

ECONOMIC RECOVERY IN BC'S NORTHWEST

Individual Forum Report

Fort St. James

There was general agreement that now is the time for the Government to come off the sidelines and get involved. In such tough economic times as these, there is a need for intervention to help kick start the economy. Many saw this crisis as an opportunity to invest in the hardest hit communities and give a helping hand to the most needy and vulnerable in our society. In terms of specifics, there was agreement that reform to the EI system is a must, along with investment in infrastructure projects. The point was raised several times that now would be the perfect time for real commitment to 'Green' energy sectors, like wind and bio-energy. Furthermore, there was some concern that the upcoming budget would be urban-centric and neglect to take account for the real needs of rural communities.

"How about some forethought and training the forestry and auto workers how to build wind turbines or solar roofing shingles? Something, anything to get us off our fossil fuel dependency and on the path to a greener future and thus a greener economy." – Jennifer

All in all, the entire event was a big success. There was great enthusiasm for the idea of coming directly to the people to hear, unfiltered, what the key issues of today are. A giant thank you to everyone who made it out to the Fort St. James forum. We couldn't have done it without you.

Facilitators included: Byron Goerz, Joan Burdeniuk and Cam McCormick