



SUMMARY NOTES

A FORESTRY DIALOGUE: DEVELOPING A PATHWAY FOR THE LONG-TERM MANAGEMENT OF BC'S FORESTS

Victoria, BC – April 9 & 10, 2019

*When I am among the trees,
especially the willows and the honey locust,
equally the beech, the oaks and the pines,
they give off such hints of gladness.
I would almost say that they save me, and daily.
(Mary Oliver)*

1.0 Background

As a consequence of the May 2018 Professional Reliance review report¹ the conversation on the state of the forests and their management was revitalized. The professional reliance recommendations called for and are bringing forward a broad, renewed call for change in BC's approach to forest management.

The current government in its election platform, and subsequently in their mandate letters, made a commitment to address such critical matters as: species legislation, reconciliation, environmental assessment, land and water use planning, wildlife habitat management, and water sustainability. However, each of these initiatives is underlain by the need for diverse and ecologically healthy forests, and without broad forestry reform will be largely unsuccessful.

Recently a number of government initiatives directed to updating FRPA's legal and policy framework are moving forward. As well, there are other opportunities to build on, such as: the activities of the Forest and Range Practices Advisory Committee, the Coastal and Interior Revitalization Initiatives, First Nation reconciliation and the Green-NDP CASA Agreement.

However, it remains unclear how, or if, the current government will change the long-term management of BC's forests. As well, the current initiatives are being done in a vacuum, as a long-term vision is lacking.

There is therefore a growing recognition by a wide-range of organizations that now is a good opportunity to begin the change needed to reform forest management in BC; and to develop a long-term vision for a more holistic approach to the management of the forest environment and our natural resources.

This forest Dialogue was suggested as one method for moving this vision and conversation forward.

¹ https://engage.gov.bc.ca/app/uploads/sites/272/2018/06/Professional_Reliance_Review_Final_Report.pdf

2.0 Process

The Dialogue was organized by the Northwest Institute for Bioregional Research, with funding support from Tides Canada. Bob Peart organized and facilitated the Dialogue and collated these summary notes². The gathering was designed more as a dialogue than a traditional conference. Attendance was limited to ~65 people who understood and supported the purposes. Attendees were a diverse range of influential individuals representing First Nations, university, organizations, NGO's, unions and business from throughout the province³. Minister Doug Donaldson spoke at Noon on April 10th. Other speakers were Dean John Innes UBC Forestry, Mayor Bob Simpson from Quesnel, Dr. Jim Pojar, retired forest ecologist and Joel Starlund, Executive Director of the Gitanyow Hereditary Chiefs.

Prior to April 9-10, a series of community discussions focusing on key local concerns were held with a variety of community representatives from around the province. Feedback from these discussions helped frame the approach to the April Dialogue⁴.

3.0 Purpose

The purpose of the Dialogue was threefold, and the Dialogue agenda was designed accordingly:

1. *To enhance the political willpower to develop a clear, long-term strategy for the management of BC's forests - within the context of indigenous title and rights, climate change and BC's globally significant biodiversity.*
2. *To hold a dialogue where participants feel their interests would be identified and heard; which in turn would be taken to government in the effort to change the BC government's approach to forest management.*
3. *To revitalize the ongoing conversation about the future management of BC's forests, and explore options for going forward.*

4.0 Perspectives⁵

4.1 The Academic Perspective

Dr. John Innes, Dean UBC Faculty of Forestry

Dean Innes spoke about the various strengths, weaknesses, threats and opportunities within the forest sector. He highlighted the following points:

- BC's forest industry makes a comparatively low contribution to the GDP at 2.5%.
- The focus on sawmills producing low-value commodity products, and how the current AAC is based more on ensuring a supply of sawlogs to mills rather than on long term ecological sustainability.
- As the availability of wood drops, the major lumber manufacturers are investing outside Canada and BC, where there is greater certainty of sawlog supply.

² If you have any questions about the Dialogue or want background information please contact Bob Peart at bobpeart@shaw.ca or 250-655-0295.

³ Refer to Appendix One for the list of attendees.

