

Why is West Fraser Closing Eurocan in Terrace

The following article was reported in the [Terrace Daily online](#). Merv has graciously given open consent to publish the article here.

These article raise many questions as to why Eurocan is putting directly over 500 workers out of work as well as untold others who are indirectly displaced. It makes no sense to me whatsoever.

As well, on top of all this unemployment and complete shut down of the mill, you will see that they are keeping 30 million dollars that by rights should be returned to the government if the mill closes.

Why is the provincial government not demanding the return of that money? Is it to be a welfare gift to West Fraser? Is this how the self professed "best" money managers of this province use our money?

OPEN LETTER TO PRIME MINISTER AND PREMIER FROM SNCIRE✳

Rick Brouwer

November 10, 2009

An Open Letter to:
Premier Gordon Campbell
Prime Minister Stephen Harper
Office of the Premier
Office of the Prime Minister
PO Box 9041 STN PROV GOVT
80 Wellington Street
Victoria, BC V8W9E1
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A2

Sent by email: premier@gov.bc.ca

Sent by email: pm@pm.gc.ca

and fax: 250-387-0087

and fax: 613-941-6900

Dear Premier Campbell and Prime Minister Harper:

Re: A Unified Message from the Skeena-Nass Region

The undersigned, as representatives of local governments, First Nations, social service organizations, economic development organizations, local businesses, and chambers of

commerce, are providing this unified message to the provincial and federal governments: Provide adequate resourcing to allow us to turn the Skeena-Nass back into a wealth making region.

The announcement on October 28, 2009 of the permanent closure of the Eurocan pulp mill in January 2010 will result in the loss of 535 direct and over 1000 indirect jobs in the Skeena-Nass region. Over the past decade this area has lost 2500 direct and as many as 5000 indirect jobs in the forest sector alone.

This closure of the last industrial wood manufacturing facility in the region shows that the economic model that has dominated the Skeena-Nass region for the past 60 years no longer works, and that we must all work together to address the critical issues facing our region:

- An over-reliance on commodities like dimension lumber and pulp as our primary products;
- Forest policy issues that have been in place for decades and need an overhaul;
- Needed resources for identifying and marketing the special attributes, competitive advantages and available resources in the Skeena-Nass Region;
- Needed support for development of a diversity of products from the region;
- Inadequate resourcing for trying new things and applying new research or ideas on the ground;
- Recognition that the region has little capacity for "matching funds" in order to allow us to access funding from provincial or federal agencies; and
- Recognition that funds for "bridging programs" are only effective if there is another "shore".

We have come together to let you know that it is long past time to change the Provincial and Federal focus on "bridging". Instead, we need to see resources put towards "building the other shore" so that we know what we are bridging to. You, as representatives of the land owners, need to invest in the Skeena- Nass region to rethink, reinvent, and recreate the natural resource economy. This needs to occur in co- operation with the people of our region, because we understand what needs to be done and we are ready to try new things.

Building the other shore means identifying the additional natural resource opportunities and options that could exist in the Skeena-Nass region, providing an environment where we can test these opportunities and then promoting commercialization of those that are successful. Resourcing for this is critical. We already have people and players coming forward with ideas, but not enough resourcing to act on them.

The Skeena-Nass region has been in an economic crisis since 1997, and has lost as many or more jobs as other parts of the country that have benefited from large injections of stimulus funds. However, there is also an opportunity to rebuild and grow a new economy in the Skeena-Nass (the "other shore")

What we need, at a minimum, is provision of funding to a locally controlled body, with at least the same funding as was provided to the mountain pine beetle action committees, with additional incremental funds to allow for research and application of concepts and ideas on the ground. We ask that you respond to this need immediately. We also invite you to come and meet with us.

Sincerely,

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Ken Kubota - Project Coordinator; Skeena-Nass Center for Innovation in Resource Economics, Terrace, BC

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British
Columbia, Prince George, BC
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Dieter Marder - Silverwood Consulting, Terrace, BC
Usko Murtonen - Silverwood Consulting, Terrace, BC
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Curtis Sagmeister - Coast Inn of the West, Terrace, BC (repeat signature)

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Terrace, BC

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Mike Lozier - concerned resident, Terrace, BC

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