

British Columbia Community Forest Association (BCCFA)

2008 – Conference & AGM, Sechelt, BC

WE NEED THE FOLLOWING FROM OUR COMMUNITY FOREST

Please help us to bring about these changes

A Transparent Decision-Making Structure:

A clear and equitable decision-making structure must be in place to ensure that all sectors of the community are involved in decision-making about our community forests. Politically appointed boards, or the devolution of community participation to a token “advisory” role, are not acceptable. Meetings need to be open to the public, not in-camera.

Community Participation and Support:

The community, not selected individuals, must determine the vision, goals and objectives of our community forests. A comprehensive public engagement process is required to evaluate community support and work toward clear goals and objectives.

Recognition and Accommodation of Aboriginal Rights and Interests:

Our community forests must respect the inherent rights of local First Nations. Local First Nations must have a mutually acceptable role in management and economic-benefit sharing in our community forests. Currently they are not at the table.

Protect Our Community Watersheds:

Residents have the right to an adequate supply of clean and safe drinking water. The Sunshine Coast’s community forest must respect the community’s legitimate desire for local control and authority to protect its vital water supply. The community is clearly not willing to tolerate any further industrial resource extraction in its drinking watersheds. This long-standing position has been consistently demonstrated through public processes, referendum and petitions. The current CF tenure has 53% of the gross area in both the Chapman Creek and Grey Creek public drinking watersheds.

Promote Community Economic Development:

Our community forests must balance all forest-based economic activities, such as timber harvesting, tourism, recreation and non-timber forest product harvesting. Economic development must maximize local employment and be consistent with Official Community Plans.

Maintain Ecological Integrity:

Our community forests must follow an ecosystem-based management (EBM) approach that requires comprehensive maintenance of all ecosystem functions at all planning scales as well as protection for species and plant communities at risk (as identified by BC’s Conservation Data Center).