



## SUNSHINE COAST COMMUNITY FOREST

May 13, 2011

«Name»

«Address»

«City»

«Postal\_Code»

Dear «Name»:

We are responding on behalf of the Mayor and Council of Sechelt regarding the Wilson Creek and Mt. Elphinstone Forest postcards sent to them.

There are several statements on the postcard we feel need to be reviewed and corrected in order to have a clear understanding of the situation. Some of the comments are:

- a. Deforestation - our lands are not deforested, they are replanted and begin again as a healthy and growing forest. Deforestation is the permanent removal of forest land for other uses, such as sub-divisions, agriculture, city expansion and even golf courses. In British Columbia all forest tenures holders are obliged to practice sustainable forest management.
- b. Re: 50% of the forest cover has been removed - this statement implies no replanting or growth of new forests and certainly gives the wrong impression.
- c. Intact forest - with the fires in the 1880's this total area has a similar age class, and now is about 110/120 years old. With the current practice of less than 1% per year of the land base being harvested, SCPI will have a sustainable forest for the future. The newer replanted forests continue to grow and will ensure that sustainability.
- d. Hydrological integrity - much has been said about doing another study on the water. Regarding water, SCPI commissioned a hydrological study in 2010 and reviewed it in 2011. This process has a more up to date methodology than CWAP and is available on the SCPI website for complete review.
- e. Biodiversity – after planting and before crown closure of the plantation at age 15-20 there is an explosion of biodiversity as the sunny opening is populated with small trees (both coniferous and deciduous), shrubs, herbs, flowers, birds, mammals and butterflies that cannot exist in older forests. The present forest, though beautiful, is extremely low in biodiversity.

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Sunshine Coast Community Forest Operated by Sechelt Community Projects Inc.

With regard to the current block EW002 much has been made about the never before logged aspect and the old growth area (OGMAs), Pine and Sitka Spruce, riparian areas and wetlands. All these concerns were taken into account from the beginning of our planning in 2010, and as such approximately only 11 hectares out of the 27 hectares will be logged, not the full 27 hectares.

SCPI will continue to listen, however we must strive to reach a middle ground from all the various opinions we receive and obligations we have. We are only one of many tenants of the lands and our rights and obligations to government and community need to be considered. Our economic contribution to the community has been several million dollars over the past four or five years. This money is going to contractors and suppliers and then multiplied through the community for taxes, services, foods and materials. In this light SCPI will continue with its obligation to its stakeholders to manage these lands for the benefit of the whole community.

Sincerely,

Glen Bonderud  
Chair - SCPI - Sunshine Coast Community Forest

bcc Mayor Darren Inkster and Councillors  
Rob Bremner, CAO

