

THE ICSI CONSENSUS

1 INTRODUCTION

The Island Community Stability Initiative (ICSI) was formed in November 1995 by elected representatives, and their designated alternates, from every community and rural electoral area on the archipelago known as Haida Gwaii and as the Queen Charlotte Islands. Through a series of advertised public meetings ICSI has sought and received broad public support.

In this document, the place is referred to as “the Islands;” and our collection of towns, villages and rural settlements is referred to as “the Island Community.”

This living document represents our best efforts to achieve consensus and does not include specific management prescriptions which will be addressed by a community resource board.

1.1 HISTORICAL CONTEXT

The forests of the Islands are about 12,000 years old (Fedje, 1993). Harvesting of wood has occurred since there were trees on the Islands, when the Haidas developed a culture based on their use of the forests and oceans.

Industrial-scale logging began on the Islands during the First World War to provide structural materials for airplanes and field equipment. Sandspit, Port Clements and Queen Charlotte City were built up on the timber industry. Various other towns and logging camps have come and gone. Sawmills existed throughout the Islands, exporting lumber and providing wood products for local uses.

In the first half of this century, Old Massett was renowned on the coast for its boat-building industry. A mill and several boat yards built a large number of trollers, gillnetters and seiners, many of which still serve in the fishing industry.

Large scale logging tenures were instituted in the 1950s and 60s. Today there are three Tree Farm Licenses, a Timber Supply Area (TSA) containing four Forest Licenses, the Small Business Forest Enterprise Program, and a number of smaller tenure units in various locations. In all, an estimated 100 million cubic metres of wood, from a total of 170,000 ha (Sierra Club Mapping Project, 1995), have been extracted from the Islands forests. Meanwhile, the Island Community lacks basic infrastructure and many of the amenities that other places take for granted.

The approved rate of harvest of about two million cubic metres per year, is based on the assumption that all “operable mature timber” will be harvested.

Conflicting ideals and changing societal values have challenged this assumption.

Over time, while the Islands forests have increased in value, the communities' share of the benefits has declined, creating social, economic and environmental concerns. Unemployment rates of up to 70 percent exist in some communities.

In 1994, the Ministry of Forests (MoF) publicly released the Queen Charlotte TSA Review and Socio-Economic Analysis. The findings of greatest concern include a rate of harvest that is 2.2 times greater than the Long Run Sustainable Yield, and a gross disparity in the distribution of employment and other economic benefits — only 14 percent of jobs derived from the TSA harvest are held by people who live on the Islands. (MoF)

In March 1995, in response to the TSA Review, representatives of all community and regional electoral bodies sent a letter to the Chief Forester requesting that:

“ a) Areas under consideration for exclusion from harvesting must be removed from contributing to the AAC.

b) Within three years or less, reduce the AAC to the long term harvest level, as qualified by a) above.”

In April, the community representatives sent a letter to the Minister of Forests, stating that:

“The current allocation of timber cutting rights in the Queen Charlotte Timber Supply Area (TSA) represents a significant threat to the future of our islands community. The Socio-Economic Analysis prepared recently for the Timber Supply Review confirms that the return to our islands community is unacceptably low. It is our belief that 100% of the TSA should be managed by the communities of these islands.”

In the Fall of 1995, the Ministry of Forests estimated a timber supply shortfall in all Island-based tenures of about 30 percent in 1996; the prognosis for 1997 is “worse.” Inability to meet current timber volume commitments has been described by the ministry as “hitting the wall.”

1.2 MISSION STATEMENT

The Islands Community Stability Initiative (ICSI) is a forum to express the collective will of the Islands people. It is established to address social, economic and environmental issues resulting from resource extraction, and to participate in designing a future that will support a healthy environment and create a self-sustaining Islands economy.

