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Likely Community Forest Ltd. Community Forest Pilot Agreement Proposal

Executive Summary

Likely Community Forest Ltd. is a unique alliance between Soda Creek Indian band and the community of Likely. These communities have long histories of economic and social instability. The awarding of a Community Forest would go a long way in stabilizing our communities. It would have a tremendous impact on our local economies where a larger community would not be as affected. The economy generated would eventually affect the larger centres as that is where we do our business.

The area of our Community Forest, located on the Gold Rush Trail, includes many unique attributes including Likely, Quesnel Forks, Bullion Pit, Quesnel River Hatchery, First Nations traditional use sites, the west arm of Quesnel Lake, Quesnel and Cariboo Rivers. Since the arrival of European Seftlers this area has been used mainly for resource extraction. Initially the Gold rush followed by the Timber industry. (Section 2, Community Forest Land Base)

This area is some of the most productive forest land in the interior. The previously harvested areas are now thrifty young stands ensuring a long term timber supply, The abundance of mature timber will supply the short term business viability. Proper forest management will ensure the long term ecological integrity of the forest.

Forest stewardship will be implemented with consideration for all stakeholders and First Nations. Public input will be encouraged at annual general meetings and public meetings to provide directors with direction in the forest and business management. (Section 3, Stewardship and Management Objectives and Regimes)

Public input, involvement and accountability is guaranteed. The shareholders consist of the majority of people in our communities with equal representation on the board of directors from both communities. Annual general meetings will include annual reports of accounts, person days of employment and other information of interest to the shareholders. This type of grassroots democracy, with an unprecedented level of stewardship of our resources will contribute to our communities well being and modest rural lifestyle. (Section 4, Community Involvement)

To insure a smooth start up phase a management team consisting of the initial Likely Community Forest manager/s and representatives from one of the local major licence holders will be formed. With guidance from the board of directors, this team will get the planning and operation of the Community Forest underway. The help of the Licencee will be necessary to set up the operation and in time will shift responsibilities over to the Likely Community Forest management team.

The intent of the management will be to promote small, stable business ventures in the harvesting of forest resources, basic and enhanced silviculture, and other diversified opportunities in the areas of manufacturing, Tourism and Recreation. Many of these things already exist but lack stability. Promotion and marketing of these products and services will further the viability of our business ventures.

The potential exists for profits to be made. Profits will be spent on improvements in the Community Forest. A small percentage of profits will be allowed to be used outside of the Community Forest boundaries. Proposals will be accepted from community groups such as the Likely and District Chamber of Commerce, Soda Creek Indian Band, Quesnel River Enhancement Society and Xats'ull village, for employment oriented improvement projects and businesses, especially ones that have potential in self sustainability. (Section 5, Administrative Authority and Structure)