



2013 COMMUNITY EXCELLENCE AWARDS
Category Worksheet

PARTNERSHIPS

Name of Local Government: Village of Lumby

Project/Program Title: Monashee Community Forest LLP

Project Summary Paragraph

Please provide a summary of your project/program in 150 words or less.

Created a partnership (Monashee Community Forest LLP) between the Village of Lumby and Yucwmenlúcwu (Caretakers of the Land) LLP the Splatsin First Nation forestry company. It is important to the sustainability of both communities that a diverse local economy is maintained and local jobs are available. By utilizing the collective experience in both communities MCF will optimize timber values, while meeting regulatory requirements and maintaining timber, non-timber, as well as, cultural resource values.

Project Analysis

Please answer the question in 300 words or less in 11 pt Arial font (our judges value directness and brevity). If you experience difficulty answering a particular question, consider the aspects of your program that may relate to the question and show us how they are linked.

Remember to include measurable results whenever possible.

1. OBJECTIVE

Please explain the decision-making and thought process behind your decision to take on this initiative.

The objective for this project was to create a sustainable local economy. By keeping wood processing local the smaller local processors would have access to fiber keeping jobs and employment locally.

In 1998 the last sawmill in the Village of Lumby closed its doors (Weyerhaeuser) and the loss of 118 direct jobs. Prior to that as many as four other mills had closed devastating the community. Something had to be done! An Economic Development Committee was established which included key stakeholders of the community, Chamber of Commerce, Industry, etc. The Village of Lumby identified the communities potential and one of the ideas was to have the forest tenure (Annual Allowable Cut) transferred to the Monashee Community Forest Committee. The Village of Lumby then focused on moving forward with this initiative to create local jobs given the tough economic challenges.

2. CHALLENGES

Please provide examples of challenges you faced in taking on this program/project and how you overcame them.

In 1999 an application for a Community Forest Pilot Agreement was submitted to the Province, it was unsuccessful, only 4 of 20 plus applicants were. A change of government also occurred so renewed lobbying through meetings at UBCM conventions were initiated. It took a number of years for the “new” government to issue invites. Mayor & Council continually lobbied the government; Minister of Forest Pat Bell continually encouraged Council to continue moving forward in pursuit of the Community Forest.

In 2004 the Village of Lumby and the Okanagan Indian Band received an invite for a Probationary Community Forest, which for various reasons was unsuccessful as the First Nations Band had other priorities at that time. Primarily concerns regarding the possibility of a CF jeopardizing first nation land claims on areas that may have been within the CF. Continued lobbying by Council at UBCM conferences and discussions at the staff level finally resulted in the invite being withdrawn (it expired after 6 years).

In 2010 the Province sent a new invite to the Village of Lumby asking us to apply with or without a partner. Ministry staff encouraged us to apply with a First Nation partner. The Splotsin First Nation through their forestry company Yucwmenlúcwu (Caretakers of the Land) LLP became a willing partner.

Council relentlessly pursued this project making it a priority at its annual strategic planning process; this persistence and hard work paid off with the new invite from the Province and the Village of Lumby inviting the Splotsin First Nation as a partner realizing they had existing land claims in that area. Taking this into account we entered into an equal partnership based on trust and prosperity to both partners.

3. BENEFITS

Please provide examples of how this program/project benefited the community.

The benefits have not as yet been fully realized as we have only recently received our 25 year Community Forest Agreement, we feel that the dividends when they start flowing can be as much as \$100,000 per year this will greatly help us battle the infrastructure deficit, stabilize our tax requisitions, enhance existing programs, create stable employment, allow us to control how we harvest.

The process had us explore a partnership outside our community with another nation, we have learned to respect the cultural, economic and social differences between us and have formed a friendly and hopefully profitable partnership to the benefit of both communities. Developing meaningful relationships with other communities will only strengthen the region as a whole, making not only our communities, but the entire region a better place to live, work and play.

4. INNOVATION

Tell us why you consider this project/program to be an innovative and/or creative initiative.

Two communities forming a partnership each with different cultures, values and views on forestry came together to agree to form a partnership that would be of mutual benefit to each other without compromising the core values that are important to each of them

individually. For a Village of 1,800 with limited staff, expertise and resources to venture into an area completely foreign to it was challenging and even scary, yet extremely rewarding.

Council, through its annual strategic priority setting sessions, made the CFA a priority every year; Council and staff had to be innovative in researching (through other already established relationships) in reviewing best management practices to gather information and other related documentation to be able to accomplish this task as the Village of Lumby is a small community that has very limited resources, staff and budget.

5. GOALS

What did you set out to accomplish with the program/project? How effectively did you meet your goals?

The goal is economic development, relationship / partnership and overall community building. A long-term partnership is the goal with the benefit of securing a CF agreement. Both were accomplished; both the Village of Lumby and the Splat'sin First Nation regularly receive invites to each other's community events – evidence of the beginning of a wonderful partnership.

6. SUSTAINABILITY

What measures have you put in place to ensure the continued operation of this initiative? (*e.g. staff time, resources, financial*)

A Limited Liability Partnership was formed, management committee has been appointed, a business plan established, financial plans have been developed, and management contracts are being negotiated. A huge accomplishment given the limited resources and budget of our small community; to be successful the Village of Lumby and the Splat'sin First Nation had to build a partnership based on a sustainable model – both partners value a long term, sustainable venture that will benefit the partners for many, many years. This has been confirmed in the business plan goals and objectives as a priority.

The agreement with the Province is for 25 years providing stability. The potential dividends will provide sustainability to the communities, the employment and business opportunities will provide sustainability and stability to our residents.

7. TRANSFERABILITY

How is this program/project transferable to other local governments?

Many communities have opportunities to partner with First Nations, in more than just Community Forests. Our partnership showcases that continual hard work and perseverance pays off and the rewards will be a great partnership that strengthens both communities for generations.

8. KNOWLEDGE SHARING

What helpful advice would you share with other communities looking to embark on a similar project?

Have a supportive Council(s), have a supportive MLA, keep your MLA informed, and above all have patience. Persevere, don't give up and continue on with your goal. The Village of Lumby ran into many challenges along the way of this endeavor – Council sent a clear mandate to staff – it is a priority – let's find a partner to build a successful relationship with that benefits both communities economically, socially and environmentally.

9. TELL US MORE

Please share any other information you think may help us better understand your submission.

Before being successful, the Village of Lumby tried for 16 years to obtain a Community Forest to provide employment stability and business opportunities for its residents. It was a long journey that survived, rejection, changes at the Provincial government level and policy, partnership breakdown or failure to form one, finally culminating in a partnership that is working and achieving its goals.

10. PARTNERS

a.) Please list all the partners involved in this initiative. (no word limit)

Splatsin First Nation (Yucwmenlúcwu (Caretakers of the Land) LLP) and the Village of Lumby.

(Ministry staff and the Minister of Forests, and our MLA was also very involved)

b.) Why did you choose to work with this/these particular partner(s)?

We chose to work with the Splatsin First Nation as we have shared values, and we share the community / region where both community members live, work and play. This ensured that both partners had more to invest in the partnership than just economic development. Being responsible socially, environmentally and economically was identified as a shared goal and vision for its people / community members. This partnership is a testament of this vision.