⁴ *Community Meetings Summary*. Bob Peart, 2019 is referenced in Appendix Three.

⁵ A video of each speaker is available along with each of their PowerPoint presentations. As well, a number of important background papers and references referenced in Appendix Three are also posted. www.northwestinstitute.ca

- BC's historic approach to wildfire and beetle management, which along with climate change and past management practices, has established the current serious situation, endangering many forest-related species including caribou.
- That increasingly the Crown's rights to the land are being challenged by First Nations and their legal settlements; and the essential nature of reconciliation and UNDRIP.
- This is all leading toward the public questioning 'the social license' of companies and government to manage as they have in the past; particularly as it relates to old growth. Government has been too slow in recognizing that the status quo is not acceptable and that they need to make major changes to 'how we do things in the woods'.
- This is an important time for forest management in BC, and there are many alternate investment options in new bioeconomy products rather than the traditional forest sawlog approach, such as: engineered wood products, green chemicals, biofuels, bioenergy and biotextiles.
- The need to better acknowledge the economic value of other aspects of the forest ecosystem beyond timber (wildlife, human health, spiritual, recreation, community, etc.) as the potential numbers far exceed the job numbers associated with the current and future sawlog industry.
- The significant role that BC's forests have in sequestering carbon and mitigating climate change.
- All leading to the situation where the BC forest sector is facing a crisis, mostly as a result of dwindling timber supply; thus, providing the opportunity for a much-needed rethink of the entire approach to forestry in BC.
- It's time for compromise, innovation and alternate investment if the BC forest sector is to maintain its importance within Canada and globally.

The follow-up discussion focused on:

- *The sense of feeling 'stuck and being isolated'. "We've known all this for years. How do we get government to listen?"*
- *The current lack of government leadership and the needed political will.*
- *The need to identify the barriers to change, and being interest-based not confrontational if we want to make progress.*
- *The necessary investments by the big companies will only be made once a clear new government direction is set. The companies won't change on their own.*
- *The urgent context of climate change.*
- *The importance of an 'outside voice' speaking out in a coordinated strategic manner.*
- *The sense that 'the community is far ahead of government'.*
- *The difficulty in educating the public, as most urban people have no understanding of forests or forest management.*
- *The urgent need for 'a table for the discussion' so that a provincial consensus on how to work this situation out can be reached.*

4.2 The Indigenous Perspective

Joel Starlund/Sk'a'nism Tsa 'Win'Giit, Executive Director Gitanyow Hereditary Chiefs

Joel Starlund spoke about sustaining Gitanyow territories and resources and rebuilding Gitanyow Wilp economies. He highlighted the following points:

- Gitanyow's inherent governance structure; the ownership, size and location of their territories; and the concept of the land as a 'bank' for their wealth.
- The approach to forestry on Gitanyow lands has been devastating on their title, rights, culture, economics, and environment.
- The overharvesting has led to the extinction of caribou, damage to fisheries habitat that has effected populations, and increased risk to ecosystem function.
- In 2011, the situation started to change when the Gitanyow Lax'yip Land Use Plan was legally established in both BC and Gitanyow law. It represented a step toward reconciliation and recognized traditional knowledge, and governance structure. It also described clear and specific objectives for resource development that helps protect water, biodiversity, cedar, mushrooms, wildlife, access, fisheries, cultural heritage and timber.
- Next steps for Gitanyow is a timber supply review to establish sustainable harvest rates, negotiate true and equitable revenue sharing, removal of BCTC, transition out of the Forestry Act, and restoration and restitution of the damaged lands.
- BC is no longer taking a blind "one off" approach to logging and resource development, and has moved towards reconciling the laws of both nations through the GLUP.

