

Resident's Input Needed For Community Forest

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The City of Port Alberni has announced it will be proceeding with community consultations to prepare a business and management plan for the Port Alberni Community Forest.

A press release from the City of Port Alberni states the Community Forest Advisory Board wishes to obtain a licence for the community forest. But, in order for the Ministry of Forest and Range to issue a licence, the board must create a business and management plan that includes community input and support.

“The licence will permit the harvesting of a projected 18,000m³ [of timber] annually from a proposed area situated north and west of Sproat Lake, bringing control of forest resources and economic benefit to the Port Alberni community,” said the release.

The advisory board wants the community forest to set an “example of forest practices that are sensitive to non-timber values and a model of forest stewardship, while generating money for the community.”

Mayor Ken McRae said he hopes this initiative moves forward.

“I am hopeful that the community will support this endeavour mainly as a means to generate funding for community projects in the Alberni Valley.”

The release states the combined environmental, forest and business management experience of the advisory board and the consulting team hired to prepare the licence is 263 years.

“That level of expertise is a sure-fire prescription to make the community forest a successful business and management venture for the City of Port Alberni,” said the release.

Community consultation will begin with public outreach to find out how the community wants to manage the forest area.

For more information visit www.communityforest.ca.

The advisory board will also be present to answer questions at this year's Alberni District Fall Fair Sept. 6 to 9.

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