

Sechelt Community Projects Inc.

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Press Release FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE –

SCPI Announces Log Marketing and Sales Policy

Sechelt, B.C. – The community forest, Sechelt Community Projects Inc. (SCPI), will offer the sale of logs to local buyers before any products are offered for sale off the Coast, Chair Len Pakulak announced today.

“One of the critical elements to our success will be to assist in the success of local businesses which use trees from our area,” Pakulak said. “By giving a priority to local producers to purchase wood at fair market value, we believe we will be able to provide a sense of continuity and security to local businesses. We hope this leads to the formation of more wood businesses on the Coast.”

West Coast Log Homes, based in West Howe Sound, has already indicated they would like to access both cedar and Douglas fir logs from the community forest. Other log builders from around the province have also indicated they would like to examine SCPI’s inventory.

“While we’d like to be able to sell every log to a local business, that is just not practical,” added Pakulak. “For example, there are only a few small custom mills and one cedar mill here on the coast, but the log supply from the community forest and the local needs may not always be the same.”

“It is our intent to sell the logs to local buyers first. When they have been satisfied we will then accept approaches from, preferably, value added producers, including log home builders, from around the province. Only when we are satisfied that there are no local or B.C.-based businesses wanting our logs will we make them available outside of the province.”

The board approved the following policy at a recent board meeting:

Sechelt Community Projects Inc has established a longer-term objective to proactively foster the development of local wood manufacturers so that the Community Forest values can be enhanced. Logs will be offered for sale in the following priorities:

1. **First Priority** – Support of new and existing local Sunshine Coast wood industries. In this case, SCPI will solicit offers for log sorts which meet the requirements of local industry and at the same time contribute competitive financial returns to SCPI.
2. **Second Priority** – Support of the domestic BC-based industry, including primary sawmills as well as secondary and tertiary users.
3. **Third Priority** – Logs surplus to local and domestic requirements will be available for export outside of Canada.

“This is going to take some time to build,” said Pakulak. “In the interim, we still have to sell our logs to ensure we can be here to help meet what we hope are the growing needs of a vibrant and local value added wood sector.”

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