The follow-up discussion focused on:

- *The inspirational value of the Gitanyow, as leaders grounded in their own truth.*
- *To move forward we must work together.*
- *The Gitanyow governance system and how that influences their approach and decision-making.*
- *The leverage that the forestry-related court cases provided. Too bad as they take time and are a huge expense, but it seems that government won't listen otherwise.*
- *The strong benefit of this 'deeply informed' approach to all members of the community, not just for the Gitanyow themselves.*
- *The difficulty of working with BC Timber Sales. Their practices must be drastically changed or else curtailed completely.*
- *An excellent model for the:*
 - *Province-wide revitalization of land use planning that is currently underway by government.*
 - *Tenure reform.*
 - *True reform of the current revenue-sharing model.*
 - *Achievement of community economic and cultural independence based on ecosystem-based management of the natural resources.*
- *The fundamental importance of restoration and a reminder of the resiliency of the land and water ecosystems – particularly in relation to salmon.*
- *The value of being able to operate under a set of legal objectives and one land use plan; rather than a number of LRMP's and TSA's that in many cases had little relation to one another.*

4.3 The Ecological Perspective

Jim Pojar Ph.D., R.P.Bio., Senior Ecologist (ESA)

Jim Pojar spoke about British Columbia being Canada's most biophysically diverse province. With this significance comes a global and continental ecological stewardship responsibility, particularly in this era of rapid climate change. He emphasized that this is not a time for minor tweaking but a time for a totally renewed approach to forest policy in this province. He highlighted the following points:

- As important as climate change is, the chief immediate threat to biodiversity in much of BC is the destruction and modification of natural habitats by forestry activities – clearcuts, roads and stream crossings.
- Landscape level disturbances and extreme weather events as agents of change and ecological upheaval, in addition to/in combination with changes in temperature and precipitation. As a result, we should be basing any forest management or land use planning on plausible future climate scenario models (back-casting), not on today's landscape.
- The essential nature of buffer management with protected areas; as well as trans-regional, hydrological and elevational connectivity. Given uncertainty about future conditions and the biological response, connectivity is key.
- Because of the high carbon, biodiversity and public values, some old growth should be removed from the Timber Harvesting Land Base – particularly in the ecological zones of greatest concern.
- BC is one of the few provinces with no Endangered Species Act.
- The need for a variety of approaches to forest management to get as much biodiversity as possible through the 'upcoming squeeze' of climate change. We must revamp Nature conservation and we can't go with a 'one size fits all' approach, it will fail.
- The imperative to reduce/avoid carbon emissions immediately – and that forests can play a critical role in carbon stewardship if managed properly.
- Myths and misinformation—spread by industry and governments – about the carbon dynamics of forests, forestry, and wood products.
- The solutions: protect more carbon-rich old growth, manage forests to try and protect them from catastrophic wildfire, reduce the AAC, reduce slash burning, more partial cutting less clearcutting, extend rotations, and continue to plant trees.

The follow-up discussion focused on:

- *The recognition that what is being outlined is a change of huge magnitude – a paradigm shift of our values that gives the environment the attention it deserves. This change is enormous and will only occur with continual, focused attention. What are the short-term actions that can be taken now, as a step toward what you are calling for? What can we do now 'to set the table' for the needed shift?*
- *It isn't one or the other, it is both 'the climate context' and 'habitat destruction' together that is of great concern.*
- *Managing our forests for resiliency, especially with the shifting landscapes and species migration resulting from climate change.*
- *Land use planning and forest management must start with climate, indigenous rights, communities and ecological health as the base, not FRPA or feeding the sawmills.*
- *The need to conserve the large biophysical landscapes (enduring features) on which these ecological transitions can occur.*

- *We need a vision based on ‘maintaining ecological functions’ not the current piecemeal, high volume, saw-log approach.*
- *The first step is to reduce the AAC.*
- *The understanding that this is a very serious situation BC faces and ‘it’s time to take a stand’.*

4.4 The Community Perspective

Bob Simpson, Mayor City of Quesnel

Mayor Simpson spoke about the unprecedented challenges facing the city of Quesnel with persistent drought, epidemic pest invasion, post-beetle salvage, wildfire and decades of forests mismanagement. He highlighted that time has run out, we must manage our forests differently and that this situation calls for ‘a large system change’ and the need for an unprecedented response from government. Other highlighted points were:

