Pre-sell timber

- Have shelf ready projects. When majors are not logging there are spot markets. Be ready and have wood ready to go
- Small is good
- Cultivate relationships for diverse markets
- Know and understand your licence, read between the lines
- Don't think of logs. Think products. Your experience is a value added product
- Utilize summer students for field work under the targeted wage subsidy program. Job Opportunity funds are available to put people to work and reduce project costs

## 2) Cut Control

There is a maximum cut control but **no minimum cut control** for area based licenses under the Forest Act. CFAs are required to pay the annual rent and fire fighting expense based on the AAC regardless of harvest levels. A community could conceivably decide to not harvest timber and find revenue through other means to pay the annual rent. Having never been faced with this potential scenario on an area based tenure before, the ministry will be monitoring the situation on community forests to see how this new revelation plays out.

**3) Peter Fuglem, Executive Director of Wood First-** "Government's Wood First Initiative has identified a priority to work to increase the number and size of community forests and to encourage communities to use fibre to support further manufacturing. The Value for Wood Secretariat is a good fit to support individual CFAs."

## Wood First Program and Generating More Value from our Forests Action Plan

The BC Government has set a new vision to generate more employment and economic benefits from the forest resource that focuses on further manufacturing. The targeted actions include some specifics for community forests:

- Champion Wood First – promote use of wood
- Move innovation from the lab to the market - Stimulate growth of local manufacturing capacity; improve information flow between research institutions and communities, investors and manufacturers to promote commercial opportunities; improve hosting conditions to attract capital investment and encourage strategic alliances
- Facilitate the right fibre to the right process – establish web based mechanisms to streamline and facilitate sale of fibre to manufacturers; work to increase the number and size of community forests and encourage communities to use fibre to support further manufacturing
- Promote wood education and culture – increase public and consumer awareness of BC's environmentally sustainable forest sector and products.

## Program Delivery Mechanism - Two Elements

1) The **Value for Wood Secretariat** is just getting started – 2 staff, and small budget. The plan is to have resource people located in District offices, providing stakeholders with one-window access to government agencies and resources. This is a good fit for individual CFAs.

2) **Wood Enterprise Centre** will leverage expertise and resources from the forest sector, and research and academic institutions. The policy is to encourage governments to utilize wood in institutions beyond LEED standards.

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## Regional Networking Sessions

Informal regional community forest meetings are fast becoming a meaningful forum for discussion of local markets, administration, and forest management and other regional issues. It is a mechanism for grassroots input to BCCFA policy work and a way for new community forests to meet with experienced community forest managers. The goal of this session was to formalize regional clusters across the province – creating the beginning of a network of networks. The clusters naturally form around geography, travel corridors, and MFR regions. The initial groups are: Kootenays, Coast, Thompson Okanagan, Prince George Area, and the Chilcotin-Cariboo.

Questions considered include:

- What are the logical geographic areas for networking?
- How can communication be facilitated within the regional clusters?
- What types of issues are important to your area?
- What are the natural and/or potential synergies with the CFAs in your area?
- What's the role for the BCCFA?

### General Feedback

- BCCFA staff will put together a contact sheet for each one of the regions. The BCCFA membership list should be grouped by region on an ongoing basis.
- Sharing of administrative document templates

### Thompson Okanagan

- Group will meet soon and then report back to the BCCFA.



### Coast

- Talked about e-mail group and possibly meeting twice a year.



### Kootenay

- Group has met regularly for a few years. All CFs are participating in the area.
- Looking at efficiencies. Potential for sharing data, software, FSC templates,
- Co Marketing mechanism, co-advertising for timber sales.
- Looking at calendaring so that they coordinate harvesting & fibre basket.
- Looking at FSC group certification – having info sessions together.
- Joint Community sessions – public meetings.
- Potential to include woodlots, and even private land owners.

### Chilcotin-Cariboo

- Info sharing – experience around small sawmills.
- Zoning issues to operate small sawmills.
- FIA \$\$ - could get more funds from other licensees with strength in numbers

### North



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## BCCFA Strategic Planning

Conference participants identified priority activity areas for the coming year. The Board will meet in July to allocate the annual core budget and to identify approaches for seeking special project funding to pursue additional priorities.

