



June 20, 2025

Dear Mayor Torgerson;

The Valemount Community Forest would like to respond to your request for further information for the 5 points you listed.

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.

The VCF chose not to engage Heron Advisory Group in 2024 for several reasons; the company was not clear on what the outcomes of spending money on that project would be. It was thought that our operation was very simple compared to the VIP and VSM and that perhaps we did not need the review at that time. The company had recently been “in the red” financially. We were looking at ways to save money. The board agreed to let the General Manager make the call and Kalina thought that we did not need the review.

2. A public engagement plan to both inform and solicit feedback from the public.¹

We have recently created Terms of Reference for a Public Engagement Committee. Several board members have volunteered to participate, and we’ve had productive discussions on how to improve our public profile. Currently, the VCF hosts two annual information sessions: an AGM and an open house. Our General Manager has communicated an “open door” policy to the public, including posting our office hours. Recently, the company placed ads in the local newspaper inviting public feedback on the Forestry Operations Maps (FOMs) for both CFAs. The General Manager has already received responses and is actively meeting with community members. This process provides another opportunity for the public to comment on harvesting and road-building operations.



- 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.**

The VCF regularly updates its website with information on reforestation, logging, and road-building activities. Financial reports (profits and losses) are updated annually following the presentation of audited KPMG results at the AGM.

Our community investments include:

- i. Creation of an industrial park with land for rent to promote business growth
- ii. Construction of a specialty mill that produces value-added wood products and employs over 10 people
- iii. A \$100,000 donation to the new seniors' housing project
- iv. Loans and start-up funding for a local private mill to relocate to our site and expand from shake and shingle into post and rail production
- v. A public swimming dock at Cranberry Lake
- vi. An annual community BBQ
- vii. Grant and donations programs totaling over \$60,000 this year to support various community groups in 2025 alone
- viii. Grading the bike park road, the marina, roads for YORA's Terry Fox Trek and the Alpenglow Race, and the Rocky Mountain Speedway track
- ix. Valemount Secondary School annual bursary
- x. Whenever possible, we purchase or source office supplies locally to support local businesses

- 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.¹**

Timber is made available through a twice-annual bid process. The General Manager prepares bid packages and sends them to numerous mills from Adams Lake to Quesnel. This open and transparent bidding system ensures the best value for the Valemount community, while also supplying our local value-added mill, Valemount Specialty Mill (VSM). This process could be expanded to include CVH as well.



VSM supplies value-added wood products to other local buyers, including Mountain Voice Inc., and Grant Towers.

By supporting our publicly owned mill (VSM) with appropriate timber, we foster local economic development, job creation, and long-term community benefit.

VCF will continue to try to supply CVH with the timber it requires. However, the supply of the specific species they use is limited.

5. Information on if or how the VCF creates or requires value-added usage of the timber harvested within the VCF tenure area.¹

By building the mill and now selling wood to the VSM, the VCF has created not just well-paid jobs but also a market for value added usage of the timber harvested within the VCF tenure area. The VCF has also made wood available to the local cedar mill, CVH in a 10-year exclusive contract that is coming to an end in July of this year. CVH has also always been able to buy cedar outside of their contract from many local and nearby mills. The VCF has a limited supply of the type of cedar that CVH requires for its products. Therefore, that mill needs to and does, source supply from other loggers and mills.

VCF has made a strong effort to diversify Valemount's economy by developing the industrial site and building the specialty mill. These initiatives have introduced many new jobs to the area that did not exist before the creation of the Community Forest in 2008 and the mill in 2016.

We believe VCF operates as a responsible and profitable company committed to the betterment of the Robson Valley communities.

I hope that this answers your points and is helpful to you and Council.

Sincerely,

Ainslie Jackman
President, Valemount Community Forest

1. Reference from the Articles of Incorporation sec 2.1 Company Purpose