



Forest Policy Decision-Making: The Case for Greater Community Consultation and Engagement

**UBCM Pre-conference Session
September 26, 2016**

ROUND TABLE DISCUSSION SUMMARY DOCUMENT

Prepared by:

UBCM Community Economic Development Committee

Submitted to:

Minister of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations

November 2016

Background

UBCM's Community Economic Development (CED) Committee conducted a forestry survey in December 2015 to seek current data about communication and consultation practices between forest tenure holders and local governments, and the impact of forestry decisions upon communities. These survey results were compiled into a report entitled *Forest Policy Decision Making: The Case for Greater Communication and Consultation* that was released in March 2016. The report and survey findings continue to inform the work of the CED Committee and UBCM's input at the Minister of Forests Advisory Council on Forest and Range Practices (PAC) table.

Survey Report Summary

The forestry survey data represented a broad cross-section of the UBCM membership, both by region and by population. According to the data:

- 79 per cent of respondents identified their communities as forest-dependent; and
- 85 per cent of respondents shared experiences of inadequate community consultation or engagement by tenure holders regarding forestry decisions.

Consistent across the province, by region, and by community the following themes and messages emerged from the survey feedback:

- absence or lack of consultation and engagement with communities in forest policy decision-making can lead to:
 - forest stewardship plans and other operational decisions that are contrary to existing land uses / regional plans;
 - significant environmental impacts such as watershed contamination, loss of agricultural land, flooding, slides, runoff, land base erosion, water turbidity, boil water orders, etc.;
 - conflicts or incompatibility between tenure holders and user groups such as recreationists (skiers, hikers, mountain bikers), tourists (logging in areas leading to park entrances, visual quality objectives not being met), or residents (logging too near residential neighbourhoods); or
 - lack of trust amongst the affected parties;
- overcutting is putting the forest resource at risk, jeopardizing community stability and the overall provincial economy;
- centralization/amalgamation/reduction of provincial government staff and forest industry workers within communities is resulting in fewer jobs, less economic opportunities and increased social costs (poverty, residents leaving, schools and businesses closing); and
- reconsideration of how the AAC is allocated; provide for more woodlot, salvage and community forest licences; and greater focus on secondary manufacturing to provide local employment opportunities.

Survey respondents noted that a lack of community engagement and consultation on forestry decisions leads to varied but significant consequences, and negative community impacts. The survey findings called for change; for local governments to be key partners in the forestry decision-making process.

The March 2016 report confirmed what previous reports have concluded: forest policy decisions need to be made in an open and transparent manner, based on community engagement and consultation, to ensure that the decisions are in the best interests of all parties; and the overall sustainability of the forest resource.

In follow up to the survey report, the Committee recommended that a session be held at the 2016 UBCM Convention to discuss the survey results and to bring together local governments, industry and the Province to discuss how each could do better with regard to consultation and engagement.

UBCM Pre-conference Session

Forest Policy Decision-Making: The Case for Greater Community Consultation and Engagement pre-conference session was held on Monday September 26th at the UBCM Convention. The session, attended by over 200 participants comprising 88 local governments, represented nearly half of the UBCM membership. A copy of the full agenda is attached for reference as Appendix A.

The half-day session included brief panel presentations from the provincial government, industry, and the Chief Forester. The last hour of the session was dedicated to round table discussion. Participants were asked to sit at designated tables; based on geographic area (Area Associations) to ensure that communities were matched up with the corresponding tenure holders (industry, forestry associations) and provincial officials from their region.

Session participants were asked to discuss the following question:

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

The feedback from the round table discussions is attached as Appendix B. It is broken down by Area Association and then categorized into Province, industry and community, based on what actions were identified for each.

The following recommended actions have been formulated based on the feedback received.

1. Support for Establishment of Communication Protocols/Local Forest Advisory Committees

The survey results and feedback from the round table discussions call for the establishment of more formalized communication protocols between tenure holders, communities and the Province to ensure that information and knowledge can be shared before decisions are made. Many respondents recommended formalizing consultation mechanisms by establishing local forest advisory committees. These committees would allow for greater information sharing and provide regular opportunities for the parties to identify potential land use conflicts and consider mitigation strategies, as necessary, before forestry decisions are made.