1.3 GOALS

The ICSI is engaged in a process aimed at resolving certain challenges to forest management on the Islands. Our goals are:

- to ensure the long term health of the forest and the stability of the resource-based economy by establishing an inventory and planning process to determine sustainable levels of harvest and to establish those levels within three years.
- to provide greater local employment and economic benefits to communities through small business forestry interests having greater access to wood.
- to promote processing and manufacturing of timber resources on the Islands.
- to ensure a cooperative and responsible forest management system that incorporates the Island Community's values and knowledge.
- to chart a long-term land-use option for presentation to the Council of the Haida Nation and the Government of BC that will bring greater certainty and alleviate resource conflict.

2 GUIDING PRINCIPLES

2.1 SOCIAL PRINCIPLES

To enhance the quality of Island life requires that the concerns of individuals and communities are respected as environmental and economic balance is sought.

The ICSI shall:

- promote the well-being of the Island Community, for this and future generations.
- endeavor to maintain the unique qualities of life that people enjoy today.
- enhance the quality of life through diversified economic opportunities on these Islands.
- seek opportunities, such as education and training, that will enhance the quality of life for individuals.
- set a target of full employment for Islands people.
- work with agencies to establish sound principles of management that will not compromise the same opportunities for future generations.

2.2 ECONOMIC PRINCIPLES

The ICSI sees an ideal economy as one which generates greater social benefits at all levels from the use of fewer resources. The ICSI shall:

- promote a dynamic Islands economy that maintains options for future land and resource use.
- encourage diverse and innovative options that increases the employment and other benefits derived from a given stock of resources.
- promote on-Islands processing of natural resources.

2.3 ENVIRONMENTAL PRINCIPLES

The ICSI recognizes that a healthy environment is the foundation upon which a sound economy and society depend, and that all resource use must be done in a manner respectful of the Islands' ecosystems. The ICSI shall:

- support practices that maintain biodiversity.
- promote forestry practices consistent with nature's inherent ability to replace the resources used.

2.4 DECISION-MAKING PRINCIPLES

These economic, social and environmental principles shall be reconciled and implemented in neutrally administered decision-making processes that are transparent and that consider all community and other interests affecting the Islands. These processes shall promote decision-making through finding common ground.

The ICSI shall facilitate informed community discussion, and promote processes used for making decisions regarding land, resource and environmental uses that are:

- respectful – the processes shall encourage respect for the diverse values, traditions and aspirations of Islanders and their communities.
- fair – the processes will adhere to the principles of administrative fairness, and shall provide full public access to relevant information.
- efficient and effective – the processes will strive for efficient use of time and financial resources.
- measurable and enforceable – the decisions made must be properly monitored and enforced.
- adaptive and flexible – the processes shall be capable of modifying decisions in response to technological innovations, field experience, shifts in social preferences, and new information. These modifications

will be made in a manner that maintains economic, social and environmental stability.

- comprehensive and integrated – land use planning and management shall be cross-sectoral, comprehensive and integrated. The processes will address the full range of economic, social and environmental concerns and values.
- accountable – decision-makers must be accountable to all participants in the process, as well as to the broader public. Lines of accountability should be established for participants in decision-making who represent others. Overall, the processes must be responsive to community aspirations while maintaining consistency with provincial principles, goals and policies.

3 CREDO

For too long, decisions that affect the well-being of our communities have been made by people who do not live here, and who have little or no personal interest in the future of the Islands.

Forestry issues have profound and immediate effects on our communities and families. The people who make the islands their home must take responsibility for charting a future that will ensure the vitality of our communities.

Solutions must consider the Islands as a whole, addressing both the TFLs and the TSA. We recognize that the issues involve both timber and 'non-timber' forest values.

The present approach to forest management is indicative of the "boom and bust" syndrome. While it is not our intention to create an industrial haven, we can provide a greater degree of comfort and security for the Island Community, while ensuring the same for our children.

We respect Haida cultural aspirations and environmental concerns.

