

UBCM Forestry Report Update

**Councillor Brian Frenkel, Vice Chair,
Community Economic Development Committee, UBCM**

**UBCM Electoral Area Directors Forum
January 31, 2017**



Presentation Overview

- Community Economic Development Committee
 - Forest Policy
- Forestry Survey on Consultation and Engagement
 - Dec 2015 – March 2016
- Province, Industry, Forest Association Outreach
- UBCM Pre-conference session – Sept 2016
- Recommendations for Action
- A Way Forward: Next Steps
- Concluding Remarks

Community Economic Development Committee

- Focus – resource sector (forests, fish, mining, energy, agriculture) plus tourism, jobs / skills training and arts and culture
- UBCM is asked to fill 60 seats on various boards through the Province
- UBCM appointment to Minister's Advisory Council on Forest and Range (PAC)
- Concerned that local government viewed as just another stakeholder
- Need for greater engagement and consultation

Forestry Survey Context

- Member concerns about lack of consultation in forest planning processes
- December 2015 – Committee issues forestry survey
- What we asked; What we heard and Who we heard from

Forestry Survey

- Survey – 5 questions
 - identify whether or not you are forest-dependent?
 - do you feel adequately consulted/engaged?
 - what forestry decisions would have benefited from better consultation?
 - what has been community impact as a result of those forestry decisions?
 - suggestions to improve community impact outcomes of forestry decisions?

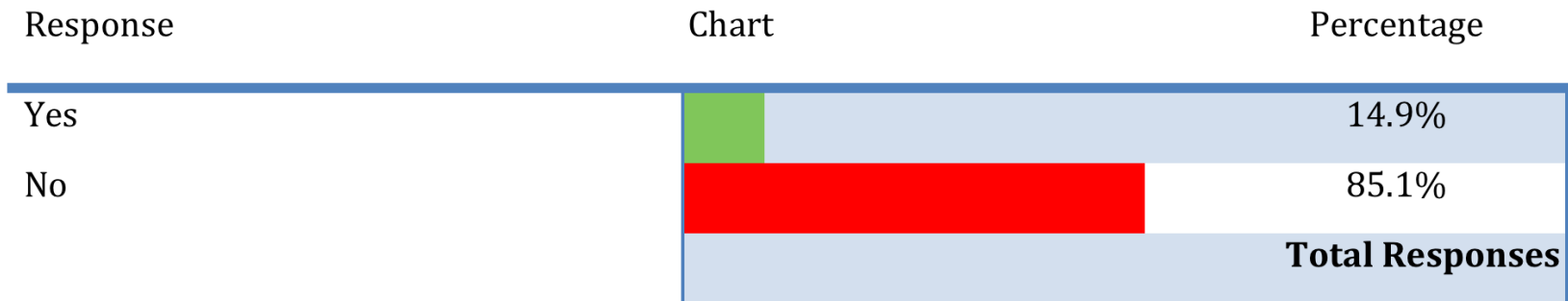
What We Heard

1. Do you consider your community to be a forest dependent community?



What We Heard

2. When tenure holders make forestry decisions that will impact your community, do the tenure holders consult adequately with your local government?



What We Heard

3. Examples of past or current forestry decisions that would have benefited from better consultation with your local government.

- Harvesting plans not in sync with local plans/bylaws
- Tenure transfers that led to mill closures
- Logs cut and moved out for processing elsewhere
- Approved cutting within a riparian area
- VQOs not being met (tourism/park area)
- Timber being harvested that shouldn't be - green

What We Heard

4. What has been the community impact of those forestry decisions?







- Flooding, increase in slides, runoff, water turbidity, boil water orders
- Loss of employment, impact on businesses, schools close, social distress, poverty, etc.
- Impact on viewscales
- Lack of trust, conflictual relationships
- General uncertainty leads to ineffective planning
- Overharvesting of mature stands - unsustainable

What We Heard






5. What changes would you suggest to improve the community impact outcomes of forestry decisions?

- Notice /Consultation prior to adopting plans (i.e. forest stewardship plans) & simplify forestry language so public understands
- Regulatory changes to protect water supply areas
- More value added; accessible wood salvage
- Reassess AAC; consider impact on watersheds, wildlife, overall forest sustainability
- Direct /Active/Ongoing involvement by local gov't in strategic level forest decision making and policy development related to the forest industry in their area.
- Honesty.

Who We Heard From

Response	Chart	Percentage	Count
North Central Local Government Association (NCLGA)		33.8%	23
Southern Interior Local Government Association (SILGA)		14.7%	10
Association of Kootenay and Boundary Local Governments (AKBLG)		20.6%	14
Association of Vancouver Island and Coastal Communities (AVICC)		27.9%	19
Lower Mainland Local Government Association (LMLGA)		1.5%	1
Don't know		1.5%	1
Total Responses			68

Who We Heard From

Response	Chart	Percentage	Count
Electoral Area Director		26.1%	18
Councillor		34.8%	24
Mayor		14.5%	10
Local government staff, please specify:		14.5%	10
Other, please specify:		10.1%	7
		Total Responses	69

Actions Taken

- Report shared with Minister Thomson, PAC members and posted on our website.
- UBCM presented survey results to government and industry organizations including: Ministers PAC, Council of Forest Industries, Northern Operations Issues Forum, Southern Operations Issues Forum, Provincial Forestry Forum, Coast Forest Products Association and at our UBCM convention this past September.
- Continuing to work with PAC to bring about greater recognition for local governments in forest decision-making.
- Continuing to meet with other interested organizations and associations to share our findings.

Direction to Committee

- Seek to establish better communication mechanisms that will provide for greater consultation opportunities (i.e. Forest industry / local government community engagement committees)
- Build relationships between industry associations, UBCM and the Province on forestry issues
- Support amendments to policies and regulations that will ensure a greater role for local governments in forest policy decision-making

UBCM Convention 2016

- Monday pre-conference session: The Case for Greater Community Consultation and Engagement
- Over 200 delegates attended
- Representatives from 88 communities from across BC
- Over half of UBCM's membership represented; provided direction on how to improve consultation /engagement
- Provincial Government and Industry participation as well as forestry associations

BC Forest Policy Decision Making

Round Table Discussion Question:

What steps/actions can communities, industry, and the Province take to improve consultation and engagement opportunities with respect to forest policy decision-making.

Feedback consolidated and provided to CED Committee.

Forest Policy Decision Making Round Table Summary

Recommendations for Action:

1. Support for Establishment of Communication Protocols/Local Forest Advisory Committees
2. Increase Enforcement and Monitoring Efforts
3. Develop a long-term provincial forest strategy
4. Restructure existing provincial bodies to include community/local government representation
5. Mandate sustainable forest management certification

Status Report

- Presentations to Canadian Institute of Forestry, Truck Loggers Association and Association of BC Professional Foresters.
- PAC Table – press for local gov't recognition
- Area Associations – encourage regional engagement
- Electoral Area Forum – call to action to RDs
- Reach out to forest industry and FLNRO district offices in your community; engage, establish relationships, etc.

A Way Forward

- UBCM will continue to advance the Five Round Table recommendations
- Seek to establish better communication mechanisms that will provide for greater consultation between all parties
- Continue to build partnerships
- Support amendments to policies and regulations that will ensure a greater role for local governments in forest policy decision-making

Concluding Remarks

Thank you for your support!

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