

Economic Development Perspectives

Presentation for the Forestry Strategy Forum
April 17, 2015



1



Overview

- Economic Development Agencies
- Suggested Priorities
 - Understand our Resources
 - Review the Regulatory Context
 - Lifestyle and Culture on Haida Gwaii
 - Small Business and Adding Value
- Community Forest
- Conclusion



Economic Development Agencies

- Misty Isles Economic Development Society (MIEDS)
- Haida Gwaii Community Futures
- Gwaii Trust
- Ministry of Jobs, Tourism, and Skills Training
- Old Massett Economic Development
- Gwaalagaa Naay Corporation
- Hecate Strait Employment Development Society
- Northwest Community College

Understand our Resources

Identify and assess the economic opportunities provided by the forest

- Limiting factors: connecting knowledge and business
- Improving the situation:
 - Opportunity analysis, feasibility studies, research,
 - Market development,
 - Effective investment
- Priorities for action:
 - Forest resource inventory
 - Quality and quantity of timber
 - Pursue appropriate opportunities



Review the Regulatory Context

Creating a forestry management system
that works for Haida Gwaii

- Limiting factors: policy and regulatory barriers
- Improving the situation:
 - Review stumpage, tenure, salvage, road management, etc.
 - Work with the Province to create and maintain benefits for Haida Gwaii
- Priorities for action:
 - Identify and address barriers
 - Plan for long-term forest operations



Lifestyle and Culture on Haida Gwaii

Respecting the traditions and preferences of local residents

- Limiting factors: seasonal fluctuations, nature-based lifestyles
- Improving the situation:
 - Flexible employment
 - Facilitate entrepreneur opportunities
- Priorities for action:
 - Review HR policies
 - Create forest-related opportunities



Small Business and Adding Value

Supporting local businesses and maximizing manufacturing opportunities and benefits

- Limiting factors: access to fibre, long-term contracts
- Improving the situation:
 - Workforce development
 - Viable access to materials
- Priorities for action:
 - Skills training
 - Identify timber access solutions



Community Forest - History

- **1998:** CFA Legislation, pilot project offered to ICSI
- **2001:** Community Futures' efforts to establish the CF are unsuccessful
- **Mid-2000s:** Village of Masset declines the Province's CF offer, in favour of an islands-wide CF
- **2010:** 80,000 m³ offered to the MIEDS communities. Interim sales through BCTS, CFA negotiations continue
- **2014-15:** Williams Ruling in the SCC, HG Forestry Strategy, BCTS legislation pending



Community Forest – Tenure Priorities

- An area-based, long-term license with financially viable AAC and area
- Participation in decisions regarding how much to harvest and when
- Ability to manage all forest resources
- A land base directly adjacent to the communities

(Gunter, 2004, CFABC)



Ec. Dev. Priorities

- Resources
- Local business
- Regulations
- Lifestyle

Actions and Opportunities

- Community Forest
- Resource Inventory
- Skills Training
- Continue dialogue