The Community Forest Agreement

A Little History
- 1945: Royal Commission recommends management of local forests by municipalities
- 1946: First BC Community Forest in Mission
- 1998: Jobs and Timber Accord - Community Forest Agreement and Pilot Program established
- 2003: Forestry Revitalization Plan and reallocation
- 2009: Roundtable on Forestry recommends more Community Forests
- 2013: 58 Community Forest Agreements

Community Forest Program Status
- 2% of the provincial annual timber harvest

The Community Forest Agreement

Provincial Government Objectives
- Long-term tenure opportunities
- Manage for a range of local priorities
- Diversify use and benefits
- Provide social and economic benefits
- Environmental stewardship
- Community involvement
- Strengthen relationships
- Foster innovation

Innovation
"Community Forests own the principle of social license. They have the ability to pilot ideas and innovate in the way they manage their land base... they have an opportunity like no other tenure in the past."
- Pat Bell MLA, Minister of Jobs, Tourism and Skills Training and former Minister of Forests
The Community Forest Agreement

Area-based tenure
Exclusive right to harvest timber within the CFA
Right to manage botanical forest products
25 year long-term agreement replaceable every 10 years

The Community Forest Agreement

Managed under the Forest and Range Practices Act
Fees are paid to the Crown based on tabular rate structure
Invitation or direct award
Application process

The Community Forest Agreement

Application Contents
Confirmed location and availability of the proposed landbase
Confirmed available wood supply
Description of the proponent’s legal entity

The Community Forest Agreement

Legal Entity Options
- Municipality
- Community Corporation
- Cooperative
- Society
- First Nations Band Council
- Limited Partnership

The Community Forest Agreement

Application Contents
Evidence of broad-based community support
Evidence of a business plan
Management plan

Community Forestry Benefits

“The community forest has allowed for the spiritual connection on the land to be re-established. They don’t call it a community forest at home, they call it home.”
Mike Robertson, Senior Policy Advisor
Cheslatta Carrier Nation
Community Forestry Benefits

Westbank First Nation

• steady employment
• funding for education, health, seniors and children’s services

Community Forestry Benefits

Lower North Thompson Community Forest

• The community forest sponsored a Job Creation Partnership Program
• Staff provided mapping and technical expertise to the project

Community Forestry Benefits

Sunshine Coast Community Forest

• First right of entry to West Coast Log Homes
• 2500 m3 per year of low grade cedar required to run their operation

Community Forestry Benefits

Likely First Response Vehicle

Community Forestry Benefits

• Crew reclaimed a number of historical trails in the area
• Promoted the trails to Mantracker
• Two episodes filmed

Community Forestry Benefits

• West Coast Log Homes puts 22 FTEs to work
• Pays $70 above market price for the preferred selection rights and special handling
Community Forestry Benefits

Cheakamus Community Forest
Limited Partnership with the Lil’wat and Squamish First Nations and the Resort Municipality of Whistler

Community Forestry Benefits

Recreation Agreement with Whistler Off Road Cycling Association 2011 Logging Runaway Train Mountain Bike Trail

Lessons from Communities

Identify community
Identify vision and priorities
Realistic business plan
Start with small successes

Lessons from Communities

Arms length from politics
Community champions
Informed and engaged community

Lessons from Communities

Capacity and governance development

• Volunteer participation
• Range of skill sets required on the board
• Challenges of community based decision making

Lessons from Communities

Fair distribution of benefits

• Excess revenue or profits from forest management activities
• Clear policy for a re-distribution system that will benefit the whole community, even those who do not participate directly in the forest management activities.
• Creation of local leveraging resources
### Lessons from Communities

**Financial resources for startup and infrastructure**

- [Image 1](#)

### Lessons from the BCCFA

**Secure tenure and rights**

**Effective forest management policy framework**

- [Image 2](#)

### Lessons from the BCCFA

**Coordinated advocacy support**

The BCCFA

- 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.

### Lessons from the BCCFA

**Networking and extension services**

- Community Forest Management and Governance tools
- Community Forest Extension Program
- Digital technology project
- Extension partnership with UBC Faculty of Forestry
- BCCFA annual conference, website and monthly newsletters

### Lessons from the BCCFA

**Marketing access and support**

An on-line wood marketplace connecting buyers and sellers

- [Image 3](#)

Get the right log, to the right person, at the right time

www.WoodSourceBC.com

### Lessons from the BCCFA

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