

### **What is a Community Forest?**

A Community Forest can be described as any forestry operation managed by a local government, community group, First Nation or community-held corporation for the benefit of the entire community. Community forestry involves the three pillars of sustainable development: social, ecological, and economic sustainability. At its core, community forestry is about local control over and enjoyment of the benefits offered by local forest resources.

Community forest agreements are granted only to legal entities representing community interests. These may be a local government, an Indian Band (as defined under the Canada Indian Act), or a society, cooperative, or corporation that is community controlled and representative of community interests. They give the holder exclusive rights to harvest Crown timber on a specific land base (area based) and may grant the right to manage and charge fees for non-timber botanical products and any other prescribed forest products. Agreements are granted for a period of 25 years, replaceable every 10 years.

### **What are the reasons local governments participate in a Community Forest?**

Community Forests can provide opportunities for:

- Forest Stewardship (proactive management of forested lands)
- Recreation values
- Job creation & retention
- Potential sources of revenue

### **Is the Village of Pemberton considering a Community Forest?**

Council has directed staff to issue a Request for Proposal for a Community Forest Feasibility Study. The Study will include community consultation, timber supply information, options for an organizational structure and the estimated financial impacts. The Study will give Council more information to help them decide if a Community Forest will be pursued.

### **Why is Pemberton considering a Community Forest now?**

The forested land in the proposed Community Forest Tenure area has been identified by the Ministry of Forestry, Lands and Natural Resource Operations for logging at some point. Establishing a community forest now will give the Village the opportunity to be involved in the oversight and management of future forestry operations on this land.

### **Want more information about Community Forests?**

Sheena Fraser, Manager of Corporate & Legislative Services  
P. 604.894.6135 | E. sfraser@pemberton.ca  
[www.pemberton.ca](http://www.pemberton.ca)