We believe that:

- a balance can be found to accommodate economic, cultural and environmental values.
- more employment and economic benefits can and must be derived from the use of fewer timber resources.
- local prosperity and meeting the demands of global markets need not be mutually exclusive.
- forest stewardship is best done by the communities that depend on them for sustaining their own households.

- harvesting options must be guided, in part, by value versus volume.
- all interests need to know with certainty what will be logged and what will be retained for future generations.

4 TIMBER SUPPLY

4.1 ANCIENT & OLD GROWTH FORESTS

The Islands' forests have evolved since the last ice age. The stands are usually mixed species with a wide range of ages, from seedlings to towering monarchs to fallen, decaying logs. Trees have been aged up to 1,200 years and some measure over 20 feet in diameter.

As the old growth forest is shrinking, the potential for conflict over what remains is growing. There is a lack of public confidence in forest inventories, and widely-ranging opinions as to how much ancient forest is left and how much should remain undisturbed in order to sustain ecosystems.

4.2 SECOND GROWTH FORESTS

Since the turn of the century, about 170,000 ha of forest have been logged and are now in second growth (Sierra Club Mapping Project, 1995). In the mid-19th Century, fires burned extensively over much of the east side of Graham Island, from Masset to Skidegate Inlet.

Both industry and the Ministry of Forests claim that current inventories of second growth underestimate by as much as 20 percent the volume of wood they contain. They also state that certain areas of second growth provide significant opportunities for economic activity.

This is encouraging, however there is insufficient data to assess or substantiate this claim.

4.3 FALL-DOWN EFFECT

The fundamental assumption of the timber management system was that all 'operable' old growth forests would be logged and replaced with second growth trees. The theory was that the last of the old growth would be harvested just as the second growth became viable.

The fall-down effect occurs when current cut levels cannot be met by the available supply of timber, leading to reductions in harvest. Contributing factors leading to the fall-down include: smaller land base, over-cutting and changing management standards. On the Islands, while the second growth looks promising, the fall-down is in the time frame between the first harvest and the second growth coming on stream.

The existence of the fall-down effect is evidence that this particular timber management assumption is not conducive to community stability, nor is it equitable with respect to the ability of future generations to meet their needs.

The fall-down effect is directly related to the Annual Allowable Cut, which is set or approved by the Chief Forester. Successive Chief Foresters have failed in their responsibility to consider the long term environmental, social and economic effects on the Islands Community.

4.4 ICSI CONSENSUS

To define the land base and a realistic rotation period and adjust the harvest to a sustainable level.

That inventories for old and second growth forests, traditional uses, and non-timber resources be examined in a public review process, described in section 11 below.

5 FOREST PRACTICES CODE

5.1 BACKGROUND

The Forest Practices Code legislation was implemented in 1995. Its vision is to provide "sustainable use of the forests we hold in trust for future generations."

Its Sustainable Principles include:

- managing our forests to meet present needs without compromising the needs of future generations.
- providing stewardship of forests based on an ethic of respect for the land.
- balancing productive, spiritual, ecological and recreational values of forests to meet the economic and cultural needs of peoples and communities.
- conserving biological diversity, soil, water, wildlife, scenic diversity and other forest resources.
- restoring damaged ecosystems.

The reduction to harvest rates estimated by different parties range from minimal to 25 percent. The recent figure released by the Forest Minister was between six and eight percent across the province. Industry estimates that coastal operations could face a 12 percent reduction.

The Forest Practices Code is in its infancy and its applications have yet to be proven. The Code is held up by industry and government in the global marketplace as proof of improvement to forest management in BC.

5.2 ICSI CONSENSUS

We support the District Manager's request to the BC Forest Practices Board for an independent review of forestry practices for compliance with the Forest Practices Code.

6 SUSTAINABILITY

6.1 DEFINITION OF SUSTAINABILITY

Sustainability means meeting our needs today without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own; and, maintaining the ability to plan for change.

6.2 THE RATE OF HARVEST

Sustainable forestry provides for an even flow of timber resource quantities and qualities through time, in balance with cultural and environmental values.

