

## **Provincial Cabinet Minister Meeting**

**Honourable Steve Thomson**

**Ministry of Forests, Land & Natural Resource Operations**

---

**DATE: September**

**TIME:**

**LOCATION:**

---

### **PURPOSE**

Joint meeting with Honourable Steve Thomson, Minister of Forests, Land & Natural Resource Operations and the District of Ucluelet to discuss the Community Forest (CF) agreement.

### **BACKGROUND**

For almost two decades the District of Ucluelet has attempted to obtain a defined area for a Community Forest. A partnership with Toquaht FN, as suggested by the MoF to expedite the award, was made in 2008.

Despite this, delays continued, including the proposed withdrawal of land to accommodate a Tla-o-qui-aht Treaty Settlement offer.

Yet, despite an understanding at last year's UBCM that the CF would be awarded early in the 2014 New Year, we again experienced delays due to MoF staffing issues, changing priorities and further concern over encroachment on the small section of potential Tla-o-qui-aht treaty settlement lands, which we understood had been eliminated when their Treaty Agreement was not endorsed. An excessive amount of time and money was outlaid by the partners (District of Ucluelet and Toquaht) to re-address these issues, and it is safe to say that a very lucrative "marketing period" in 2014 was lost.

However, we sincerely believe that the delays and challenges have all been addressed, and look forward to an award of the Barkley Community Forest in the very near future; and we would like to extend an invitation to Minister Thompson and staff to attend the formal award in the coming months.

### **CONCLUSION**

To request assistance from the ministry in formalizing the Barkley Community Forest application and to expedite the approval process. To thank the Ministry for their continued support.

### **NEXT STEPS**

Attend the ribbon cutting ceremony at the formal opening of the Community Forest.