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## NEWS RELEASE

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Ministry of Forests and Range

### **NAKUSP OFFERED COMMUNITY FOREST OPPORTUNITY**

NAKUSP – The Province has offered Nakusp and Area Community Forest Inc. a five-year probationary community forest agreement to further develop the local forestry sector, Forests and Range Minister Rich Coleman announced today.

“The community forest agreement will help diversify the region’s forestry industry and create new opportunities for Nakusp, its residents and business community,” Coleman said. “Community forests generate employment and revenues that benefit the immediate area as well as allowing resource management decisions to be made at the local level.”

The agreement grants the right to an annual harvest of 20,000 cubic metres of timber on about 9,800 hectares of public forest lands in the Arrow Timber Supply Area.

“We’re thrilled with the advent of a community forest. It will be a terrific asset for the community,” said Mayor Karen Hamling. “Over the past five years, the Community Forest Committee, with the community’s and council’s support, has worked extremely hard to make this dream come true.”

Probationary community forest agreements are a form of legal tenure that enable communities to more fully participate in the stewardship of local Crown forest resources. They are area-based, and give communities exclusive rights to harvest timber, as well as the opportunity to manage forest resources such as timber and botanical forest products, recreation, wildlife, water and scenic views.

Community forests are intended to stimulate long-term employment, forest-related education and skills training, as well as other social, environmental and economic benefits, while meeting environmental stewardship standards. After an initial term of five years, the agreements may be extended for an additional term of up to five years or replaced with a long-term agreement of not less than 25 years.

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