The Ministry of Forests has estimated that the Long Term Harvest Level for the TSA is 248,000 cubic metres per year. The current Annual Allowable Cut is 514,335 cubic metres.

The rate of harvest in the three TFLs is based upon inventories and assumptions that do not necessarily reflect the Forest Practices Code and other constraints.

The public lacks confidence in the accuracy of the inventories, the validity of the assumptions and the process used to calculate the rate of cut. The criteria for defining operability are controversial and inconsistent among tenures.

6.3 ICSI CONSENSUS

Planning should be area-based by watershed, instead of volume-based by license. The amount of timber available for harvest should be determined by the watershed management unit.

A public review process as described in Section 11 below, would address this issue.

The longer the adjustment is deferred, the greater will be the resulting timber supply shortfall. The sooner a sustainable rate is established, the higher that rate could be over the long term.

7 TENURE REFORM

7.1 BACKGROUND

Today there are three Tree Farm Licenses, a Timber Supply Area containing four Forest Licenses, the Small Business Forest Enterprise Program, and a number of smaller tenure units in various locations. Over 90 percent of the commercial forest is allocated within Tree Farm and Timber Licenses.

There is a great deal of public concern and community dialogue over the tenure system. The major licensees have no incentive to consider or provide for the well-being of the communities. The tenure system is recognized as a formidable obstacle to establishing a sustainable forest economy on the Islands.

Some suggestions from the public regarding tenure reform have included:

- amalgamation of tenures into broader regional management units, or Community Forests.
- competitive bidding on all timber.
- opportunities for local manufacturing.
- smaller volume timber sales.

7.2 SMALL BUSINESS FOREST ENTERPRISE PROGRAM

The timber presently available to small local business interests is about nine percent of the total annual cut. In 1995, 136,419 cubic metres were sold by competitive bid (MoF).

Small business interests state that, compared to the major licensees, they pay more per unit for use of the same forest resource, and provide more employment and economic benefits to the Island Community, government coffers and the provincial economy.

Local competitive log markets create more jobs, as experienced in the Vernon Forest District. And they remedy the complaints of American softwood producers about subsidies in the Canadian forest industry, a problem which has repeatedly led to massive government interventions in the market.

The QCI Independent Forestry Association has called for tenure reform.

7.3 STUMPAGE & ROYALTIES

Stumpage rates and subsidy factors are not equitable between sectors. There is a common perception that economic advantages are granted to the major licensees, but the information is convoluted and confusing and needs examination. This could be done in the public review process described in Section 11 below.

'Salvage' operations are paying stumpage to the province on wood that the companies have already declared and paid for as waste.

7.4 ON-ISLAND PROCESSING & MANUFACTURING

Out of the annual harvest of about two million cubic metres, less than four percent is processed in local mills (MoF).

More economic and employment benefits need to be created out of less wood. Adding value to timber through processing and manufacturing creates jobs.

Economic benefits can clearly be derived from the use of timber resources not now utilized (alder, waste, etc), but administrative systems present substantial obstacles to doing so.

There are great opportunities for on-island processing. Work needs to be done to identify what kinds of processing and manufacturing are appropriate, as well as examining infrastructure needs, capital requirements, marketing strategies and joint venture options.

7.5 COMMUNITY FOREST TENURE OPTIONS

Area-based allocations are preferable to a commitment of fiber volume. Through area-based community management, local stewardship can evolve and communities can benefit from the forest.

The volume derived from areas allocated to community tenures must be sustainable, and not added on to the existing over-commitment.

7.6 ICSI CONSENSUS

The forests are publicly owned and the tenure system must provide community access, control and benefits. We support:

- the general principles of the *Strathinnes Report (1992)* recommendations regarding the Small Business Forest Enterprise Program.
- the allocation of forest land to create Community Forests.
- the expansion of small business and local manufacturing opportunities.
- guaranteed on-Island access to wood, provided by the establishment of local log marketing opportunities, that include a certain portion of all wood harvested on the Islands.
- setting targets for increasing the percentage of wood to be processed on-Island, with a plan to ensure success which is adopted by all interests, including TFLs and TSA Forest Licenses.

