

# **APPENDIX I**

Province of British Columbia..... **NEWS RELEASE**

Ministry of Environment, Lands and Parks.....For Immediate Release 1993:ELPO70  
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## **PROVINCE ACTS TO RESOLVE BEAVER LODGE LANDS ISSUE**

### **Land Exchanges To Expand Original Size of Trust**

**CAMPBELL RIVER** - The province is negotiating a land exchange to restore and expand the size of the Beaver Lodge Lands trust in Campbell River, Environment, Lands and Parks Minister John Cashore and Comox Valley MLA Margaret Lord announced today.

Legislation will be introduced to restore and expand the size of the trust and provide for limited development in an area proposed to be excluded from the trust lands.

This decision recognizes the importance of the trust to local residents, said Cashore. "Events have progressed beyond the point where restoration of the original lands in the trust is feasible. New legislation will ensure that the Beaver Lodge Lands will be protected by an Act of the Legislature. We have reviewed all legal, financial and environmental implications and have acted to maintain community stability and a respect for the environmental sensitivity of these lands, he added.

Lord said, "This is the best option since it preserves the environmental integrity of the area, particularly the critical habitat for a diverse range of fish and wildlife."

North Island MLA Colin Gabelmann was present at the announcement and confirmed that as Attorney General, he will continue to monitor the resolution of the various issues and public interest concerns surrounding the Beaver Lodge Lands.

The province will seek to acquire privately-owned lands to expand the existing trust area and protect that area through legislation.

### **Province Acts To Restore The Size Of Beaver Lodge Lands trust../2**

Legislation will also allow limited development on land which will be excluded from the trust. Under the proposed legislation, the Dogwood Street extension will be permitted to proceed, providing a north-south arterial road to relieve traffic on the Island Highway. Residential development will be permitted on 32 hectares east of the Dogwood Street extension and Hilchey Road will be extended beyond Dogwood Street but only if viable alternatives cannot be found.

Sites have been identified within the Beaver Lodge Lands for a proposed joint high school/college and McPhedran Elementary School. A review of land holdings in the Campbell River area was undertaken to identify alternate school sites outside the Beaver Lodge Lands. However, no suitable alternatives were found. All of the large land holdings available have some access and servicing problems.

The new trust area will be managed as the province's first experimental forest protected under legislation. "I strongly encourage the public to get involved in the development of a local resource use plan for the Beaver Lodge Lands, said Cashore.

The Beaver Lodge Lands were given to the province in 1931 for experimental work in reforestation and forest management. Since then, the land has been administered by the Ministry of Forests and has been available for hiking and other recreational activities. As there was no reference to the gift on the title for these lands, some of the property was set aside by the province for the District of Campbell River's expansion without knowledge of the gifting. The district had been pursuing plans to develop community housing, a new high school, an elementary school, commercial development and an expanded North Island College within the lands. In August 1992, a search of Ministry of Forests' archival files revealed the existence of the trust. The Ministry of Attorney General reviewed the issue and advised that a trust obligation was established and remains. Recommendations submitted by the Beaver Lodge Lands Task Group form the basis of the decision. That group was composed of representatives from the ministries of Environment, Lands and Parks; Forests; Education; Advanced Education; and Transportation and Highways. Legal advice was provided by the:

Ministry of Attorney General.  
Public Affairs and Communications Branch

Ministry of Environment, Lands and Parks  
Victoria, B.C.