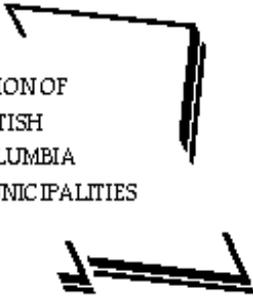


# MEDIA RELEASE

August 8, 2000

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## LOCAL GOVERNMENT BLINDSIDED BY RECENT CFCI ANNOUNCEMENT

In the spring of this year local governments were surprised to learn that some major forest companies and environmental groups were negotiating an agreement that would defer logging in certain areas of the central and north coast without discussing the impacts with affected communities. In response to our concerns, we thought we had a commitment from industry for an advisory process involving local government, the Truck Loggers Association and IWA confirming that they would consult the advisory group prior to taking any further action. UBCM established a Coast Forest Conservation Initiative (CFCI) Task Force to investigate and report on the initiative. One of our primary recommendations is that legitimate land use planning processes, such as the Central Coast LRMP, are the place to have discussions on land use matters. We also felt very strongly that First Nations needed to be involved and consulted.

On July 28<sup>th</sup> we were blindsided by a media release issued by four companies and four environmental groups that again appears to contemplate deferrals.

UBCM had no advance notice and still have some difficulty understanding what has been agreed to or what will be undertaken.

We are disappointed that our understanding of the advisory process with industry was not followed. Unfortunately, once again, the first we heard of the announcement was on the "11:30 a.m. news". None of the industry representatives to date have attempted to contact members of the UBCM CFCI Task Force directly. Neither have we had a response to our request for a meeting with Greenpeace.

What also concerns us is that the Provincial Government was aware of this announcement and has been in regular communication with the two groups.

Part of the latest announcement advises of the establishment of an "independent" process to identify the impacts of logging deferrals and develop options to maintain "employment stability". We will be interested to see how communities are to assess the impacts when so little is known about where deferrals have been proposed and the associated timeframes.

The discussions last spring caught UBCM off-guard: We thought a lesson had been learned about the importance of open communication with communities but this recent announcement suggests otherwise.

For further information please contact:  
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