

# Beetle Bites



## Southern Interior Beetle Action Coalition



PO Box 3006, Kamloops BC V2C 6B7  
admin@sibacs.com | [www.sibacs.com](http://www.sibacs.com)

The Southern Interior Beetle Action Coalition (SIBAC) is committed to helping communities understand the probable effects of the mountain pine beetle (MPB) epidemic; and to develop and implement appropriate MPB mitigation measures in the southern interior. A membership based organization; SIBAC represents local and First Nations governments from across the southern interior.

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SIBAC NEWSLETTER

June 2011

## SIBAC supports the Lillooet Tribal Council and the District of Lillooet

In September 2009, SIBAC supported the Lillooet Tribal Council and the District of Lillooet to complete a Business Plan to explore the viability of a pellet plant. After almost two years, Lillooet has entered into a Lillooet-Korea Biomass Limited Partnership Agreement for a \$16 million pellet plant. The agreement was signed on April 18, 2011. To read the full report of the business plan, download: <http://sibacs.com/wp-content/uploads/2009/02/2010-04-26-Lillooet-Pellet-Business-Plan.pdf>



The District of Lillooet is located on the Fraser River at an intersection of deep gorges in the lee of the Coast Mountains. Lillooet is 62 kilometres north of Lytton, 99 kilometres east of Pemberton and 83 kilometres west of Cache Creek.

The current population of the town proper as of the 2006 Census is 2,324, with another 5,000 in the surrounding region for which Lillooet serves as the commercial and social "downtown". The regional population includes that of three

large reserves of the St'at'imc Nation whose reserves abut the town on all sides, and another three large reserves within 35 kilometres.

Historically, Lillooet has a rich native history and culture. Considered by archaeologists to have been inhabited for several thousands of years, Lillooet is one of the oldest continuously inhabited locations on the continent.

Lillooet was home to the Fraser Canyon Gold Rush of 1858–1859, at which time it was believed to be the largest town west of Chicago and north of San Francisco. Lillooet is "Mile 0" to the original Cariboo Wagon Road built during that time. The numbered roadhouse names along Highway 97 therefore, (70 Mile, 100 Mile House, and 150 Mile) were measured from the cairn erected on Main Street in Lillooet marking Mile 0.

Lillooet's dry climate and long growing season, in past years produced prolific market gardens and orchard produce. Since the mid-1970's, Lillooet's economic engine has been primarily forestry, with some ranching, farming and the railway. In recent years however, the forest industry that directly employed 500 workers has experienced a downturn with the closure of all the local mills. Fortunately, Savona Specialty Plywood's Lillooet veneer plant started up again in April 2011, after almost two years of silence.

Lillooet has been severely impacted by the Mountain Pine Beetle (MPB) epidemic. It's predicted that the MPB will have killed 72% of the mature pine within the Lillooet timber supply area by 2012. [http://www2.news.gov.bc.ca/news\\_releases\\_2005-2009/2009FOR0044-000522.htm](http://www2.news.gov.bc.ca/news_releases_2005-2009/2009FOR0044-000522.htm)

With Lillooet's steep and rugged terrain, logging, milling and marketing the affected pine trees has not been cost effective. In the spring of 2009, The Lillooet Tribal Council formed a working group of forest industry executives, local forest experts, First Nations and District of Lillooet representatives to examine a collective community approach to achieve community capacity building, economic diversification, and value added forestry to assist the dwindling local economy. The Working Group felt that a local wood pellet plant could replace many of the lost jobs, restore some prosperity, and utilize the surrounding dead forests that had been killed by the Mountain Pine Beetle.

In September 2009, SIBAC supported the Lillooet Tribal Council (LTC) and the District of Lillooet to complete a Business Plan to explore the viability of a pellet plant. After almost



Six communities of the Lillooet Tribal Council and the Korea Wood Pellet Corporation sign an agreement for a \$16 million pellet plant

two years, LTC has entered into a Lillooet-Korea Biomass Limited Partnership Agreement for a \$16 million pellet plant. The agreement was signed on April 18, 2011 by members of the six communities of the LTC and the Korea Wood Pellet Corporation (KWC). The six communities are Ts'kw'aylaxw (Pavilion), Xaxli'p (Fountain), Sekw'el'wás (Cayoose Creek), Tít'q'et (Lillooet), Xwísten (Bridge River) and Tsal'álh (Shalalth).

