British Columbia Community Forest Association
Presentation Outline

• What is community forestry?
• Community Forestry in BC
• Our challenges, solutions and successes
The Global Context
• Governments have recognized the important role of communities in sustainable forest management

• Community forestry is happening in every forested country on the planet.

• The World Summit on Sustainable Development in 2002 resolved to “…recognize and support indigenous and community based forest management systems.”
GLOBAL VISION FOR COMMUNITY FORESTRY IN THE 21ST CENTURY

A CALL TO ACTION 2008

Delegates from 20 countries reaffirmed that:

“Community forestry is an innovative approach that reconnects lands and people, fosters environmental stewardship, promotes social equity and supports livelihoods...”
Head-loading of sawn timber from a community forest in Cameroon
In British Columbia

Community forests are established when the government grants management rights to a local government, community group, or First Nation for the benefit of the entire community through a tenure arrangement, or licence.

Examples include
• Community Forest Agreements
• Forest Licences
• Tree Farm Licences
The Community Forest Agreement

• Area based
• 5 year probationary license
• 25 year renewable long term
• Gives communities exclusive rights to harvest timber, as well as the opportunity to manage forest resources such as timber and plant products, recreation, wildlife, water and scenic viewscapes.
Government Objectives for the Community Forest Tenure

• Community management of local forests over the long-term
• Manage for a range of community objectives, values and priorities
• Diversify forest management beyond just timber values
• Promote community involvement and participation
• Cultivate environmental stewardship
• Foster innovation
• Advocate for forest worker safety
• Promote communication and strengthen relationships between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal communities and persons
Community Forest Timeline in BC

1945  First BC community forest in Mission
1976  Royal Commission
1990s Industrial licenses in Revelstoke, Kaslo, and Creston
1998  Community Forest Pilot Program established
2002  BCCFA formed
2003  Forestry Revitalization Plan- Reallocation of 20% of long term logging rights
2004  Changes to the Forest Act; 1st long term tenure awarded
2005  Program Expansion
2006  Pricing Agreement negotiated
CFA Program Status
10 Year Anniversary
September 2008

7 Long Term CFAs Awarded
21 PCFAs Issued
22 Communities Invited to Apply for a PCFA
50 Communities Involved in the Community Forest Program
Community forestry is:

“Decisions being made by people who have to live with the outcome; Finding local solutions to contentious issues; Keeping benefits in the community; A very good idea; One of the hardest things I have ever done!”

- John Cathro, RPF
BCCFA - Local land, local people, local decisions

- Serves as the voice and advocate for community forestry in BC
- Works with government to expand community forestry in BC
- Provides input to government to facilitate the success of community forest initiatives
- Provides support to BC communities striving to obtain and successfully implement community forest initiatives
Purposes of the BCCFA

Provincial Policy

Education & Networking
Timber Pricing

• Removes all cruising requirements for CFAs

• Provides an 85% rate reduction to the Interior Appraisal Manual Table 6.1

• Provides a 70% reduction to the Average Sawlog Stumpage Rates for the Coast Forest Region.

• Two zones created
Extension Services

2007-2008

Meetings with 18 communities

Cowichan Lake Community Forest Cooperative
The Community Forestry Guidebook: Tools and Techniques for Communities in British Columbia
Forest Investment Account

Provincial program to improve the forest asset base and support sustainable forest management practices on Crown land.

2007/2008 - $460,000
2008/2009 - $650,000
Non Timber Forest Resources

• The rights to harvest, manage and charge fees for botanical forest resources and other prescribed products are granted to CFAs by legislation

• Currently no regulation or tenure mechanism to guide management of NTFPs

• Any regulation must respect First Nations rights and title

• BCCFA is working with the Centre for Non-Timber Resources at Royal Roads University to create an NTFR assessment guide for community forests
A BCCFA Special Project

Opening New Doors: Branding BC’s Community Forests

• Funding received from WD/CEDI, SIDIT, NIDIT and SIBAC

• Production of a CF documentary this fall/winter
Recent Policy Developments

• Community Forest Program Working Group

• Commitment from Government to remove the Probationary Period for Community Forests

• Improved Pricing for the Coast

• Continued Expansion of the Program
BCCFA Submission to the Working Roundtable

• Long term stewardship through area-based tenures
• More Community Forest Agreements
• Large enough to be efficient, viable and provide community benefits
• Expansion of open and competitive log markets
• Appropriate pricing system
Annual Conference - Networking, Learning and Planning

2009 Conference and AGM
Port Alberni May 28 - 31, 2009
“We don’t work at community forestry, we live it”.
Robin Hood
A Likely Story
Likely Museum Project

Over 1000 Visitors in 2008
Promoting Mining History

• Cleaned up a local junk yard
• Received a 3.5 Ha. License to Occupy
• Partnered with a local mining company
• Built access and put in water to the site
• Negotiated a cutting permit to maximize the view
• Parking, picnic tables and info kiosk
Likely First Response Vehicle