Proposed Actions:

Province – take the lead in setting communication/consultation protocols that would formalize an engagement process between the parties and encourage the implementation of these protocols with the establishment of local forest advisory committees.

Industry – work with communities to develop a consultation model that meets the needs of that community (one size does not fit all) and ensures that an appropriate level of information is provided in a form easily understood by local government representatives. Explore opportunities with communities to formalize these engagement processes by establishing local forest advisory committees.

Community – invite industry to council/board meetings and Area Association conferences; ask for information and share OCPs and other land use planning documents that will assist industry in understanding where / why there are potential land use conflicts. Be proactive, and despite staffing capacity issues, establish a consultation model that allows for an appropriate level of engagement and consultation.

Rationale:

Feedback from the Round Table discussion identified the need for a formalized consultation mechanism between all parties. By ensuring there is a formal committee/process in place for engagement, there is a greater likelihood that land use conflicts can be avoided and consensus reached. Recognizing that one size does not fit all, each community / region will need to establish a model that meets the needs of the parties involved (i.e. what level of information is required, identifying the types of decisions that may require a deeper level of engagement). As well it is important that the Province and industry understand that local governments include municipalities and regional districts. Consequently, it is imperative that communications, consultations and local advisory committees include elected officials from both municipalities and regional districts, where appropriate.

Session participants suggested that the community forest model might serve as a template since there are advisory committees that fulfill a similar role. With a formalized

structure in place, designated contacts are identified and can be sought out when important information needs to be shared (i.e. shut downs, layoffs and shift changes) that can impact local economies. Such a committee/process would alleviate the surprises that can happen often resulting in strained relations between the parties. Establishing a formalized committee/process would acknowledge the importance of an equal partnership if we are to move forward in a positive way. By undertaking this action, many of the concerns identified by survey respondents would have the potential to be addressed.

2. Increase Enforcement and Monitoring Efforts

Allocate resources to increase enforcement and monitoring efforts to ensure that tenure holders are fulfilling their obligations. If there is no audit mechanism in place, there is no ability to identify those that are not following the rules and regulations.

Proposed Actions:

Province – provide funding to support additional enforcement and monitoring efforts. Additional conservation officers / forest district staff on the ground would ensure that tenure holders are following the rules and regulations and be able to respond when there are concerns about forestry operations.

Industry – ensure that forest operations in are compliance with existing rules and regulations; and when questions or concerns are raised about certain practices, work with the Province and communities to address problems that have been identified or explain why certain outcomes have resulted.

Community – work with industry and the Province to better understand what the rules and regulations are so they can be better informed about what constitutes acceptable forest practices and does not, so community leaders can identify potential problem areas/concerns early so they can be mitigated.

Rationale:

Without sufficient conservation officers and forestry officials on the ground, the Province is not in a position to adequately perform its monitoring and enforcement role. Session participants suggested that the Province play a more proactive role in the audit process to ensure that tenure holders are complying within the parameters of the rules and regulations. As well session participants noted the need for a better understanding of what it means to be “in compliance” and “non-compliance”. What are the penalties for non-compliance? How is non-compliance determined? Knowledge of the rules and regulations would assist communities in understanding what the expectations are for tenure holders. In our earlier survey work, communities expressed concern that certain forest activities were resulting in negative environmental impacts (i.e. watershed contamination) and questioned how these types of actions could be deemed to be in compliance with existing rules and regulations. Communities would certainly benefit from

a better understanding of what is considered acceptable and not acceptable, what is required by regulation or policy, and what is not mandated but deemed to be just good forest practices.

3. Develop a long-term provincial forest strategy

The forest sector has undergone dramatic change. Natural disasters such as pine beetle have decimated the timber supply and forest policy changes have led to industry consolidation and rationalization. Corresponding reductions in annual allowable cut have resulted in reduced access to fibre. This has created a difficult environment for small tenure holders to remain viable and secondary manufacturers to stay in business. Communities have also expressed concerns about the impact of raw log exports reducing opportunities for local processing. Despite concerns about reduced timber supply and the impact this has had on local and provincial economies, communities have been very clear that resource sustainability must be the overriding principle that drives the development of a long-term provincial forest strategy.