- Managing the forests for ecological resiliency is paramount. If we don’t protect the ecosystem we will have nothing.
- The industry needs to re-invent itself. We must start managing for values not volume; forests not timber.
- The current scenario is that in the upcoming future there will be no timber. If we change the way we manage, in the future there will be some timber but not near the AAC we have now.
- The current approach to forest management, in concert with climate change, is only amplifying the danger.
- We’ve had decades of poor forest management, with the focus of ‘feeding the mills’. As a result, the mills are over capacity and ‘we can’t feed them anymore’.
- The Quesnel TSA is basically ‘blown out’, to the point where we can’t manage for the ecosystem. We need to restore the landscape on the principle base of sustainability with the limits of the ecosystem.
- At the landscape level of management – the TSA is manageable. We need a TSA by TSA change based on a new approach of ecological resilience.
- If transformational measures aren’t implemented quickly Quesnel could easily be the next Fort McMurray.
- Recommend a ‘community forest type’ license approach, as community forests enable the landscape level of forest management that is now required.
- It’s time for a total rethink. Quesnel can be the incubator for that ‘Future of Forestry’ process.
 - First, we must reduce the AAC.
 - Then we bring together the community partners (First Nations, industry, business, government, NGO’s, etc.) to forge a total new approach to forest management in the region and across the province.

The follow-up discussion focused on:

- *That we often overlook or underestimate the importance of working with the local mayors and their councils, and in turn the importance and influence of the UBCM process,*
- *How wrong we have been with our approach to wildfires and pest management.*
- *It's too bad we had to reach the crisis point before any of these issues were addressed. Such is our system of governance.*
- *The importance of proactive leadership, vision and science in decision-making.*
- *Community-based, local decision making is essential. Forest management can't be a provincial one-size-fits-all approach.*
- *The challenge that community groups have trying to work with the licensees, as they are often ignored or treated with disrespect. Yet for a successful process industry needs to be engaged.*
- *The TSA scale as the base for landscape level ecosystem-based planning.*
- *The value of hope and having the ground level community-based champions be the foundation for this change. The change that is needed is a broad system change that will transform the community economy, which won't be easy and is quite emotional for residents to experience.*
- *The solution is with the community, provincial and First Nation governments and industry working together.*
- *Timber needs to be one of the last considerations in forest management, not the first. Forest plans, not forestry plans.*

4.5 The Government Perspective

Hon. Doug Donaldson, Minister of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations, and Rural Development

The Minister spoke about his background in resource management, living in a variety of rural communities, as an important grounding for his current position. He spoke about the situation in the forests that his government inherited, the mandate he was provided by the Premier and the changes in the long-term management of BC's forests that he has initiated. Highlighted points were:

- The results-based approach to forest management over the last 15 years has not been good for the forest sector. The forests have less diversity, there is a downward pressure on biodiversity and the forest economy is not as strong as it should be. In addition, the ministry has been hollowed out with next to no policy, science and enforcement capacity.
- His detailed mandate consists of managing 64 Acts with a focus on the following:
 1. Establishing lasting reconciliation with the First Nations of BC.
 2. Guiding the softwood lumber negotiations.
 3. Creating more jobs in the forest industry by processing more logs in BC and expanding investments in reforestation.
 4. Expanding the innovative wood products sector.
 5. Modernizing land use planning and sustainably managing BC's ecosystems, rivers, lakes, watersheds, forest and old growth.
 6. Improving wildlife and habitat conservation.

- Acknowledgement that the change has been slow, particularly in relation to #5 and #6 above. The wildfire situation has absorbed a great deal of time.
- Key initiatives that are underway and will bring some of the needed change, and hopefully increased public trust and confidence:
 - Coast Forest Sector Revitalization Initiative
 - Interior Forest Sector Revitalization Initiative
 - Caribou Recovery
 - FRPA I and FRPA II
 - Landscape level planning pilots
 - Legislation changes to improve wildlife and habitat conservation
 - The future of old growth, while at the same time not putting a moratorium on their continued harvest

The Minister closed his comments by asking to meet with the organizers of this Dialogue to discuss the various results and conclusions.

