

Annual Membership and Registration

Individual \$10.00
Organization \$25.00

Youbou TimberLess Society

P.O. BOX 1218
Lake Cowichan, B.C., Canada, V0R 2G0

www.savebcjobs.com



Executive Directors:

Jack Casey	(250) 749-6954
Keith Dickens	(250) 748-3570
Ken James	(250) 746-8684
Mike Lees	(250) 748-1655
Richard Weir	(250) 749-6474
Roger Wiles	(250) 749-3167



YOUBOU TIMBERLESS SOCIETY



The Youbou TimberLess Society is a non-profit volunteer community organization incorporated in the Province of British Columbia. Its purpose is to represent the interests of displaced sawmill workers and forest-dependent communities. Membership is open to all people and organizations who share the Society's concerns and its alternative vision.



We are a union of like-minded people, but we are not a labour union. We are democratically active, but we are not a political party. We believe that an environmental ethic can coexist alongside a work ethic.

SOCIETY FORMATION

The idea for the Youbou TimberLess Society was first conceived by workers at the Youbou Lumbermill during the final days of the mill's operation under the management of TimberWest Forest Limited.

The Youbou TimberLess Society was born out of deep disenchantment with the existing forest sector policy-management regime in the Cowichan Valley. Local workers and their communities had been let down by senior governments and industry.

The Youbou TimberLess Society was formed to provide a lasting organizational framework that would create long-term environmental, economic, and social alternatives for the Cowichan Valley.

The Youbou TimberLess Society recognized that the forest land base of the Cowichan Valley is controlled by corporate owners whose interests do not necessarily coincide with the public interest. Corporate decisions over the disposition of the forest resource are made for the benefit of a relatively few absent owners while local communities suffer the penalty of unemployment and underemployment. (The Youbou Lumbermill was a profitable operation that was permanently closed because it did not fit with TimberWest's "strategic focus".)

The Youbou TimberLess Society recognized that raw logs exported from the Cowichan Valley represented real jobs lost with consequent hardship for local communities.

SOCIETY GOALS

- ≈ To provide long-term material and moral support for displaced Youbou mill workers and the communities where they live.
- ≈ To inform and educate our membership and the general public about forest resource issues, especially those which effect people living in the Cowichan Valley.
- ≈ To foster by democratic action the optimization of forest resource based employment, mindful of progressive forest land stewardship, in the context of sustainability.
- ≈ To promote co-operation with all organizations and people who share this Society's vision of a community-accountable, environmentally sustainable forest economy – an 'evergreen' alternative.

SOCIETY PRINCIPLES

We believe that while investment and markets may think globally, we must act locally — putting our communities first in the business equation.



We believe in forest stewardship that is socially responsible and that is accountable to local communities.



We believe in forest land stewardship that is science-based and addresses biodiversity, ecological integrity, and environmental sustainability.



We support forest land tenure systems and policies that are responsive to local community-based needs.



We believe that the working forest land base should be preserved and protected from changes in land-use zoning.



We seek to ban the export of unprocessed raw logs from the Cowichan Valley.



We support measures designed to promote local employment in forest and woodworking ventures.



We oppose any tendency toward corporate concentration and control in the forest sector.



We support the independent scrutiny and strict enforcement of the grading and scale measurement of all fibre derived from both private and public lands.