

Working Roundtable on Forestry September 12, 2008 Meeting Summary

The sixth meeting of the Working Roundtable on Forestry began with a short discussion of the two days of meetings held by the Roundtable with various forest sector associations and organizations on September 10 and 11. The Roundtable members commented on the thoroughness and thoughtfulness of many of the submissions and the usefulness of the meetings.

The Roundtable received a presentation from Clark Binkley, Managing Director of International Forestry Investment Advisors. Mr. Binkley's talk and the discussion afterward covered the following areas:

- Trends in global timber supply and demand;
- Impact of these trends on timber prices;
- New sources of timber supply, including increased productivity from existing forests, new plantations, and supply from jurisdictions not traditionally associated with timber production (e.g., African nations), and the implications of these new sources of timber supply for British Columbia;
- Opportunities presented by a global economy that measures carbon;
- Different tenure systems in other jurisdictions; and
- Third-party sustainable forest management certification.

The Roundtable also received updates from each of the Working Groups that were established by the Roundtable in June. The groups were tasked with considering four specific areas of interest: products and markets, cost structure and capital investment, pricing, and tenures. The groups gathered information over the summer from a variety of sources, including community and First Nations meetings, academics, government and industry experts. The working groups will continue their work and incorporate information received through the September 10 and 11 meetings.

The Roundtable received and discussed an interim report from the Forest Sector Climate Action Steering Committee, presented by Ric Slaco and Dale Draper of the Steering Committee. The Committee highlighted the opportunities for the forest sector presented by climate change.

The Roundtable briefly discussed the workshop it will hold on September 25 at the Union of British Columbia Municipalities Annual General Meeting in Penticton.