5.0 Dialogue

5.1 A Pathway for Change



These three diagrams represent the five perspectives shared by the speakers⁶. The first diagram shows the perspectives apart and not communicating except by distance – with little opportunity for the true sharing of interests and values. This approach leads to positions being taken and polarization to set in. As described by the speakers, viewpoints have become quite polarized over the last 15 years, and are perhaps just now starting to soften.

In the second diagram the perspectives are touching and are therefore more likely to share interests and discuss each other’s viewpoints. As perspectives get closer it is easier to understand each other’s interests, begin to build trust and develop relationships. For success on any difficult conversation, not just forest management, having trust and knowing that you can have a safe conversation is fundamental to achieving a decision that is sustainable and has long-term viability. This Dialogue is an example of a diverse group of people coming together to share viewpoints and to develop common interests and trust.

⁶ These diagrams are presented for illustrative purposes only, and admittedly there could be additional circles, and the circles could have different names.

Then we have the situation where the perspectives are overlapping (third diagram) – providing an opportunity to see the full picture and to have productive conversations that lead to long-term creative solutions that stick.

These diagrams are self-evident and may be simplistic, yet they illustrate the conditions necessary for productive dialogue. Bringing perspectives together provides the opportunity for conversations about options, that lead to solutions that might not otherwise be evident. These solutions have the potential to stay in place – because of the ‘ownership’ that has built up during discussion.

It is clear that as long as we remain apart it will be difficult to find solutions that resonate and work. To this point, there was a high level of frustration at this Dialogue as government – although invited – chose not to send any staff representation from either the Ministry of Environment or the Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations. It is difficult to have a discussion about the future of forest management in this province if the provincial government declines to participate.

5.2 Discussion

Follow-up discussion focused on three questions designed to reflect the purposes of the Dialogue and how best to accomplish them.

1. *What are concrete suggestions for increasing the overlap of various perspectives?*
2. *What are ways for the provincial government to continue to build the public trust and confidence in the long-term management of BC’s forests?*
3. *How to best continue this Dialogue conversation?*

Overcoming the challenge facing us won’t be easy, and it is doable. We must get at it, as time is of the essence. In the meantime, it is important ‘to keep up the pressure’ on the provincial government to change the way our forests are managed – through an ecological lens, not a ‘timber’ lens.

A summary of each discussion follows.

5.2.1 *What are concrete suggestions for increasing the overlap of various perspectives?*

- Building partnership with First Nation governments and working together to build a stronger common voice.
- Start where people are – in the communities. Begin by (re-)building trust and respect for each other’s interests and values.

A specific suggestion was to develop a collaborative vision that is inspirational and contains a common set of principles for managing the forest landscape for timber and non-timber values alike. Then use that vision to bring all sectors and governments together and, as implemented, build community sustainability.

Another specific suggestion was to work with the provincial and municipal governments to establish independent ‘Transition Working Groups’⁷ at a few key places in the province where the situation is particularly serious and/or contentious – for example locations where the future of old growth is a hot topic.

- These groups would need some level of authority and legal legitimacy, to ensure the land use outcomes reached were implemented and enforced.
- Perhaps Section 126 of the Water Sustainability Act could be the mechanism for the establishment of such groups⁸.
- Given the climate and ecological pressures, these local processes need to be complete within a maximum 3-5 year time frame.
- Such a process needs to be facilitated and funded by the levels of government.
- As well as operational funding, up-to-date science data must be available.
- The TSA is an appropriate landscape unit level for this type of land use planning.
- Provide positive examples of where such community processes have been successful.

5.2.2 What are ways for the provincial government to continue to build the public trust and confidence in the long-term management of BC’s forests?

Critical to public trust and confidence is leadership from the provincial government. They need to be involved to build a cohesive approach and an overarching shared vision. Currently this leadership is largely lacking. To their credit, government is working on a number of forest management initiatives, but they seem quite unwilling to discuss fundamentals, such as: timber supply, transparent public process, ecosystem resiliency, endangered ecosystems and value for non-timber assets. To have meaningful change, government must engage or the protests and conflict will only build. ‘The future of the environment just doesn’t seem to be on their radar – it’s so frustrating’.