- the inclusion of a commitment to community stability (definable and measurable) in the Management and Working Plans of all tenure holders.
- an annual performance audit of licensees, to hold them accountable to their license application commitments, including employment targets.

The broader issues of tenure reform on the Islands would be addressed by a public review process, described in Section 11 below.

8 COMMUNITY RESOURCE BOARD

8.1 BACKGROUND

The Small Business operators have cited the lack of priority given to their needs by the Ministry of Forests to be one of the factors affecting their operations.

Very little emphasis has been placed on alternative harvesting methods or harvesting the entire profile of the forest. Money is spent to kill alder, when it could be used to develop value-added products.

During their tenure, corporate interests must become more responsive to community concerns about sustainable forest management and economic benefits.

Much of the community dialogue on forestry issues focuses on the need for more direct and effective participation in planning processes, and in the determination and implementation of administrative policies.

8.2 ICSI CONSENSUS

An efficient community-based process is required to address sustainable forest management on the Islands and to reduce bureaucratic obstacles to diverse local enterprises.

The various models of Community Resource Boards and our specific needs, must be examined, to define what will work best here. The process must include a commitment to implement an appropriate forest management system.

A surcharge on all round logs leaving the Islands should be levied to fund Island Community infrastructure and operational costs of a community resource board.

9 PROTECTED AREAS

9.1 BACKGROUND

Over the years, the Council of the Haida Nation has identified certain areas of cultural significance. These have come to be known as “the Haida Protected Areas.” A primary purpose of these areas includes continuing opportunities to meet cultural and societal needs.

Two of these, Gwaii Haanas and Duu Guusd, have been formally designated by the Haida Nation to be free of industrial change. Other protected areas have been identified because of their significant spiritual, cultural and environmental values.

The Haida consider their culture to be a direct reflection of the land, and consider the wholesale change of the Islands to be equivalent to the removal of a People from the land.

Protected areas on-Island recognized in Canadian and BC law include Naikoon, Gwaii Haanas (which has been designated a National Park Reserve and a Haida Heritage Site) and Krajina Ecological Reserve (which is located in Duu Guusd). These areas make up 22.4% of the entire Islands’ land base.

The Haida Protected Areas are said to contain some 51,000 ha (MoF) or about 20 percent of the remaining “operable timber.” This represents a volume of wood that is comparable to the 20 percent margin of error in the forest inventories, acknowledged by both industry and government.

If the entire annual cut was concentrated in the Haida Protected Areas they could all be logged in about 10 years.

Over the years, the Ministry of Forests has avoided issuing cutting permits in the Protected Areas, but has still included them in the inventory and calculation of the Annual Allowable Cut.

Under Part 15 of the BC Forest Act, areas identified for protection can be temporarily withdrawn from the forest land base by the provincial cabinet.

(The figures below are from the Ministry of Forests District Office.)

9.2 DUU GUUSD

Designated by the CHN in Assembly in 1982.

Status: Immediate development pressure.

Location: northwest Graham Island.

Size: 148,800 ha

Operable area: 15,900 ha

Operable Volume: 8,745,000 cu m

On the assumption that all operable mature trees will be logged, Duu Guusd represents four years of logging at the current Island rate.

ICSI CONSENSUS:

- exclude land base from the AAC calculation.
- place a ten-year moratorium on industrial development.
- land base use to be determined by the Haida.

9.3 TLELL WATERSHED

Status: Immediate development pressure.

Size: 20,437 ha TSA ; 11,000 ha TFL

Operable area: 6,500 ha TSA ; 8,100 ha TFL

Operable Volume: TSA 3,575,000 cu m; TFL 4,800,000 cu m

ICSI CONSENSUS:

- include the land base in the AAC calculation.
- prior to the issuance of cutting permits, an integrated watershed planning process must be completed and the plan approved by the community resource board.

