



August 24, 2006

Bulkley Valley Community Resources Board

Attention: Adrian de Groot and Dave Watts
Via email – dfw@telus.net

Dear Dave and Adrian,

Re: Expression of Interest – Forest Communities Program

On behalf of the Forest Communities Proposal Steering Committee (which is being coordinated by the Bulkley Valley Centre for Natural Resources Research and Management), I am writing to invite your support for our application to the Canadian Forest Service (CFS) Forest Communities Program. A copy of the preliminary Expression of Interest is attached for your consideration.

The goal of the Forest Communities Program is to foster strong forest-based communities that have been provided with the knowledge and ability to effectively meet forest sector transition challenges and have healthy economies bolstered by new forest-based opportunities, a sustainable forest resource providing a growing range of community benefits, better informed stakeholders and more inclusive governance options and practices. The CFS intends to award between six and ten sites across Canada to participate in the Forest Communities program. Funding will be for a five year period, and the successful sites will form part of Canada's Model Forest Program.

We have titled our initiative "*Tsa'Yen Yee'Bay Daa'cun – Embracing Change on a Foundation of Diversity, Indigenous Knowledge, and Innovation*". *Tsa'Yen Yee'Bay Daa'cun* translates to "*Forests for Everyone*" and embodies the CFS objectives through the development of four focus areas:

- the integration of values and principles of Aboriginal and non Aboriginal Canadians;
- the strengthening of governance options for community stakeholders and agencies;
- reconciling vision with reality in sustainable forest management; and
- community economic development.

Specific projects are being defined for each of the four focus areas in preparation for our final proposal submission in October 2006. In addition to potentially delivering such innovative initiatives, this proposal process will solidify existing community relationships, and establish new ones. We expect that participating organizations in this proposal will become part of a greater peer and group network, which will create other new and exciting future opportunities.

The Steering Committee welcomes you as a participating organization in this exciting initiative. By agreeing to participate in this proposal, you would be consulted during the preparation of the full proposal and be asked to provide your support for the goals of the program and the concept of a Forest Communities Program site in the Bulkley Valley. Participating organizations are not required to provide any financial contribution, although during the full proposal stage some organizations may agree to provide in-kind or cash resources for specific projects. If you wish to discuss this further please contact Sharon Robertson by phone 847-1389, fax 847-1860 or email sharon.robertson@cfcdnada.ca. If you are interested in providing a letter of support, it would be appreciated if it could be emailed or faxed to Sharon Robertson on or before September 8, 2006.

Yours truly,

Harold Reedy
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