



# Certification Shorts: Oct. 2006

## Highlights from West Island Woodland Advisory Group

*WIWAG is a forest based, multi-stakeholder group that advises Western Forest Products and Island Timberlands Limited Partnership (ITLP) on the development, monitoring, and on-going improvement of sustainable forest management practices in the area as part of the companies' Canadian Standards Association certification*

### **WIWAG Membership**

- ◆ Since 1999 when WIWAG first started, the advisory group has endeavored to include representatives from as broad a cross section of community interests as possible. Membership has been fairly consistent over the years, with little change in participating members or sectors. However, the last six months have seen the departure of some long time members, the introduction of some new members, and the filling of a long vacant sector. Of note:
  - Dave Chitty is the new fisheries/watershed representative, and John Young is participating on behalf of the Port Alberni & District Labour Council after the Labour sector seat had been vacant for the past four years.
  - The Environment and Logging Contractor sector seats are currently vacant, and WIWAG is talking with sector representatives to find new participants.
  - The Hupacasath First Nation are still advising on issues related to CSA certification, but are now participating one-on-one with the companies versus at the advisory group meetings. WIWAG is actively communicating with other First Nations that have expressed an interest in the advisory group.

WIWAG would like to sincerely thank past members Phil Edgell, Chris Law, Ed Sanders, Alison MacKenzie and Bill Coates for their dedicated work on the advisory group, and welcomes all of the new participants and alternates.

### **Western Forest Products 2006-2008 SFMP**

- ◆ Earlier this year, the advisory group approved the new set of indicators that forms the sustainable forest management plan. This plan covers a three year timeframe, but is a "living document" that the group continually evaluates. WIWAG is currently discussing amendments/additions to the socio-economic component of the plan to address key issues such as safety, local processing, non-timber businesses, corporate citizenship and public education.

#### **2006 Audit**

- ◆ Each year certified companies must undergo an audit by an independent third party. WFP was audited in May, and the auditor found no non-compliances with the CSA standard. In particular, the auditor commended WFP for the WIWAG website, contractor knowledge, and harvest block clean up.

### **Island Timberlands**

- ◆ ITLP has been working with various WIWAG subcommittees (e.g. fisheries, socio-economic) to develop the indicators for the first ITLP SFMP. If approved by WIWAG, the plan will form part of ITLP's upcoming registration audit to achieve CSA certification.
- ◆ WIWAG will be touring areas of ITLP's private lands this Fall, with the focus on viewing old growth harvesting and harvesting around streams.
- ◆ These issues will be updated in the next issue of Certification Shorts.

**Meetings:** Every second Thursday of the month, Alberni Clayoquot Regional District board room. Guests are welcome to observe. Please call or email to confirm the meeting as dates or locations are sometimes subject to change.

**For more information about WIWAG, or the SFM Plans:**

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