

## **GOLDEN COMMUNITY DIALOGUE SESSION**

**Golden Seniors Centre**

**September 8, 2011  
(7:00 pm - 9:00 pm)**

### **REPORT**

#### **DIALOGUE SESSION FORMAT**

The Dialogue Session included:

- An introduction to the *Healthy Forest-Healthy Communities: A conversation on BC forests* initiative
- Identification of the 11 Challenges arising from the Background Briefs for use in framing the dialogue
- Overview of the Golden situation regarding the local forest sector
- Roundtable discussions to hear the issues and suggested actions by the participants regarding local forest management and the future
- Comments from the participants were recorded and summarized

#### **KEY MESSAGES - Potential Actions**

- 1) Community wants involvement in local forest lands decisions by:
  - a) Further investigating options for a Community Forest model
  - b) Establishing a local-regional forest lands vision with objectives and resources to guide forest practices and the allocation of forest resources
  - c) Providing local civil servants (i.e., BC Forest Service staff) who would be available to provide guidance and information on local-regional forests
  - d) Re-considering the model of BC Timber Sales being a major licensee in the Golden area
- 2) Community wants a viable, sustainable local forest sector with:
  - a) Small to large businesses
  - b) Systems that encourage economic uses of available fibre, possibly using incentives
  - c) Access to fibre that assists current local businesses and encourages establishment of more value-added businesses
  - d) A road infrastructure that is maintained for full utilization of the local forest lands resources

- e) Government policies that remove barriers to establishing businesses in the areas such as:
  - i) Stumpage policy
  - ii) Protection of a working forest
  - iii) Forest management activities to protect the forest asset from insects, fire, etc
  - iv) Flexibility for sale of logs and residual fibre (waste and residue) from Woodlots and BCTS contracts
  - v) Consistent (practicable) taxing of residual wood fibre
  - vi) Consistent pricing of energy between co-generation and other independent power producers
  
- 3) Community want public education of forestry to bring back the recognition of its importance to the community

#### **NEXT STEPS**

The *Healthy forests-Healthy communities: A conversation on BC forests* initiative welcomes additional input from concerned citizens in the Golden area. These can be provided through the website e-mail [info@bcforestconversation.com](mailto:info@bcforestconversation.com) or through the facebook and twitter mechanisms accessed through the website <http://bcforestconversation.com>.

A final report will be prepared by January 2012 summarizing the input from the Community Dialogue Sessions held during 2011. All the information will be posted on the *Healthy Forests-Healthy Communities* initiative website and provided electronically to key decision-makers. The HFHC organizers, partners, communities and concerned citizens will be encouraged to let politicians know of their support for the views from the communities and individuals regarding the future management of BC forests and their expectation for action on the key messages.