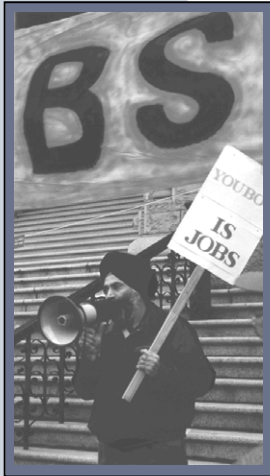




TimberLess Times

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Class Action Lawsuit Is All Go

BC Court of Appeal Unanimously Upholds Supreme Court Decision

On 15 March 2005, the BC Court of Appeal rendered its opinion regarding the certification of a class action proceeding against the BC government for negligence. In a 33-page statement, it upheld the decision of Supreme Court Justice **R. Dean Wilson** given on 06 May 2004. **Ken James** is the named plaintiff representing the class of over 200 former Youbou sawmill workers who lost their jobs in January 2001.

The judgement was written by Justice **Esson** and his reasons were unanimously concurred by Chief Justice **Finch** and Madam Justice **Newbury** following a hearing held in Victoria on 01 October 2004.

The Victoria-based legal team of **Joseph Arvay**, **Cathie Parker**, and **Murray Rankin** is optimistic after this most recent affirmation by the Courts.

It now remains to be seen if the BC government will

continue to thwart the course of justice with yet another appeal. This, after Premier **Gordon Campbell** terminated the **Daniel Gelb** Inquiry, refused a full public inquiry, and promised that legal action would “*require the omission of Clause 7 to be canvassed fully.*”

Since being elected 4 years ago, MLA **Graham Bruce** has dutifully towed his leader’s line and remains unwilling to stand up for his local constituents.

DATES TO REMEMBER:

- YTS AGM Day**
Sunday, 17 April
1:00 PM
- BC Election Day**
Tuesday, 17 May
- YTS Xmas Party**
Saturday, 10 Dec

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Raw Logs — Raw Deal

Public Forum Hosted In Duncan

The YTS helped facilitate and moderate a public forum held on 03 February at the Duncan, Silver Bridge Travelodge Inn. The event represented a convergence of diverse community interests, all calling for the same thing — an end to raw log exports.

Invited speakers included former CEO **Rick Doman**, labour leader **Bill Routley**, BC Sierra Club Forest Campaigner **Justin Calof**, Council of Canadians representative **Jack Moss**, and YTS Director **Ken James**.

A standing-room-only crowd of 250 citizens heard each speaker present his perspective on log export policy. The audience was treated to the premiere of Director **Ernie**

Tomlinson’s documentary film *EXPORTING JOBS*.

Doman expressed his irritation with the unequal and lax rules concerning log exports from BC compared to those in place south of the border. Routley denounced government policy which allowed corporations like TimberWest to wrench the public’s forest resources away from local workers and communities. In the wake of Youbou, he said that he took the situation not only just seriously, but also very personally. Calof pointed out that the unsustainable liquidation of regional forests for volume export hurt all of us environmentally as well as economically.

Following the presentations,

an open-mic, free question period elicited some very insightful comments from the floor. **Arnie Bercov** of the PPWC bristled at the suggestion of simply taxing log exports. A consensus seemed to emerge that all concerned should lobby politicians for change in view of the upcoming provincial election. **Ken Barker** of Nanaimo urged people to write to their newspaper editors and to voice their dissatisfaction at all-candidates meetings.

Some of the earnest intensity and passion of the evening was countered by a whimsical series of door-prize draws for fresh, raw meat steaks.



PLEASE RECYCLE — PASS THE TIMES ON

BC FORESTS SOCIETY

A New Forum

The YTS was represented at an inaugural meeting of the BC Forests Society in Victoria on 15 February by **Ken James** and **Roger Wiles**. This new organization is currently composed primarily of forest resource professionals and academics (plus a couple of former Youbou sawmillers).

This talented group seeks to inform the public and advance the debate over natural resource policies in British Columbia. Education and communication are key to promoting change and all seemed to agree that change is necessary.

This new society's vision is so aligned with that of the YTS, it is only natural for us to participate in this creative endeavour. Stay tuned for more.

YTS MEDICAL PLAN

Just a reminder to everyone that the YTS Extended Health & Dental Plan is available to all society members in good standing. The plan, underwritten by Pacific Blue Cross, offers coverage at rates up to 40% less than individual packages. Premiums are income tax deductible.

Contact **Lynne Barge** at: 745-3718

YTS DVD

An ambitious initiative lead by **Keith Dickens** has produced the Society's very first film effort. *STUMP TO DUMP* is a 20-minute, documentary-style exposé of the Youbou story and logs lost.

Buy your own copy. Mail a cheque for \$12 to the YTS (includes postage and handling in Canada).

YTS LIFETIMERS

Two of our members have been elevated to the honorary rank of "YTS Lifetime Member" for their selfless contributions.

Lucy Vermiere is recognized for her dedicated commitment to the YTS Web site since its start-up.

Photographer/sawmiller **Roy Legate** is recognized for his generous donation of historic, Youbou sawmill images.

Handsome, framed examples of Roy's work will be offered as prizes at the coming YTS AGM. To view Lucy's handiwork, visit: www.savebcjobs.com

YOUNBOU SURVEY SUMMARY

— Publication Coming Soon —

Dr. **Scott Prudham**, (University of Toronto) is getting very close to final publication. His summary and analysis of the Vancouver Island Public Interest Research Group's telephone survey of former Youbou sawmill workers will be made available soon.

The purpose of the survey was to gather basic information concerning the impacts of the Youbou sawmill closure of January 2001. More specifically, the survey was intended to gauge the employment and economic status of those who lost jobs, the impacts the mill closure had on their lives, and the strategies and programs they used to adjust in the wake of the mill closure.

The goal of this work is to publish a report for public circulation and interested organizations in BC and beyond. This information should benefit forest policy reformers, resource economists, community planners, and its documentary value may assist the legal settlement process.

Fearless Footloose Fearon

Garry Fearon says he will do it again! Last year, over \$900 came to the YTS. Help him better that mark in the 56 km GREAT LAKE WALK this September.

Members are welcome to attend all formal executive meetings.

DETAILS AT: www.savebcjobs.com

Members are invited to meet informally most Wednesday evenings (7:00 PM) at 6795 Somenos Road, Duncan.

DETAILS AT: 746-8684

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