



MEMORANDUM

TO: AVICC Members

FROM: Councillor Cindy Solda, First Vice President

DATE: November 14, 2014

RE: **Private Managed Forest Lands Update**

In follow-up to the August 12, 2014 Member Release, AVICC has been working with key stakeholders regarding watershed protection on privately managed forest lands. A follow-up meeting was held October 20 with 20+ participants from local government (elected and staff), Ministry of Forest Lands and Natural Resource Operation (FLNRO), Private Forest Landowners Association (PFLA), Private Forest Land Council (PFLC), Vancouver Island Health Authority (VIHA) and industry (Islands Timberland and TimberWest). The action plan going forward is two fold.

The first is to create a smaller stakeholder group with staff representatives from VIHA, FLNRO, UBCM, AVICC, PFLA and PFLC to develop a terms of reference for a stakeholder working group that could be pulled together as needed to address local or regional concerns. The model would resemble the Regional Drinking Water Teams that have worked effectively in the past. The intention would be that it could address issues through the regular day-to-day responsibilities of the stakeholders involved.

The second is to address the need for education and awareness on the protections that are in place and the avenues open for addressing issues arising. The Managed Forest Council (legal name is Private Managed Forest Land Council) is the independent provincial agency established under the *Private Managed Forest Land Act* to administer the Managed Forest Program and protect key public environmental values on private managed forest land in British Columbia. They have been active participants in the July 3 and October 20 meetings and are in the process of developing an updated communication strategy to be able to respond.

AVICC Executive encourages regional districts to contact the Managed Forest Council to discuss offering an information session in your region for local government staff and elected officials. Executive has also invited the Managed Forest Land Council to bring forward a presentation proposal for the 2015 Convention in follow-up to sessions offered in the prior two years.