Community health is linked strongly to the health of our forests; so continuing to manage mainly for timber and sawlogs provides little long-term economic certainty. Government has recognized that it is a crisis time for wildfire and insect infestation, but they don’t seem to have similar recognition for the ecological crisis that is facing our forest ecosystems. Some meaningful acknowledgement and recognition for our concerns would go a long way to rebuilding public trust and confidence.

Specific suggestions were:

- Establish an independent Wildlife, Forests and Environment Forum⁹ (or some such name) to recommend policy, long-term vision and a renewed approach to the stewardship of BC’s forests – through a partnership with the various levels of government, First Nations and critical sectors. This body would require some government support and previous reports and recommendations by the Auditor General, Forest Practices Board, etc. be provided for context. There’s an opportunity here, communities want the conversation and government has the choice to continue to work in an isolated manner or work more collaboratively.

⁷ A number of names were suggested: Community Asset Boards, Community Resource Boards, Community Stewardship Round Tables, Natural Resource Boards, etc.

⁸ Refer to: <https://poliswaterproject.org/files/2018/09/POLIS-WSATools-webfinal.pdf>

⁹ The Polis Water Sustainability Project could be used as a model.

- Establish a process so particularly contentious activities can be ‘put on pause’ while solutions-based conversations are undertaken – examples are cutting old-growth, logging in community watersheds or harming fish bearing streams.
- Broaden the mandate and independent authority of the Forest Practices Board to include the management of other natural resources¹⁰.
- Establish an all Party Legislative Standing Committee for the Environment and Wildlife to examine particular matters and report back to the Legislature.

5.2.3 How to best continue this Dialogue conversation?

The NGO forest community needs to meet as a strategic cohort more regularly. We don’t get together often enough anymore to share stories, experiences and strategies. Clearly there is value in having these safe, interest-based conversations where options and alternatives can be discussed, where people can agree-to-disagree and work together to find that ‘community bargain’ that is so essential to the future.

However, to ensure these meetings happen there needs to be assistance from the funding community for someone or some group to function in a coordinating role. Everyone is maxed out already and to ‘hope’ that these discussions will continue will not work. There needs to be intentional funding, or sadly, the meetings likely won’t happen.

To move forward it can’t be this group alone. This meeting was important and we need to continue to meet; but there needs to be ‘parallel’ meetings with a greater presence of government, labour, politicians and the indigenous perspective. Such meetings would need a focused agenda and be attended by senior decision-makers who influence forest-related policy and legislation.

In the meantime, we must continue to work for what we believe and to right the challenges facing the BC’s forests. That strong outside voice in support of the needed community solutions is fundamental for success.

It would also go a long way if we celebrated and thanked the government for when they do make positive changes.

Specific suggestions were:

- To develop a vision for the forest landscape. Before meeting with a broader scope of people and organizations it would be valuable if we had clarity and commonality among ourselves.
- Identify a sub-group from this gathering that would take the lead to:
 - Further this conversation and get us together again.
 - Establish a source of funding support.
- There was great interest in the Gitanyow Land Use plan. It would be valuable to arrange a series of meetings around the province with First Nations involved with or interested in undertaking land use plans and help them share their experiences with each other. Clearly the Gitanyow Land Use Plan is of positive value.
- Ensure there is a strong and coordinated response to the provincial government’s FRPA Improvement Initiative. Whether this is best done through an existing organization, or a group/person/Task Force that is specifically funded needs to be discussed. Whatever the future engagement process is we need to ensure that the changes to the FRPA laws and regulations better value non-timber assets, and lead to reducing the timber supply.

¹⁰ This is not a new suggestion and much has been written about the pros/cons of the FPB becoming a ‘Natural Resources Board’.

6.0 Summary and Next Steps

The speakers focused on the climate and the environment, and that the ecological imperative encases everything. The urgency of climate change is profound. In turn, there is disappointment and frustration by the seeming lack of action and slow pace of government to reform forest management and achieve the full range of values from our forests. The conversation was about wanting certainty and how healthy communities need healthy forests. There was a desire to get away from ‘that false narrative, that old, tired debate of jobs vs environment’ as conserving the environment and keeping jobs support one another.

