



CEP Media Release

Communications, Energy and Paperworkers Union of Canada

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March 26, 2003

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Ripping the heart out of the “Heartlands”

The BC government is undermining the economic security of rural communities in British Columbia by acquiescing to American demands to eliminate “appurtenance” agreements in BC’s forest industries, warns the Communications, Energy and Paperworkers Union.

“Today’s announced changes to the BC Forest Act are shameful,” said CEP Western Region Vice President Dave Coles. “This government is once again attacking rural BC by its complete abandonment of the social contract between a valued public resource and those who would exploit that resource for their own ends.”

“Mike De Jong and Gordon Campbell are putting at risk the fibre supply that is essential for pulp mills. This will put the long term economic security of pulp and paper communities in jeopardy,”

“The fall-out from this government’s betrayal on softwood lumber goes far beyond sawmills. Our pulp and paper mills also have fibre supply links to forest licenses, and these links must not be broken because of trade negotiations taking place in Washington. We demand public hearings in these communities before any further negotiations with the US takes place.”

CEP released copies of TFL 44 (Port Alberni) which commits the license holder, Weyerhaeuser, to process timber from the TFL at a sawmill operated by the company or at the Powell River and Port Alberni pulp and paper mills.

TFL 47 (Duncan Bay) requires Timber West to process timber at its only remaining sawmill in Campbell River, or at the Crofton and Elk Falls (Campbell River) pulp and paper mills. The company can also trade logs, for an equivalent amount of fibre for the pulp and paper mills.

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