

Working Roundtable on Forestry June 13, 2008 Meeting Summary

The meeting started with a review of highlights by Roundtable members who were in attendance at the community meetings. Issues of note were that all communities visited to date are mentioning tenure reform and stumpage reform as requirements for the forest sector. Also of note are concerns of an eroding timber harvesting land base.

The Roundtable heard a presentation from Don Roberts of CIBC World Markets on a “Global vision for Forest Products Markets and the Forest Industry”. Mr. Roberts covered the following points:

- Shift in global growth and demand for forest products
- Globalization of capital markets
- Globalization of environmental standards
- Globalization of fibre markets
- Globalization of energy markets
- Implications to policy makers, forest companies and others

The Roundtable also heard a presentation from Geoff Plant on “First Nations and British Columbia: Rights, Relationships and Reconciliation”. Mr. Plant’s presentation covered the following points:

- First Nations Case Law history
- The New Relationship and the Transformative Change Accord
- Challenges moving forward
- Considerations for policy

The Roundtable discussed its workplan moving forward and endorsed the idea that they would break into sub-groups focused on products and markets; cost structure and capital investment, pricing; and tenure for the purposes of developing discussion pieces and recommendations for the consideration of the entire roundtable. In their discussions, each subgroup will consider its subject area through the lenses of First Nations and community interests, and the ideas that the roundtable has heard through its community meetings.

The Roundtable also agreed that submissions from representatives of industry, workers and First Nations would be received in early September.