To read the full report of the business plan, click on this link: <http://sibacs.com/wp-content/uploads/2009/02/2010-04-26-Lillooet-Pellet-Business-Plan.pdf>. 🌲 🌲 🌲

### SIBAC MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS:

#### Regional Districts of:

- Thompson-Nicola
- Columbia-Shuswap
- Central Kootenay
- East Kootenay
- Kootenay Boundary
- North Okanagan
- Central Okanagan
- Okanagan-Similkameen
- Squamish-Lillooet

#### First Nations:

- Lillooet Tribal Council
- Shuswap Nation Tribal Council
- Ktunaxa Nation Council
- CFD of Central Interior First Nations
- Okanagan Nation Alliance
- Nlaka'pamux Nation Tribal Council
- Nicola Tribal Council

## Province Provides \$3M to SIBAC

On April 14, 2011, Donna Barnett, Parliamentary Secretary for Regional Economic Development, provided a \$3Million cheque to the Southern Interior Beetle Action Coalition (SIBAC) to continue its fight against the mountain pine beetle epidemic over the next three years. The other two coalitions (Cariboo-Chilcotin and Omineca Beetle Action Coalitions) each received the same amount from the Province. Rhona Martin, SIBAC Chair said, “We’ve made a lot of progress on some of the issues associated with the mountain pine beetle epidemic, but we have to remain vigilant. It’s clear the Province recognizes this is a serious issue and I want to thank government for this funding, as it is going to help us continue to provide a co-ordinated voice for Southern Interior communities on this critical socio-economic and environmental challenge.”



Photo by Marlon Dosch

**SIBAC Directors accept cheque from MLA Donna Barnett, Parliamentary Secretary for Regional Economic Development.**

*L to R: Randy McLean (Okanagan Similkameen RD Director), Richard Manuel (Shusway Nation Tribal Council), MLA Donna Barnett, Geri Collins (CFDC of Central Interior First Nations) and Marlon Dosch (Thompson Nicola RD Director)*

## BC Log Home & Timber Building Manufacturers Business and Market Expansion Initiative Project



*Left to right:  
CCBAC Director Steve Mazur,  
Pine Beetle Response Team  
representative Gordon  
Borgstrom, CRD Chair Al  
Richmond, 100 Mile Mayor  
Mitch Campsall, Theo Wiering,  
MLA Donna Barnett, MP Cathy  
McLead, Walter Bramsleven  
and SIBAC representative  
Sally Watson.*

This project has been made possible through a partnership agreement between the Government of BC – MPB Response Branch, Government of Canada - Western Economic Diversification – Western Economic Partnership Agreement, Southern Interior Beetle Action Coalition, the Cariboo Chilcotin Beetle Action Coalition and Southern Interior Development Initiative Trust. March 17, 2011 MP Cathy McLead announced the Federal Government’s funding support of \$113,000.00 for the project. MLA Donna Barnett, 100 Mile House Mayor Campsall and Log Home Building Association representative Walter Bramsleven spoke briefly reflecting on the need for the program to boost the local economy.

The total project budget is \$263,000.00 and will be completed in 2 years. This project proposes a series of strategic actions to help identify new and expanding market opportunities for BC’s Log Home and Timber Frame building sector. Such market expansion would help drive an expansion of BC’s Log Home & Timber Frame building sector, resulting in more value-added employment in rural communities.

The log home and timber frame building sector employs over 1,800 people in BC and generates over \$114 million in products — 83% of which is through exports. While there are some large builders, the bulk of BC’s log home and timber building sector is made up of small businesses in smaller rural communities in BC. This project will provide a direct economic contribution and support employment in the central and southern interior regions of the province.

## The Futures Game — REPORT —

The Futures Game is being played all around the Southern Interior and there will be more to come. SIBAC is partnering with the Futures Games Partnership group to bring Game creator David Beurle of Innovative Leadership Australia to offer Futures Game facilitation training to those individuals new to the game and advanced training to experienced game facilitators. The training will be June 6 and 7 in Richmond. For more information, please contact the SIBAC Administrator at the email address provided below.

For those uninitiated, the Futures Game is a ‘stand-alone’ workshop tool designed to explore how regional and local decisions can shape long-term economic, environmental, and community well-being. It is a great way to stimulate meaningful discussion and debate about future regional and community scenarios, and to explore decision pathways. The game is highly interactive and participatory, providing excellent segues to community and regional planning.

The Game has been played, up to May 2011, 22 times in 11 different communities.

SIBAC staff will be actively helping to coordinate workshop planning with community groups, schools and agencies. The Game is available free of charge to individuals and groups throughout BC by contacting one of the partner groups.

**Contact:** Dalyce Brandt, SIBAC Administrator  
e-mail: [admin@sibacs.com](mailto:admin@sibacs.com)

Futures Game brochure can be viewed at:  
<http://sibacs.com/links-resources/>