Proposed Actions:

Province – engage all affected parties in a process that would result in the development of a long-term forestry plan that would:

- provide an accurate inventory of the forest resource,
- outline an aggressive reforestation plan, and
- ensure adequate and secure access to fibre for large and small tenure holders as well as secondary manufacturers.

Consideration needs to be given to how to best to deal with private forest lands as part of the long-term strategy.

Industry – work with the Province, communities and other tenure holders to manage the forest resource in a sustainable manner that provides for maximization of the forest resource and opportunities to process locally where possible.

Community – support development of local value added business opportunities and through consultation with tenure holders and the Province identify opportunities to maximize resource use and access.

Rationale:

Session participants called for the development of a 100-year plan for managing BC forests. Some even called for the inclusion of private lands into this strategy to ensure there is an accurate picture of the forest resource in this province. By having current information on BC's forest inventories, the Province is in a better position to more accurately determine the annual allowable cut, plan for future timber supplies, concentrate reforestation efforts, and make better forestry decisions for the sustainability

of the resource. Without good data and analysis it is not possible to chart a long-term provincial forest strategy.

4. Restructure existing provincial bodies to include community/local government representation

Building on the need for greater consultation and engagement, providing for greater community / local government representation on existing provincial bodies would ensure community perspectives are brought to the various working groups and committees. By providing opportunities for community interests to be reflected in the work plans and mandates of existing committees, the greater the likelihood that land use conflicts could be avoided and better outcomes achieved.

Proposed Actions:

Province – remove ministry silos to ensure other perspectives are brought to relevant forest policy discussions. As well, the Province needs to ensure that existing and future working groups and committees are reflective of community interests. For example the inclusion of a UBCM appointment to the Minister’s Advisory Council on Forest and Range Practices has been extremely valuable in bringing the local government perspective to the policy discussions. This appointment has been instrumental in raising the interests of local governments in the forest policy decision-making discussion.

Industry – seek out and support the inclusion of community voices around the forest policy decision-making table. Before developing forest stewardship plans and harvesting plans, take time to reach out to community representatives and share your proposed plans and seek feedback from the community about potential impacts on the land.

Community – UBCM, Area Associations and individual communities need to seek out opportunities for local government representation on other forest related committees.

Rationale:

This recommendation builds on the first recommendation. Once communities have the ability to engage and be consulted in forest policy decisions, the value will be evident and the natural progression will be to seek out and include community perspectives on existing provincial bodies and working groups. Session participants specifically identified the Chief Foresters Committee as one potential opportunity. Presently that Committee is comprised of the chief foresters from a number of forest companies; by expanding this Committee to include small forest tenures; such as woodlots, community forests, First Nations Woodland tenures; other perspectives are brought to the discussion that would be of benefit to the overall management of the resource.

5. Mandate sustainable forest management certification

Currently 75% of BC's annual harvest comes from operations that are certified for sustainability or meet internationally recognized criteria for environmental management systems. The Province should require all tree farm license/tenure holders to be certified to ensure that BC continues to be recognized as a world leader in sustainable forest management.

Proposed Actions:

Province – mandate that all tree farm licence / tenure holders be certified; including BC Timber Sales and private forest land owners. While BC is recognized as a world leader, the Province should mandate certification to signal the importance of sustainable forest management.

Industry – seek to become certified, recognize the importance of long-term forest management for the sustainability of the resource and communities.

Community – support efforts to mandate sustainable forest management certification.

Rationale:

Presently there are three certification programs in BC, the Canadian Standards Association (CSA), Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) and Sustainable Forest Initiative (SFI). CSA, FSC and SFI evaluate for basic forest stewardship by ensuring that harvested areas are reforested, that laws are obeyed and that there is no unauthorized or illegal logging. All three programs also ensure biological diversity is conserved, timber is harvested sustainably and wildlife habitat, soils and water resources are conserved. While BC is seen as world leader in forest certification, session participants suggested that mandated forestry certification would be an important step in ensuring that all tenure holders are managing the forest resource in a sustainable manner. Some session participants should the CSA process should be applied to Forest Stewardship Plans. By holding tenure holders to an agreed upon certification standard, the Province is fulfilling its role as the steward of the forest resource.