9.4 GOVERNMENT CREEK

Status: Immediate pressure.

Size: 1,770 ha

Operable area: 1,230 ha

Operable Volume: 610,000 cu m

ICSI CONSENSUS:

- include the land base in the AAC calculation.
- prior to the issuance of cutting permits, an integrated watershed planning process must be completed and the plan approved by the community resource board.

9.5 GREY BAY – CUMSHEWA

Status: Immediate pressure.

Size: 4,925 ha

Operable area: 1,260 ha

Operable Volume: 756,000 cu m

ICSI CONSENSUS:

- needs further review by the community resource board.

9.6 KOOTENAY INLET

Status: Immediate pressure.

Size:

Operable area:

Operable Volume:

ICSI CONSENSUS:

- include only the land base defined in the *current* development plan of the Small Business Forest Enterprise Program in the AAC calculation.

9.7 YAKOUN LAKE WATERSHED

Status: No immediate pressure.

Size: 6,900 ha

Operable area: 3,540 ha

Operable Volume: 2,100,000 cu m

ICSI CONSENSUS:

- exclude land base from the AAC calculation.
- place a ten-year moratorium on industrial development.

9.8 YAKOUN RIVER CORRIDOR

Status: No immediate pressure.

Size: 11,400 ha

Operable area: 10,000 ha

Operable Volume: 1,950,000 cu m

ICSI CONSENSUS:

- include land base in the AAC calculation, subject to alternative harvesting and forest management methods and plan approval by the community resource board.

9.9 NADEN HARBOUR – MASSET INLET

Status: No immediate pressure.

Size: 21,760 ha

Operable area: 971 ha

Operable Volume: 534,050 cu m

ICSI CONSENSUS:

- exclude land base from the AAC calculation.
- place a ten-year moratorium on industrial development.
- land base use to be determined by the Haida.

9.10 KUMDIS SLOUGH

Status: No immediate pressure.

Size: 1,101 ha

Operable area: 179 ha

Operable Volume: 98,450 cu m

ICSI CONSENSUS:

- exclude land base from the AAC calculation.

9.11 KITGORO-NIISII

Status: No immediate pressure.

Size: 1,668 ha

Operable area: 292 ha

Operable Volume: 160,600 cu m

ICSI CONSENSUS:

- exclude land base from the AAC calculation.
- place a ten-year moratorium on industrial development.
- land base use to be determined by the Haida.

9.12 KAISUN VILLAGE

Status: No immediate pressure.

Size: 3,092 ha

Operable area: 827 ha

Operable Volume: 454.850 cu m

ICSI CONSENSUS:

- exclude land base from the AAC calculation.
- place a ten-year moratorium on industrial development.

- land base use to be determined by the Haida.

9.13 SECURITY INLET

Status: No immediate pressure.

Size: 7,939 ha

Operable area: 2,116 ha

Operable Volume: 1,163,800 cu m

ICSI CONSENSUS:

- include land base in the AAC calculation, subject to alternative harvesting and forest management methods, including the establishment of a Forest Ecosystem Network from Security Creek to Government Creek, and plan approval by the community resource board.

9.14 KANO (GIVENCHY ANCHORAGE)

Status: No immediate pressure.

Size: 730 ha

Operable area: 16 ha

Operable Volume: 8,800 cu m

ICSI CONSENSUS:

- exclude land base from the AAC calculation.

9.15 CAREW BAY

Status: No immediate pressure.

Size: 2,073 ha

Operable area: 230 ha

Operable Volume: 126,500 cu m

ICSI CONSENSUS:

- exclude land base from the AAC calculation.

