

June 12, 2025

Valemount Community Forest Corporation

Via email: [aduncan@valemountcommunityforest.ca](mailto:aduncan@valemountcommunityforest.ca)

Dear Valemount Community Forest Board members;

At the May 27, 2025 Regular Council Meeting, Mr. Simon Heiniger presented a petition regarding the Valemount Community Forest (VCF) to Council. The petition, titled "Our Community. Our Jobs. Our Future.", requested six actions by Council.

Those actions were:

1. Commission an independent third-party audit of the Valemount Community Forest's financial operations, governance practices, and environmental impacts, with results made publicly available.
2. Establish a regular schedule of community consultation forums, to be held at least twice per year, where residents can ask questions and provide input directly to the VCF Board and management.
3. Publish clear, accessible annual reports outlining logging activities, reforestation efforts, profits, and community investments.
4. Review and revise the current governance model, including board composition, to ensure it reflects a wider range of community voices and expertise, with a focus on transparency, equity, and sustainability.
5. Create a formal guarantee that locally harvested timber is prioritized and made available to local manufacturing and value-added businesses, in order to support economic development, job creation, and long-term community benefit.
6. Ensure that all harvested timber is utilized to its highest possible value, by upholding the ethical responsibility to maximize value-added use of every tree – prioritizing milling, manufacturing, and secondary processing over low-value exports or waste.

Of the requests made in the petition, #2, #3, #5 and #6 are under the control of the VCF and 4 is a shareholder responsibility. The shareholder, through the articles, may also influence #2, #3, #5 and #6. #1 is has both legislated elements (the annual financial audit) which are the responsibility of the VCF, and optional elements that either party could initiate.

The petition collected signatures between May 3 and May 25, 2025. In total, 361 signatures were collected, both online and on paper.

Council, as representative of the community, has responsibilities of openness, accountability and transparency to the community, in the same way that the VCF has those responsibilities to the

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shareholder. Accordingly, Council requests that the VCF respond to this letter by providing the following:

1. The rationale for the VCF choosing not to engage Heron Advisory Group to conduct a review when offered the opportunity to do so by the shareholder.
2. A public engagement plan to both inform and solicit feedback from the public.<sup>1</sup>
3. A commitment to more in-depth and recent information on logging activities, reforestation efforts, profits, and community investments made available to the public. For example, the most recent reforestation and road information on the VCF website is for 2022.
4. Information on how and to whom timber is made available, and how this method supports local economic development, job creation, and long-term community benefit.<sup>1</sup>
5. Information on if or how the VCF creates or requires value-added usage of the timber harvested within the VCF tenure area.<sup>1</sup>

Council requests that the response to these questions be received by 12:00 noon on June 20<sup>th</sup> to assist them in their transparency and accountability obligations to the public.

The Village is appreciative of the work the VCF performs and looks forward to a timely response.

Regards



Owen Torgerson  
Mayor

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### References from the Articles of Incorporation

#### **1. 2.1 Company Purpose**

The Company is restricted from carrying on any business except the business of managing and operating forestry operations for the benefit of the local community including, but not restricted to:

- (iii) providing opportunities for local management of forestry resources;
- (iv) encouraging local processing and value-added manufacturing of forestry resources;
- (vi) working with the public, including First Nations groups, forest resource user groups, tourism operators and other stakeholders to resolve potential forest management conflict and land use interests;
- (ix) providing opportunities for the local community to work with First Nations groups, volunteer groups, businesses and other organizations to enhance the benefits the local community receives from forest resources.