Concluding Remarks

This summary document is designed to assist the Province, tenure holders and communities to move forward and improve the engagement and consultation processes around forest policy decision-making. The recommendations respond to the common concerns that were raised by UBCM members in the March 2016 forestry survey report. While some recommendations may be more easily implemented than others, the purpose of this summary document is to provide ideas, stimulate discussion and 'outside the box' thinking in an effort to address the present challenges facing all parties.

The Community Economic Development Committee continues to reach out to our industry partners, the Province and other forestry associations to continue the dialogue. To date, our Committee Vice Chair has presented our survey work to the following forestry associations:

- Minister's Advisory Council on Forest and Range (PAC)
- Provincial Forestry Forum
- Council of Forest Industries
- Northern Operations Issues Forum
- Southern Operations Issues Forum
- Coast Forest Products Association
- Canadian Institute of Forestry

A copy of the presentation to the Canadian Institute of Forestry is attached as Appendix C.

The Committee plans to continue its outreach work on behalf of our membership in order to advance the consultation and engagement process with our industry and provincial government partners.

We encourage the reader to consider the proposed recommendations for action. By recognizing our respective roles and responsibilities, we can work in partnership to achieve our common goal – better forest policy decisions.

UBCM looks forward to being part of the ongoing discussion.

APPENDICES

- A** UBCM Pre-Conference Session Agenda – September 26, 2016
- B** Round Table Discussion Summary – September 26, 2016
(grouped by Area Association, and within each Area Association by feedback directed at communities, industry, or the Province)
- C** UBCM Forestry Survey Presentation to Canadian Institute of Forestry (CIF)

***Forest Policy Decision Making:
The Case for Greater Community Consultation
and Engagement***



MONDAY SEPTEMBER 26, 2016

9:00 am – 12 noon

Crystal Ballroom, Empress Hotel, Victoria, BC

AGENDA

- 9:00 Welcome / Introductory Remarks Councillor Brian Frenkel, Vice-Chair
UBCM Community Economic Development Committee
- 9:05 **UBCM Perspectives on Forest Policy Decision-Making**
• Overview of UBCM Forestry Survey Report Councillor Brian Frenkel
- 9:20 **Provincial Response to UBCM Forestry Survey Report**
• Jason Fisher, Assistant Deputy Minister, Forest Sector, Ministry of Forests,
Lands and Natural Resource Operations
• Tom Ethier, Assistant Deputy Minister, Resource Stewardship Division, MFLNRO
and co-chair, Forest and Range Practices Advisory Council (PAC)
- 9:50 Q&A
- 9:55 **Forest Industry Response to UBCM Forestry Survey Report**
• Archie MacDonald, General Manager, Forestry, Council of Forest Industries
• Shannon Janzen, Chief Forester, Vice-President, Western Forest Products
- 10:10 Q&A
- 10:15 **Role of the Chief Forester in Forest Decision-Making**
• Diane Nicholls, ADM, Chief Forester
- 10:35 Q&A
- 10:45 Break
- 11:00 **Round Table Discussion**

***What steps/actions can (communities / industry / Province) take to improve
consultation and engagement opportunities with respect to forest policy
decision-making.***
- 11:40 Tables Report out on Key Actions
- 11:50 Summary / Next Steps
- 12:00 Concluding Remarks / Wrap up

ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION - FEEDBACK

What steps/actions can (communities / industry / Province) take to improve consultation and engagement opportunities with respect to forest policy decision-making?