10 FOREST RENEWAL BC

10.1 BACKGROUND

FRBC is a crown corporation funded by stumpage fees paid to log BC's forests. As the name implies, the purpose of the fund is to renew, revitalize and diversify the forest industry. Funding is divided into five areas: land and resources, environment, value-added, workforce and communities. FRBC works with communities, environmental organizations, First Nations, government agencies, workers, forest companies and contractors.

"Investment priorities include enhancing the health and productivity of the province's forests, restoring and protecting the forest environment, creating more value and jobs from each tree harvested, providing training opportunities for forest sector workers, and strengthening forest communities." (1996/97 FRBC Handbook for Land-based Programs)

FRBC is not to be used to subsidize Ministry of Forests' operational responsibilities.

Approximately \$16 million was collected from the Islands in 1994. FRBC programs will be a vital component for supporting the Island Community through this time of transition to sustainability.

10.2 ICSI CONSENSUS

ICSI is applying for FRBC funding to undertake four initial projects: establishing a community resource board; developing and implementing Community Forest options; creating value-added opportunities; and choosing a power generation option.

ICSI will work cooperatively with the FRBC District Advisory Committee to ensure a comprehensive strategy for renewal. An express commitment to cooperation is required from FRBC.

Specifically, we support the decision of the Advisory Committee (January 19/96) to develop a forest inventory review process, through the cooperative effort of all parties with an interest in raising confidence in the forest inventory, consistent with section 4.4 above. We also support economic feasibility studies for selection harvesting of second growth trees.

FRBC funding for initiatives on-Island should at least reflect the amounts collected from the Islands forests.

11 ISLANDS FORESTRY COMMISSION

11.1 BACKGROUND

The Island Community has justifiable concerns regarding the sustainability of the current system, related to forest management, harvesting practices and the tenure system.

There is conflicting information about the forests and other matters that warrant public investigation. ICSI believes that a community resource board needs better information to make the right decisions.

Many sources have questioned the reliability of current inventories and the assumptions, calculations and procedures used to determine the Annual Allowable Cut.

Public access to information is not consistent, and the transferability of data is extremely difficult, making informed analysis and discussion by all interests nearly impossible.

In order to produce informed solutions, all parties need to have a common level of confidence in forest inventories (including timber and other forest values), management processes and the ability of the forest to sustain all values.

11.2 ICSI CONSENSUS

We support the call by the Haida Nation for a Commission of Inquiry into the state of the forest. The Commission should begin in the Spring of 1996 and be completed within 12 months.

The Commission would determine what is the exact and understandable status of the forest land base on the Islands, and provide the ability for informed decision-making.

The Commission would have judicial powers to ensure that all relevant information and participants contribute to the review.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The ICSI would like to acknowledge and thank Bob Brash, the Queen Charlotte Forest District Manager, for his initiative to address the timber supply situation and his personal attention and efforts to help the Island Community come to grips with it.

The cooperation and technical support of staff at the District Forest Service Office is also appreciated. We know that many of you share our commitment to achieving sustainability on the Islands.

We especially give thanks to everyone that has voiced concerns over the years and those who have attended the many public sessions and workshops.

H O W A .

ICSI MEMBERS, ALTERNATES AND STAFF

Village of Old Massett Wilson Brown, Kim Davidson, Dave Monture

Village of Masset Terry Carty, Peter Buck

Village of Port Clements Dale Lore, Ron Haralson

Electoral Area D Bill Mackay

Skidegate Band Council Diane Brown, Guujaaw

QCC-Skidegate Landing APC Greg Martin, Leslie Johnson

Electoral Area E Duane Gould, Jim Henry

Moresby Island APC Bill Beldessi

SIGNATURES

This living document represents the Island Community Stability Initiative's best effort to address forest management and timber supply issues on the Islands. It was completed in three months and adopted by a consensus of the ICSI on 31 January 1996. It is a basis for further discussion.

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Old Massett Village Council

Terry Carty, Mayor
Village of Masset

Dale Lore
Village of Port Clements

Bill Mackay
Skeena - Queen Charlotte Regional
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