Too few people realize the health benefits of being outside and understand the connection between ecological health and human health – especially as more and more people live in urban environments. There was an understanding about the importance of staying in touch with nature and ensuring that our children and youth in particular get outside and build within themselves a sense of joy for what our forests bring.

There was acknowledgement that we don’t always agree on the pathway forward; however, there was no disagreement with the need to build trust, respect and a future that has certainty for urban and rural populations alike. As the meetings concluded participants reflected on the fundamental importance of getting together and sharing perspectives, value and interests.

Specific suggested action items for the organizers of this Dialogue are:

1. Meet with the Hon. Doug Donaldson to discuss how best to engage with the government on the matters raised in this Dialogue.
2. Convene a follow-up meeting/phone call with interested attendees to discuss whether there is interest in:
 - a. Having a ‘coordinating mechanism’ to represent our interests to government; and if so, to identify potential longer term funding sources for support.
 - b. Drafting a healthy forests vision for British Columbia.

In the meantime, attendees supported the importance of:

- Building public awareness and continuing to educate the public about the long-term management of BC’s forests – particularly related to community watersheds, threatened ecozones and endangered old growth forests.
- Engaging in the public processes related to the FRPA Initiatives.
- Working at the community level to change forest practices to improve land use practices and better conserve the ancient forests, old growth trees, watersheds and wildlife habitat – which are so fundamentally required to secure a sustainable diverse local economy.
- Building relationships with local mayors and councils on forest related matters to help to sponsor motions and better use the leverage of the UBCM related processes.

Appendix One - Summary of Key Discussion Points

Although not the purpose of this Dialogue, during discussion a number of key points regarding forest management were raised¹¹. For the record, they follow:

- There is little sense of long-term sustainability and vision for the forest landscape.
- Forest-watershed management, in particular the loss of intact watersheds.
- The total collapse of the public process.
- No thought for ecosystem health.
- The overall weakness and tone of the Forest and Range Practices Act (FRPA).
- BC Timber Sales and the disrespectful manner in which they operate.
- The urgent context of climate change.
- The overcutting of old growth.
- The floods and flooding caused by poor forest management.
- Lack of government oversight and enforcement.

Suggestions for change to address these points were also discussed:

- A transparent public process with meaningful involvement.
- Specific, measurable legal standards and objectives for both timber and non-timber values.
- Returning authority and oversight to the District Manager.
- Reducing raw log exports.
- The protection of old growth and high risk BEC zone forests.
- A long-term sustainable vision for planning and managing our water and watersheds.
- Fully implement the Water Sustainability Act, with relevant regulations.
- An approach to non-timber values that honours recreation, tourism and visual quality.
- An increased focus on landscape level planning for watersheds, salmon and wildlife habitat.
- A lower AAC, based on accurate and up-to-date assessments and inventory.
- A broader mandate for the Forest Practices Board.
- Increased government research, monitoring and enforcement.
- Incorporating forest structure and the management of carbon into forest planning.
- BC Timber Sales needs to better reflect community values and the local economy.
- A shift to ecosystem based management, with an emphasis on First Nation land use planning.
- Our elected officials are better educated about forest management and the link to communities.
- Appurtenancy, in some form, needs to be brought back.

¹¹ Although not discussed specifically at this meeting, when it was raised informally, the mismanagement and the lack of public input into logging on private land was clearly upsetting and a strong source of frustration. A review of private land legislation, particularly as it relates to public consultation, seems appropriate.

