



Remarks on behalf of CFCI companies*

by Linda Coady, Vice President, Environmental Enterprise

Weyerhaeuser BC Coastal Group

at a BC Government Press Conference and Announcement on

(1) A Protocol Agreement with First Nations on Land Use Planning & Interim Measures

(2) An Interim Land Use Plan for the BC Central Coast

April 4, 2001 – Vancouver, BC

Mr. Premier, Chiefs, Ministers, Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen,

There is a well known tradition within the BC forest sector that holds that participation as an industry representative in a government press conference usually entails a certain amount of career risk. No doubt that risk quadruples on the eve of an election.

Nevertheless, I am pleased to be here today to provide a forest company perspective on the announcements being made this morning.

Our company and a number of other major forest companies on the BC coast support these decisions.

We support the protocol agreement between First Nations and the BC government that is being signed this morning. And we support adoption of the interim recommendations from the multi-stakeholder Central Coast Land and Resource Management Planning process – or “LRMP” as it is known for short here in British Columbia.

We believe the protocol agreement with First Nations that is to be signed today provides an innovative new mechanism for reconciling aboriginal and crown title in the land use planning process that will lead to stability for our businesses and an expanded relationship between the BC forest sector and First Nations.

With regards to the land use planning decision -- it needs to be said that this decision will translate into harvesting reductions and job loss. It is a very hard decision, a very serious decision and a very costly decision -- not only for government but for everyone else involved.

However, notwithstanding this fact we believe it is the right decision.

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* The Coast Forest Conservation Initiative (CFCI) is an initiative by a group of coastal BC forest companies committed to development of a forest conservation plan for the Central and North Coast of British Columbia that is credible both locally and globally. In order to achieve this objective CFCI companies are working with environmental groups on a project known as the Joint Solutions Project. Companies sponsoring the Coast Forest Conservation Initiative are Western Forest Products, Weyerhaeuser BC Coastal Group, Canadian Forest Products and Norske Skog Canada. For further information see www.coastforestconservationinitiative.com.



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On the environmental side it will help address outstanding issues on the coast around conservation and third-party certification of our forest products and practices. On the trade side it will help BC forest producers deal with market access issues and competition from other jurisdictions.

Above all else, what the decisions being announced here today do is send a powerful message about the commitment of British Columbians to sustainable management and conservation of coastal forests that are important locally and globally.

By making them, British Columbia is really laying on the line what we stand for and what we believe in.

For awhile now the Central Coast has been “ground zero” internationally for conflict over forests. Now it is “ground zero” for conservation biology, ecological forestry and new approaches to aboriginal, environmental and economic issues.

Let’s be clear: we are doing things here on the BC coast on these issues that are not being attempted elsewhere in the world.

And on the basis of that fact we are now in a strong position to ask the rest of the world to respect what we’re doing and contribute to its success.

In that vein, no one can expect people – whether they be shareholders, workers, contractors or communities – to support change if they don’t have a way to deal equitably with it.

Today’s announcement of a special \$10 million fund to help deal with impacts of harvest reductions on workers and contractors is a good first step but the reality is that fund needs to be at \$40 million before the end of this year for this initiative to be successful.

Anyone here today who thinks that raising money for this initiative is a problem owned by government and industry is living in the old economy.

Because the truth is that everyone who benefits from the forests on the coast of BC owns that problem – whether you’re in the forest sector, the tourism sector, the conservation sector or whether you are simply a consumer of products or environmental benefits provided by those forests.

These decisions and the framework for moving forward that they establish define a challenge that will change the context of forest debates in BC.

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It is a challenge to industry, governments, First Nations, environmental groups, community organizations, research centers, customers and investors to come up with the kind of policies, markets and technologies that can reinvent and revitalize forest-based enterprise in coastal old growth forests.

I'm on this podium today because there are men and women who work in the coastal BC forest industry who are prepared to accept that challenge and the responsibilities that come with it. The most important thing they need to know from this point on is that there are others who are prepared to stand with them in this task.

Thank you.