

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

I would like to assure the public that your representatives to MIFLAG, from a broad range of public interests and First Nations, are working diligently to improve a set of indicators to monitor and ensure a sustainable flow of benefits from the MIFO. Your representatives continue to bring forward issues and interests to provide continual improvement to the public participation process and to sustainable forest management.

Through the recent Public Participation Satisfaction Survey, MIFLAG members expressed a general satisfaction with the public participation process. They found it to be inclusive, responsive to membership and adaptive over time. However, some of the MIFLAG members indicated that improvement in communications with the public is required. Providing detailed information in advance of MIFLAG meetings and establishing timeframes for meeting MIFLAG objectives are also areas suggested for improvement. In addition some MIFLAG members reported that MIFLAG needs to collaborate with other local decision makers who are involved with sustainability issues. These concerns will be the focus for improvement to the MIFLAG forest certification efforts in the 2013 year.

Starting in late 2012, trails and recreation sites are one of the new focus areas of the MIFLAG. This issue was introduced by the MIFLAG representatives of Sayward Fish and Game, the Strathcona Regional District Area, and the Village of Sayward. MIFLAG is working to develop a recreation indicator to measure and reflect the recreation interests of the MIFLAG members and the public.

The flow of benefits from the MIFO continued to strengthen in 2012 with stronger markets, increased employment, continued harvesting and planting activities and other forest products. All of these activities provide social and economic benefits to our communities.

MIFLAG has provided public participation to the CSA certification of the DFA since 1998. MIFO continues to express commitment to Forest Certification and to the MIFLAG public participation process. WFP has conveyed this by being responsive to MIFLAG issues, providing technical support, research, meals, meeting space, guest speakers, and supporting our field trips.

Our 2012 Public Outreach events met with mixed success. The outreach with seniors in Campbell River was enjoyable, informative, interactive and well attended. Our public outreach venue at the Campbell River Commons was not as successful and we look forward to a new public outreach at the Pier Street Market on June 23rd, 2013.

A big thank you to all of the MIFLAG members who have given their time and energy in working towards sustainable forest management and sustainable communities. I also thank the families of our MIFLAG members who support our efforts and who go without their loved ones while they attend MIFLAG meetings and events.

If you have an interest in finding out more about MIFLAG and Forest Certification of MIFO, please contact any one of the MIFLAG representatives listed in this Annual Report, contact the Chair of MIFLAG, or visit the MIFLAG website.

For More Information:

Ronald Frank, R.P.F., MIFLAG Facilitator/Chair

Phone: (250) 338-9717 Fax: (250) 338-5604

E-mail: shelter@island.net

www.MIFLAG.org



MIFLAG 2012 ANNUAL REPORT



Who Are We? Mid Island Forest Lands Advisory Group (MIFLAG) is an independent body providing organized and regular input to the development, implementation, and ongoing improvement of Western Forest Products (WFP) Sustainable Forest Management (SFM) system at the Mid Island Forest Operations (MIFO). The Mid Island Forest Lands Advisory Group operates under Canadian Standards Association Z809-08 (CSA) Forest Certification.

Our Mission as volunteer members is to represent the values of our communities, our stakeholder groups, and ourselves in order to ensure Sustainable Forest Management practices on the Defined Forest Area (DFA). This is accomplished by: developing, tracking, discussing and continually improving a set of 'Criteria and Indicators' related to these values; and by having an ongoing dialogue with WFP representatives to ensure that the environment of the DFA, and the communities which rely on them, are sustained.

Our Representatives are from many community stakeholder groups and First Nations from the surrounding communities of Sayward and Campbell River.

The Defined Forest Area (DFA) is the land base on which MIFLAG advises WFP and includes approximately 157,000 hectares of provincial crown forest land within Block 2 of Tree Farm License 39. This includes much of the Memekay River, White River and Adam River watersheds.



Accountability is a strength of the CSA certification found through the process of public stakeholder and First Nation participation through advisory groups like MIFLAG and in auditing, by third party auditors, to ensure compliance with agreed upon measurables, which are called indicators. MIFLAG currently has 43 indicators measuring and tracking a range of items from respect for First Nations values, public education and outreach, to stakeholder and First Nations satisfaction with the process. There are indicators reflecting environmental, social and economic aspects of forest certification. These indicators have been developed by MIFLAG with WFP in our effort to measure continued improvement in Sustainable Forest Management while truly reflecting the community values expressed by MIFLAG representatives.