## **Priorities**

### **Branding and Marketing – High priority**

- Get the word out. Continuation of current project will develop a logo and brochure to promote CFA products and value added opportunities. The brochure will be ready for distribution at UBCM in late September. BCCFA website will have a new marketing page.
- Create a business plan for the next phase and develop information piece on how to use the marketing materials.
- Distribution of the BCCFA Film – Post on BCCFA website (requires website upgrades) and each CFA can then put a hot link on their community website. Each member will receive a copy of the film. Investigate cost effective way to produce additional copies and make them widely available on a cost recovery basis.

### **Policy - High priority**

- Single cutting permit, administrative streamlining, carbon credit policy, and CFA program expansion to FN.
- Build the softwood case.
- Explore opportunities within BCTS to expand the CFA program and increase AAC of existing CFAs.

### **Communication and Extension – High priority**

- Governance Guidebook/Templates– Information on the range of options for corporate structures and partnerships and associated tax implications of each structure; Templates for governance, organizational policy, board roles and responsibilities, community engagement, hiring; Start up funding sources; Guidance on First Nation consultation, relationship building, and traditional use; Collect stories of community forests
- Work with applicants and new CFAs on upgrades to the management plan
- Regional Networks – Reorganize membership list to reflect regional clusters. Board member to chair each group to provide link to BCCFA/staff

### **First Nation Liaison – High priority**

- Continue to develop relationships.
- Collect and publish stories of individual FN and partnerships.

### **Value Added – High Priority**

- Engage fully with Value for Wood Secretariat in all program aspects
- Connect with remanufacturing sector
- Create an on line log market for CFA (links with Marketing)
- Network regionally and provincially



### **Carbon Management – High priority**

- Engage fully in policy discussion regarding cap and trade. Stay informed about the progress of the Pacific Carbon Trust.
- Explore further opportunities in CFA legislation to “manage for other prescribed products”
- Investigate other carbon initiatives.

### **Bioenergy – High priority**

- Stay informed about government initiatives. Share information with members

### **Medium and ongoing priorities**

- BCCFA Organizational development
- FIA
- Certification
- Forest Safety

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## **Community Forest Showcase**

### ***Cherryville Community Forest***

[Link to the presentation](#)

Representing one of the very newest and smallest CFAs, Hank Cameron gave an overview of the community effort that has been actively working since the 1970s to facilitate the management vision they have for the forests surrounding them.

### ***Kaslo and Area Community Forest***

[Link to the presentation](#)

Rainer Muentner, contracting manager of the Kaslo Community Forest talked about the history of the organization that was formed in 1995 to operate the 15 year volume based licence of 10,000m<sup>3</sup> and has now become a 20,000 m<sup>3</sup> long term CFA. Rainer talked about the challenges of managing the area that is highly constrained by watersheds, unroaded areas, forest health issues, steep terrain, conflicting values and of course, markets.

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## **Alberni Valley Field Tour**

Organized by Cindy Hutchinson and Ray Bartram, the field tour included visits to:

**Martin Mars Water Bomber Base** <http://www.martinmars.com/>

**Tail Gate Session** - The Alberni Valley Community Forest is still in the planning stages. We visited a potential operating area. With high value old growth, recreational and economic values, the site is a good representation of the convergence of values that is

so common in a community forest. The discussion explored the challenges and potential solutions for management. [www.communityforest.ca](http://www.communityforest.ca).

**First Nation Wildcrafters** - A Tseshaht tribal member owned business specializing in non timber and other value added forest products and services that operates on the Tseshaht Indian Reserve. We were welcomed with singing and refreshments that included homemade jam. Products include local medicinals, berry jams, crafts and mushroom that are marketed regionally. <http://www.firstnationswildcrafters.com/>



Keith Atkinson of First Nation Wildcrafters talks about the processing of wild crafted products.



Sampling of crafts

Robin Hood and Hank Cameron after the train ride to the banquet at the Mclean Mill

