



Sunshine Coast
Conservation
Association

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Coast Reporter
P.O. Box 1388
Sechelt, BC V0N 3A0

Dear Editor,

Thank you for calling attention to the Community Forest presentation at the SC Natural History Society on January 4 (Community forestry on the agenda, Coast Reporter, January 4, 2008).

A point of information arose from this meeting that people might wish to know about, namely a letter to the provincial government written by the community forest corporation together with Interfor, Western Forest Products and Terminal Forest Products. In this letter a demand is made that there be no new protected areas in this forest district (we have the lowest level of protected areas of any forest district in BC). The authors state that they are opposed to ecosystem-based management, and that they are also opposed to any "interim measures" during strategic land use planning. The context of the letter makes it clear that the objection to interim measures relates to temporary concessions to First Nations' land claims as well as to public requests for short-term protection of land during the strategic land use planning process.

How could the District of Sechelt and the directors of its community forest possibly justify these positions? Readers may recall that during the community forest application process Mayor Cam Reid frequently asserted that the purpose of the community forest is to ensure "environmental protection".

It appears that the community forest corporation is adopting policies that could adversely impact communities and First Nations everywhere in the forest district. I hope the mayor and councillors of the District of Sechelt will correct this situation, as they are the owners of the community forest. Their failure to exercise appropriate responsibility for the policies of the community forest corporation and to control the aggressive actions of community forest staff members (which are completely out of harmony with the concept of a true community forest) amounts to negligence.

Thank you for your attention to community issues.

Daniel Bouman
Executive Director

Our Mission
*To preserve the natural biodiversity
of the Sunshine Coast region for
the present and future benefit
of humanity and all life.*