AVICC – Association of Vancouver Island and Coastal Communities
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Communities

- Establish recognized watershed stakeholder groups (provincially supported)
- Local government seen as equal partner with Industry and Province
- LG power to bring ministry and industry to table - clear topics identify
- Sessions next Area Associations meetings/AGMs for further dialogue
- Lack of capacity of small coastal communities to pro-actively engage or even reactively
- Shared responsibility to address this - province help build LG capacity to engage in meaningful conversations
- Lack of info available for municipalities to engage
- Info not specific enough - more useful
- BC Chamber of Commerce resolution calling for more community input on what happens to old growth in BC
- Representation on CSA Approval is mandated
- Capacity issues with this for some communities
- LG - invite industry execs to board table - very educational
- CFs - quarterly reports with financials
 - Is happening and helps
 - Open firewood cutting permits - brings direct value
- For effective community engagement, communities need to hear and see their values represented in what takes place in their community
- Be part of the plan

Industry

- Working with community to get access agreement - eg. Cumberland
- Impact on community eg. Shift work - dialogue from industry and with industry because changes impact particularly small communities eg. Volunteers
- Impact on Communities of industries practices - logging trucks on road. Impact on other forestry values to community.
- Social license - give benefits back to community - eg. Cleaned up old mill site - local procurement/social procurement - maximize benefit to community
- Two way communication - LG & Industry - if you have a problem - contact info
- Communicate recommendations - industry doesn't have to follow them
- Industry needs to come back and say why they don't follow them - close the loop
 - Group can then lodge an objection
 - Industry said LG can't participate
- Receptivity to this varies with company - some need to be more receptive

- Erosion of social license comes with lost jobs
- What logging is planned where/when/how

Provincial Government / Ministry

- Establish communication protocol umbrella of all groups - bring together all the different protocol models on consultation
- Turn consultation process around - start with vision of community - big picture - rather than individual cut blocks or forest stewardship plan. Ministry facilitate meetings
- Each community needs a different engagement process
- Protocol transcends all of the players
- Needs to include FNs partners at same table
- Equal partnership - need respect for all - Industry does a lot of positive
- Community responsibility also
- Industry also but harder to promote self. Communication opportunity.
- Industry providing basic economic impact to individual communities
- Sustainable Certifications
 - SFI - industry owned 1x per year public review
 - FSC - no industry standard
 - CSA (here in BC) - meets 7-8 times per year
 - All industry should be sustainably certified
- Province mandate TFL holders to be CSA-approved
- Process for mandated private forest lands as well
- BC Timber Sales need to be subject as well
- # of issues associated with regulatory capture - province needs to take lead and provide feedback loops
- Chart a 100-year forestry strategy to give industry some life; province with LG and industry
- Changes to FSP requirements
- Info/engage is vastly improved with CF - more CFs
- Take process of CSAs and apply to FSPs and make this part of gaining approval for FSPs
- Sustainable Management Plan under cert. - follow-up audit on that plan which includes local advisory group LAG needs to receive and be a part of audit report - public
- The audit process to stewardship plan gives public body more independence
- Coordinate specifically CSA Audits of that process not just FSPs
- Emotional issues - conservation - not as good as it could be
 - Add \$1-\$2 to stumpage fee or some other fundraising mechanism to apply conservation - something tiny that wouldn't be felt by industry
- Better resource conservation
- Powell River/SC/conservation officer = not adequate
- More CO's
- Not enough oversight
- M.murr and goshawks - will affect forestry
- BCTS - make a certain (more) amount of fibre available for local processing just like CF's

- Silo effect between ministry
 - More cross-ministry/industry work
- Private Forest Lands
 - More regulation
 - Standardize management with industry on crown ex riparian areas
- 100 year plan - can this include private forest lands? It should
- Raw log exports - should be dealt with as part of 100 year plan
- Cert = people don't feel we're getting what we need in terms of sustainability

NCLGA – North Central Local Government Association

Communities:

- Building capacity in LG's
- Community members with BCTS included
- Community strategic plans around forestry (as shareholders not stakeholders)
- BAC's aren't enough

Industry:

- Explain issues i.e. undercuts
- Include Electoral Area Directors in discussions
- Better job reaching out to Regional Districts (industry)
- Web based tools
- Operational plans out ahead of final decisions
- Industry needs a checkmark when they consult with local government (mandate it)

Provincial Government:

