

March 16, 2010

City Supports Catalyst Intention to Re-open Elks Falls Mill

Campbell River City Council supports continued efforts by Catalyst paper to restart the Elk Falls paper mill.

“For many years, Council has recognized the need to ensure that the City creates a competitive environment for industry while ensuring that all sectors of our economy can thrive,” says Mayor Charlie Cornfield. *“City Council is willing to do what is necessary to ensure our community’s success.*

“The City’s Financial Task Force recommendations included fair taxation rates across all tax classes and the continuing need to reduce the City’s dependence on major industry taxation.

“At the same time Council wishes to maximize the standard of living for the residents of our community. Keeping jobs and families in Campbell River was a recurring theme among the comments in the recent Community Services Survey results, and supporting efforts to re-open the mill is doing our part to keep 250 jobs, and all the indirect benefits associated with those jobs, in the community,” he adds.

“City Council encourages both Catalyst and its employees to work diligently towards meeting their respective needs because putting people back to work is in the community’s best interest,” the Mayor emphasizes.

The City’s draft financial plan addresses the economic realities of a changing global market and the continuing need to reduce the City’s dependency on major industry taxation as recommended by the City’s Financial Task Force. The 2010 draft financial plan proposes a major industry property tax reduction of approximately \$1.1 million due to Catalyst’s reduced property value by BC Assessment, related to the permanent closure of the pulp mill.

Since 2002, the City of Campbell River’s has reduced its dependency on major industry taxation by \$8.7 million dollars – from 58 per cent of the total tax levy down to a proposed 14.8 per cent.

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