

May 29, 2006

From: Daniel Bouman
Executive Director
Sunshine Coast Conservation Association
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To: Hon. Rich Coleman
Ministry of Forests
PO Box 9049
Stn. Prov. Govt.
Victoria , BC V8W9E2
(250) 387-1040 fax

Re/ Pending Approval of the District of Sechelt's Application for a PCFA

Dear Minister Coleman,

It has come to our attention that your Ministry intends to grant the District of Sechelt a Probationary Community Forest Agreement (PCFA) in an official ceremony on May 31, 2006.

We wish to draw your attention to the fact that the approved District of Sechelt application contains a clear commitment to undertake a public consultation process around a draft forest management plan prior to the granting of a Probationary Community Forest License. No such consultation has taken place. In fact, we have learned that a forest management plan was submitted by the proponents and approved by Sunshine Coast Forest District Manager, Greg Hemphill, without any consultation or even public knowledge that this part of the process was underway.

We note that Mr. Greg Hemphill was aware that this formal obligation of the proponent to public consultation was not met. What is the rationale for this decision to allow the PCFA to be established without the terms of the application being met?

In closing we wish to state they we continue to be very alarmed that the District of

Sechelt appears to have the support of your Ministry in preventing any meaningful public discussion of the proposed "community forest" or any genuine consultation with affected public stakeholders. Many community members feel that this forest license has been improperly imposed on them.

Our organization and members remain committed to the concept of genuine community forestry and would cooperate fully in such an endeavor.

Thank you for your consideration of these issues; we believe they are fundamental to the success of community forestry in British Columbia.

Sincerely,

Daniel Bouman

cc

Chief Stan Dixon, Sechelt Indian Government
John Rees, Chair, Sunshine Coast Regional District
Barry Janyk, Mayor, Town of Gibsons
Cam Reid, Mayor, District Municipality of Sechelt
Nicholas Simons, MLA, Powell River Sunshine Coast
BC Community Forest Association
West Coast Environmental Law

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