- Additional funding for the BAC's (using them as a level of conversation)
- Web based tools
- Operational plans out ahead of final decisions
- Industry needs a checkmark when they consult with local government (mandate it)
- Additional resources to bring partners to table
- Chief forester meetings include all CF voices (like small tenure CF)
- BCTS - looking for ways to connect
- Open houses need to be done again (BCTS)
- Organizational charts of who is who and who they report to
- appurtenancy rules
- Workshops:
 - Industry
 - Province
 - Local government
- More consultation on ec dev in regards to forestry
- Regularly scheduled meetings i.e. every 6 months (all the players)
- Hosting forums with timely follow-up
- Make open houses relevant i.e. non-government speak
- There is an uneven application of Provincial Forest Policy initiatives for small

licensees on a District by District basis. An example of this would be the “1 CP” initiative for woodlot licensees

- There should be a different enhanced level of consultation and perhaps regulation on forest harvesting activities within a community watershed as opposed to other watersheds.
- Diane Nicholls spoke of her “Chief Foresters committee” and I immediately wondered who is the voice within that group that would speak for the many varied small forest tenures such as Woodlots, Community Forests, First Nations Woodland tenures etc. Perhaps someone needs to be added to that group as the so-called “Chief Forester for small tenures” (I can think of a perfect candidate)
- Land Use Plans – These were put in place many years ago with significantly different players and different forest conditions. They are long overdue for evaluating and updating based on the realities of 2016.
- We continually need to spell out to Licensees and even FLNRO and BCTS that consultation with communities needs to include Electoral Area Directors and not just Mayors and Councillors. The EA Directors are the local elected representatives of the areas where 99% of the forestry activity takes place but are often missed when it comes to forest consultation.
- With industry consolidation brought on largely by forest health issues we have lost our historic diversity of forest licensees on the landscape and seem to be defaulting to essentially 1 large licensee per town. These virtual community monopolies of forest tenures are not good for the smaller licensees trying to market logs or for new entrants into forest products manufacturing. We need to put some thought into how we will get back some of that diversity of tenure ownership as our forests regrow and recover in 40 – 60 years from their current beetle-ravaged state.

AKBLG – Association of Kootenay and Boundary Local Governments

Communities

- Operational Plan
- Timing of communication
- Advice to community on forest 101 (newly elected)
- Community impact respected
- Legislated component (perceived that community is not heard)
- Available of tech lacking
- Who is the Prov contact?
- Timing
- When reviewing plans come to LG
- Blame Mountain Pine Beetle when that might not be the reason (rationale needed)
- Impact of harvesting i.e.: watersheds (cost benefit)
- Understand what pine beetle (experts) (understand it)
- Oversight on the ground (The prov) (not LG)
- Work with communities when shut downs could happen - upfront and honest - proactive

- Capacity (lack of) to understand the info - UBCM's role
- Oversight- when and who - leads to enforcement
- We need to be better organized (AKBLG?) RD's
- Trust that feedback is respected and listened to
- Communicate when changes are made
- Use OCP's
- Heard it all before time for action
- Below is a list of FSP's which will be renewed in our communities by the end of 2017. Time is certainly short if we hope to see a new (written) commitment to communicate more fully and more often.

List of FSP within the RDCK up for renewal within a year (by end of 2017):

- * Atco
- * Huscroft
- * CANFOR
- * Interfor
- * Cooper Creek
- * BCTS
- * Creston community forest

Industry

- Info Available
- Local Government 101
- No value added representation (only the big ones)
- Include the small guys
- Community needs attention
- Understand level of information - uniform template
- Timing of engagement
- Who to engage with
- How the industry is transitioning
- Communication is 2 way
- What are the communities priorities
- Industry tries - Prov does this - idea of field trips
- BC has a complex process
- Education between Gov't and industry after election
- Go to RD's & LG on the ground - Private Forest Lands - RDEK: Elkford, Sparwood
- Updated contacted info constantly - info needs to be read! we know who reads it
- Good to know what people want to know and when
- we need to at least try to coordinate cut blocks (timing) with landscape level fuel mitigation prescriptions

Provincial Government

- Info is accessible and available
- Need outreach at the higher level how they all work together - in the communities
- Recognize LG as more than just a stakeholder
- Prov more proactive to district offices