Appendix Two - Attendees¹²

Mike Anderson	SSN Joint Council
Scott Benton	Wilderness Tourism Association
John Bergenske	Wildsight
Bill Bourgeois	Healthy Forests – Healthy Communities
Anthony Britneff	Retired RPF
Tim Burkhart	Yellowstone to Yukon Conservation Initiative
Ross Campbell	Wilderness Tourism Association
Dave Clarke	Forest Practices Board
Jessica Clogg	West Coast Environmental Law
Chris Cole	Truck Loggers Association
Torrance Coste	Wilderness Committee
Rod Davis	Managed Forest Council
Claudia Ferris	Production Magic Ltd
David Hendrickson	Real Estate Foundation
Kevin Kriese	Forest Practices Board
Arlin Hackman	Nature United (TNC Canada)
Herb Hammond	Forest Ecologist and Forester
Mike Harcourt	Consultant/Advisor
Jennifer Houghton	Boundary Forest Watershed Society
Vicky Husband	Conservationist
Andrea Inness	Ancient Forest Alliance
John Innes	Dean, UBC Faculty of Forestry
Andrea Lyall	UBC, Indigenous Forestry Student
Fred Marshall	Rancher, Forester
Al Martin	BC Wildlife Federation
Lisa Matthaus	Organizing for Change
Graham May	UVIC Law Student
Scott McCannell	Professional Employees Association
Richard Overstall	Lawyer
Pat Moss	Northwest Institute for Bioregional Research
Chris O’Conner	Community Representative
Devon Page	Ecojustice
Ben Parfitt	Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives
Bob Peart	Northwest Institute
Briony Penn	Journalist, Author
James Pepper	Penticton Indian Band
Kegan Pepper-Smith	Ecojustice
Eddie Petryshen	Wildsight
Erik Piikkila	Public and Private Workers of Canada
Jim Pojar	Forest Ecologist
Suzanne Senger	BC Spaces for Nature
Stephanie Siddon	Green Party Caucus

¹² Invited unable to attend: Union of BC Municipalities (UBCM), First Nation Forestry Council, Tourism Industry Association of BC, BC Liberal Caucus.

Invited and chose not to attend: United Steelworkers Union, Province of British Columbia FLNRO and MOE staff.

Ana Simeon
Bob Simpson
Rosie Simms
Taryn Skalbania
Joel Starlund
Kevin Stevens
Derek Thompson
Ivan Thompson
Ray Travers
Lee Ann Unger
Greg Utzig
Caitlyn Vernon
Shayla Walker
Gail Wallin
Emily Watson
Jens Wieting
Rob Wotherspoon

RAVEN
Mayor, City of Quesnel
Polis Water Sustainability Project, UVIC
BC Coalition for Forestry Reform
Gitanyow Hereditary Chiefs
Talkin' Loggin' Working Group
Retired/Advisor
Tides Canada
Retired RPF
Canopy Planet
Forest Ecologist
Sierra Club BC
Tides Canada
Invasive Species Council
BCGEU
Sierra Club BC
BCGEU

Appendix Three - Background Materials

The following materials can be found on the Northwest Institute website:

www.northwestinstitute.ca

These four documents were provided to read before attending:

- *A Forestry Dialogue – Community Meetings Summary*. Bob Peart, 2019.
- *A Brief and Torturous History of BC Forestry*. Dr. Jim Pojar, 2019.
- *A Sustainable Land Use Public Opinion Poll*. Prepared by the Real Estate Foundation, 2019. <https://www.refbc.com/initiatives/research-projects/sustainable-land-use-public-opinion-poll>
- *Forestry and Carbon in BC*. Dr. Jim Pojar, 2019.

These remaining references were provided for general context:

- *Healthy Forests-Healthy Communities*. Bill Bourgeois. <http://bcforestconversation.com/>
- *Restoring Forestry in BC: The story of the industry's decline and the case for regional management*. Bob Williams, January 2018. <https://www.policyalternatives.ca/publications/reports/restoring-forestry-bc>
- *Taking Nature's Pulse: The Status of Biodiversity in BC*. 2008. www.biodiversitybc.org
- *Professional Reliance Review*. Mark Haddock, 2018. https://engage.gov.bc.ca/app/uploads/sites/272/2018/06/Professional_Reliance_Review_Final_Report.pdf
- *A New Climate for Conservation: Nature, Carbon and Climate Change in British Columbia*. Dr. Jim Pojar, 2010.