



Deep Roots  
Greater Heights

## District of Maple Ridge News Release

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### **Maple Ridge is Home to World 's Largest Cedar Mill**

**Maple Ridge, BC** : On January 7, 2012, as part of the Council Workshop meeting Interfor's Ric Slaco, Vice President and Chief Forrester and Doug Clitheroe, General Manager, Cedar Sales and Marketing made a presentation to Council that reviewed the history of the Interfor Hammond Mill. They also presented the market conditions and discussed how the District and Interfor can work together to ensure the success of this business into the future.

Mr. Slaco talked about the history of the Mill, known locally as 'Hammond Cedar,' and how Interfor is proud to be part of a sustainable industry that has contributed to the local economy for over a century. The company accounts for 15% of the global production of cedar on the planet and 80% of the sales are generated in North America, with 20% of output exported around the world. In addition to their impact on the global and coastal forest industry, the mill is one of Maple Ridge's economic drivers. Interfor's Cedar Mill is one of the largest taxpayers in Maple Ridge, paying over \$700,000 in property and school taxes in 2012. In addition, the mill employs 165 people and has an annual payroll of over \$12 million. The majority of those employees live in Maple Ridge.

Mr. Slaco and Mr. Clitheroe both spoke about the cyclical nature of the industry, the challenges with tariffs, exchange rates, competition from new products and how the overall operating costs, including property and school taxes, have impacted their business. They noted that they are looking at every aspect of their operation to see what can be improved.

Mr. Slaco talked about the land that Interfor owns or controls along the Fraser River and suggested that there may be opportunities to provide citizens with access to the waterfront. He hoped that this presentation would be a catalyst to engage the community and the District to

explore this opportunity.

“On behalf of Council I’d like to thank Ric and Doug for coming to see us today. All of us on Council know how important the Hammond Mill is to the local economy. The Mill offers the kind of high skill and high paying jobs that sustain families and create prosperity in our community,” noted Mayor Daykin. He continued, “It is clear from the presentation that there is room for a second shift that could add almost 100 jobs to our community. I know that all of us on Council look forward to working with Interfor to see what we can do to realize the full potential of this facility. All of us on Council know folks that work, or have worked, at Hammond Cedar. For over 100 years this business has been part of the fabric of our community. They are an important part of our history and our future.”

Mr. Slaco ended his presentation by noting that Interfor appreciates the positive reception by Council and that the company is laying the foundation for the future having planted 1.6 million trees in 2012 alone.