

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

August 8, 2008

The Editor
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I am writing to correct claims by Rick Wangler of the United Steelworkers in Courtenay (“Roundtable shuns union, Aug. 8”) that the voice of labour is absent from the Forestry Roundtable, which has been assembled by the Premier to identify key issues and opportunities facing the forest sector in British Columbia.

The United Steelworkers, along with other labour and community representatives, have been extensively involved in these proceedings. In fact, Frank Everitt, President of the United Steelworkers Local 1-424 in Prince George, is a permanent member of the Roundtable.

At both meetings the Roundtable has had in Campbell River, labour representatives participated. The Steelworkers participated at our first meeting on April 18. At our second meeting in Campbell River, which we held to obtain input from those who weren’t at our first meeting, we specifically met with representatives of the Communication, Energy and Paperworkers Union (CEP). In addition, the very next morning I met with Stephen Hunt, Director of the United Steel Workers District 3.

This government believes that all forestry stakeholders, including labour and workers, must be involved in building a sustainable forest sector. That is why, at every step of the way, we have endeavoured to ensure full participation by the United Steelworkers and other labour groups.

Pat Bell
Chair, Forestry Roundtable
Minister of Forests and Range