Certification of WFP - Mid Island Forest Operations (MIFO): Since May 1999, MIFO has successfully passed all audits and MIFLAG continues to express our community and First Nations values through this forest certification process.

Mid Island Forest Lands Advisory Group

MEMBERSHIP IN MIFLAG OVER THE PAST YEAR

In December of 2012 Morgan Ostler, a long standing member of MIFLAG in several capacities was acknowledged with a plaque, kind words and a loud ovation by MIFLAG. Morgan Osler said ‘good bye’ to MIFLAG in 2011. Her enthusiasm and buoyant attitude always lifted our spirits, while her determined work ethic kept us ‘on our toes’. Morgan has moved on to other things and we wish her well while thanking her for all she has given us. Morgan’s Irish humour is missed.



Our membership has remained relatively stable over this past year. However, MIFLAG has provided direction to ensure membership participation is dedicated and participatory. To do this, MIFLAG continues to invite and encourage First Nation representation and is focusing on ensuring existing members have alternates so that their respective stakeholder groups may be well served by MIFLAG’s efforts in the area of Forest Certification.

Active Members		WFP Standing Members	
John Andres	MFLNRO	Tony Clark	Area Planner
Kelly Arkell	Dyer Logging Co. Ltd.	Michel de Bellefeuille	Certification Forester
Sandra Barnes	CR Environmental Committee	Cindy Fife	Senior Operations Planner
Maureen Brinson	Member at Large	Jeff Ternan	Operations Manager
Colin Buss	CR Chamber of Commerce	Alternates	
Clay Carlson	School District 72	Colleen Evans	CR Chamber of Commerce
Randy Frank	K’ómoks First Nation	Al Braybrook	Village of Sayward
Richard Glover	Sayward Fish and Game Club	Jason Kerluck	School District 72
Ron Kerr	City of Campbell River	Ron Pollock	Seniors Representative
Norm Kirschner	Village of Sayward	Bill West-Sells	Sayward Fish and Game
Rod Naknakim	Laich-Kwil-Tach Treaty Society	Support Staff	
Lynn Nash	Seniors Representative	Ron Frank	Facilitator-Shelterwood Forest Management Ltd.
John Smith-Chief	Tlowitsis First Nation	Cindy Huber	Recording Secretary-WFP
Rick Wangler	United Steelworkers Local 1-1937		
Gerald Whalley	Strathcona Regional District Area A		

MIFLAG MEMBERS SPEAK

MIFLAG works by consensus but our members have their stakeholder/First Nation perspectives and their own viewpoints and key values which they represent to MIFLAG. Here is what some of our members had to say about MIFLAG in 2012:

C.R. Chamber of Commerce (COC):

“The local Chamber represents approximately 435 members in the Campbell River and District. There is a board with 13 members: eight directors and 5 executives. One of our key goals is to advocate for local businesses; this is done through our advocacy committee. We have helped create a ‘major projects portal’ which is a website where local businesses can advertise to prospective proponents for major projects in the area like the John Hart Replacement Project and the new hospital. The highlight of MIFLAG for me this past year was the trip to meet with the Powell River Public Advisory Group to WFP and the tour of the Stillwater Division.”
--Colin Buss



Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations: “Our MIFLAG meetings give me a fantastic opportunity to meet with people in the local community who I don’t often get a chance to connect with and hear what they are thinking about forestry. The dinners are superb and the conversation is always lively and interesting.”
--John Andrés, R.P.F.

Seniors Representative: “Through a set of criteria and indicators that MIFLAG has developed, MIFLAG endeavours to provide WFP with a broad perspective on how we feel the public’s forests can be managed sustainably and to the best advantage of all. MIFLAG representatives take their responsibilities very seriously and WFP respects the collective wisdom of the group.”
--Lynn Nash

Strathcona Regional District Area A Representative: “One of the greatest challenges for the MIFLAG has been to realize its goal of having effective input into the Sustainable Forest Management Plan regarding major stakeholder concerns. It is imperative that going forward Western Forest Products respond in a more positive and timely manner if this advisory group is going to amount to anything more than a public relations exercise.”
--Gerald Whalley

Member at Large: “I have been fortunate to be an active member of the certification process for many years. It has been a constant learning process for myself and fellow stakeholders. The changes made in the indicators over the years truly reflect WFP and their employee’s commitment to responsible forest practices. Our community is fortunate to have the commitment of a company like WFP.”
--Maureen Brinson