- Record keeping better by the Prov
- FAC (Forestry Advisory Commission) like APC
- Didn't know about AKBLG - will attend
- the parameters around "non-compliance" with FSP's needs to be put into context. We have stats floating around suggesting the non-compliance rate with FSP's is around 80% but this information is not useful unless the degree of non-compliance is understood. Taking highway speed limits as an analogy, within any group of 100 people you would almost certainly find 80% or more tend to be non-compliant with the maximum speed. The degree to which one speeds is now broken into categories with escalating penalties for more extreme behavior. A harvester who is labeled as in non-compliance may lose the confidence of a community, making it more difficult to communicate in an open and orderly manner, unless the degree of non-compliance is understood.

SILGA – Southern Interior Local Government Association

Communities

- Where to get specific land information (multiple sources) 1 single source?
- Appurtenancy - removed - s/b put back in
- Raw log exports
- Communities vis a vis land use planning
- Back involving communities
- Levels of planning - high - operational
- Formal engagement
- Formal dispute resolution process
- Local governments included
- Local Govt invite FLNRO DMs to start discussion
- Local revamp their mechanism - who are community champions

Industry

- Woodlot - easier to consult on area based
- Good model
- Some of this culture in majors
- Maybe need more area based tenures
- Licensee - Regional District should identify who to go to in each community in neighborhood

Provincial Government

- FBC
 - Information & Facilitation - most of the time
 - Communication with communities on how / understanding why CV
 - Improved public involvement
 - Transparency
 - Sharing rationale
 - Fair process

- SILO approach - change
 - Need more holistic approach
 - Need to come together to solve issues
 - Cross ministry - cross govt levels
 - Local govt needs to be proactive as does ministry (onus) on FLNRO to be responsible for stewardship
 - Govt
 - Look at health system - team approach - looks @ forestry
- Legislation mandated
- More information & two way communication - RDs more of a conduit - proactive
- More formal engagement process and dispute resolution as pertains to communities in particular
- Less silos from community perspective re: decision making and planning
- Government culture shift
- Bring back appurtenancy or some form of mandated social licence
- Raw log exports

LMLGA- Lower Mainland Local Government Association

General Comments

- Follow up - enforce forest service practices
- Trust Issue
- Living up to expectations (both sides)
- Recognition for good practices
- If we could change 1 thing - better communication
- Is there a best practice resource - what works/what doesn't

Forest Policy Decision Making: The Case for Greater Community Consultation and Engagement

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

Canadian Institute of Forestry
October 25, 2016



Union of BC Municipalities

- Established in 1905
- Voluntary membership; 100% of local governments are members
- Common voice representing local government interests
- Non-partisan
- Structure:
 - Membership
 - Executive
 - Committees



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

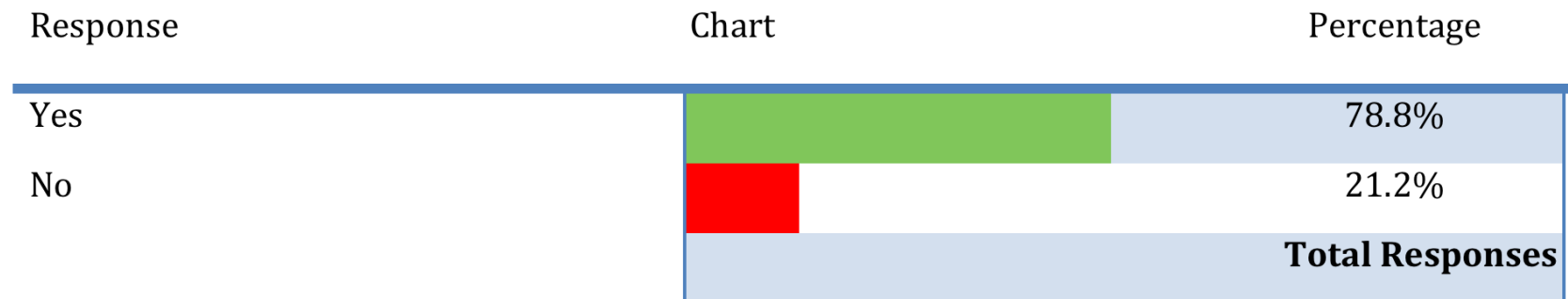
- Member concerns about lack of consultation in forest planning processes
- December 2015 – Committee issues forestry survey
- What we asked; What we heard and Who we heard from

Forestry Survey

- Survey – 5 questions
 - identify as 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?

