



MEMORANDUM

TO: AVICC Members

FROM: Councillor Barbara Price, President

DATE: May 6, 2015

RE: **Follow-up: Private Managed Forest Lands and Water and Watershed Protection**

Following the meetings last year (July and October) with 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), we advised that the action plan going forward was two fold.

The first was 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 was to resemble the Regional Drinking Water Teams that have worked effectively in the past. The intention was that it could address issues through the regular day-to-day responsibilities of the stakeholders involved.

The second was to address the need for education and awareness on the protections that are in place and the avenues open for addressing issues arising.

Three AVICC members did contact the Managed Forest Council to take advantage of the their offer for an information session for elected officials and staff. AVICC also offered the Saturday morning working breakfast session at the 2015 AVICC AGM & Convention in Courtenay. More than 80 delegates registered for that session. A number of questions and concerns were raised at the session with time running out to be able to respond to them all. The delegate evaluation feedback and follow-up from members indicates that more work is needed to address water and watershed protection concerns specifically in relation to private managed forest land.

To date, AVICC has not been able to engage the Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations in coming together to be able to initiate the working stakeholder group. We have invited Ministry representatives that attended the meetings last year to come to the June 18 Executive meeting to discuss next steps including other actions that should be taken to address local government concerns over the protection of water and watersheds.

In the interim, if there are strategies that you as members have undertaken locally that have met with success, please consider sharing them with other members. This can be done by sending a letter to avicc@ubcm.ca and asking that it be forwarded to all members as a Member-to-Member Communication.