

January 21, 2010

City Commits to Adopt Wood First Policy

Victoria – The City of Campbell River announced today at the 67th Annual Truck Loggers Convention in Victoria that it has committed to the adoption of a Wood First policy for the community, in conjunction with the Wood First Act legislated by the Provincial Government.

As recommended by the City's Future of Forestry Task Force, Campbell River City Council voted unanimously at its January 19 meeting to support a resolution to create a policy to include the use of wood as the primary building material in all new City-funded buildings and major additions. The policy would ensure that all applicable City departments review and modify existing specifications, and write new specifications with a view that "wood first" standards meet or exceed structural integrity, life span and safety.

Campbell River is only the second community in British Columbia to move toward the adoption of a Wood First policy.

Speaking at the TLA convention Mayor Charlie Cornfield stated: *"This Policy shows Council's commitment to our local forest industry and the importance of forest products to the people of Campbell River. We need to refocus our energies on revitalizing the forest industry in our community."*

Councilor Ziggy Stewart, who was instrumental in setting up the Future of Forestry Task Force supported the Mayor saying: *"The fact Council was unanimous in its support of this policy shows our true commitment to supporting the ongoing development of a wood culture in Campbell River that focuses on the structural and architectural use of wood. We need to develop new strategies that will enhance opportunities to develop a vibrant local forest industry."*

The move to a Wood First policy was a key recommendation in the Task Force's first report to Council in late November.

Spokesperson for the Task Force, Justin Rigsby, noted: *"This is a great first step in helping fulfill the mandate of the Task Force. The speed with which Council adopted the resolution is certainly a very positive and proactive reinforcement of the work done by the Task Force in a few short months since its formation."*

Today's announcement comes in advance of Forest Minister Pat Bell's visit to Campbell River on Tuesday, January 26.

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