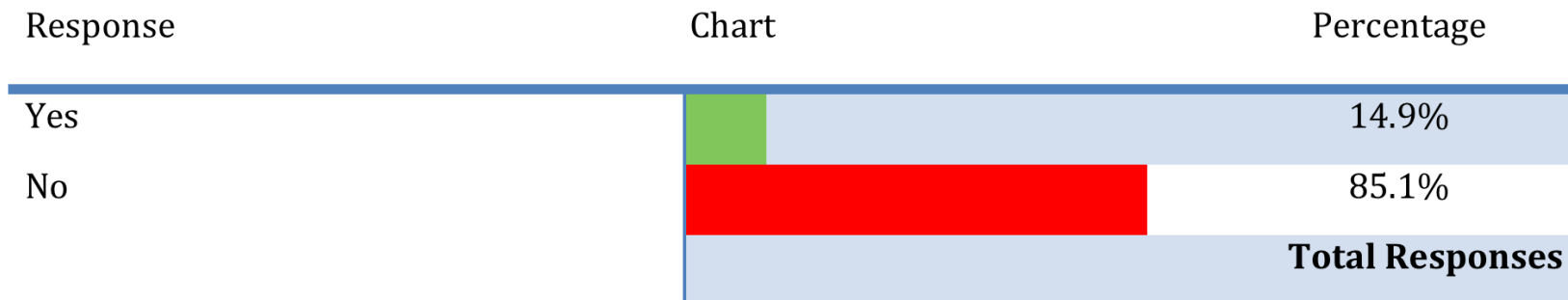
What We Heard

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.

What We Heard






Of the 15% who responded that there is adequate consultation and engagement we heard:

- “we have a good relationship with ____...”
- “continuing reduction of staff at the local MFLNRO office... current staff provide exceptional support to the Municipality and its projects.”
- “A local Community Advisory Group receives excellent updates and information on a regular basis.”

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

Key Themes

“Forest policy decisions need to be made in an open and transparent manner that provides for community engagement and consultation to ensure that the decisions are in the best interests of the community, the province and the overall sustainability of the forest resource.”

Actions Taken To Date

- Report shared with Minister Thomson, PAC members and posted on our website.
- UBCM has presented this report 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.

UBCM Convention 2016

- The Case for Greater Community Consultation and Engagement workshop held at the UBCM Convention in September.
- Forestry related Resolutions debated during the UBCM convention.

BC Forest Policy Decision Making Workshop

- Over 200 delegates attended our Sept. 26th workshop
- 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:
 - Diane Nicholls, Chief Forester
 - Jason Fisher, Assistant Deputy Minister (FLNRO)
 - Tom Ethier, Assistant Deputy Minister (FLNRO)
 - Archie MacDonald, COFI
 - Shannon Janzen, Western Forest Products/CFPA

BC Forest Policy Decision Making Workshop

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.

2016 UBCM Forestry Resolutions-Endorsed

- Wildfire Management (B6)
- Limit or Ban Burning on Forest lands (B24)
- Strengthen Local Input (B32)
- Lumber Product Diversity for Value Added (B42)
- Allowable Annual Cut (B61)
- Strategic Forest Resource Management (B89)
- Review of Professional Reliance Model (B108)
- Protection of Old Growth Forests (C27)

Next Steps/Way Forward

- 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

Concluding Remarks

“We have learned from our survey results that forestry decisions should not be made in isolation. A lack of community engagement and consultation has led to varied and significant consequences. Our findings reiterate a call for change. Local governments can be key partners in the dialogue for change to ensure that forestry decisions are made in a manner that: considers the communities interests, identifies environmental impacts, and other potential consequences that may result due to existing land uses and strategies within a specified area.”

Questions

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