

**Resolutions for Mackenzie "Save Our Community Rally"**  
**May 23, 2008**

We request that the appropriate levels of government carry out the following:

1. Establish forest policies that will tie logs to the community. Logs must be processed in the communities where they are harvested.
2. Ban raw log exports. Get more value and more jobs out of the forest resource.
3. Extend employment insurance benefits for laid off workers for two more years beyond the present termination date or until the forest industry recovers.
4. Northern and rural communities, such as Mackenzie and Fort St. James, have made huge economic contributions to government coffers, paying for their infrastructure many times over. Provincial and federal governments should recognize this contribution by ensuring that infrastructure (e.g., health, education, social services, road maintenance, and other services) is maintained at pre-mill closure levels while communities work to overcome the current severe economic and social challenges.
5. Ensure that forest companies reinvest substantially in their operations. Incentives must be in place to reward those companies, whether primary or secondary producers, that invest in more diversified and value-added production.
6. Reform or cancel the Canada-US Softwood Lumber Agreement.
7. Increase funding for training and retraining workers, employees, contractors and others who have been displaced by the severe downturn in the forest industry.
8. Make comprehensive reforestation and silviculture a top priority. Develop a reforestation strategy and increase funding substantially.
9. Ensure secure access to timber for value-added production, as well as small and medium companies, cooperatives, and non-profits. Encourage more community forests.
10. Ensure sustainable and scientific harvesting practices that maintains mid and long term supply of trees, and a healthy environment, as well as minimizes waste.
11. Too many important decisions about forest policy, diversification, tenure and management are made far away in Victoria or in corporate boardrooms in Vancouver, Toronto and New York. Workers, employees, contractors, service providers, municipalities, and northern and rural communities as a whole, need more input into and control over how the forest resource is utilized and developed.

All for one and one for all. An injury to one community is an injury to all. The Mackenzie rally calls upon communities, both Native and non-Native, to work together to save their infrastructure, industries and forest resource in the midst of this unprecedented crisis. To that end, it calls upon people to organize "Save Our Community" rallies in other towns in the Central Interior and North, and throughout the province. Now is the time for our voices to be heard!