



For Immediate Release
May 8, 2001

For further information:
Virginia Aulin: (604) 654-4634
Steve Lorimer: (250) 729-3727

TimberWest Shares IWA Concerns

TimberWest shares the frustration the union has expressed through its recent court action concerning government's reluctance to release its review of the appurtenancy requirements related to TFL 46. "We continue to push government to release its interim findings so that people can get on with their lives and so that the unionized loggers can focus on the challenges that they face in today's uncertain markets," said Erik Bentsen, TimberWest's Senior Vice-President, Coast Logging.

The company previously sought independent legal advice concerning the appurtenancy issue and that advice supports the union's position that the company is not obliged to continue running the sawmill at Youbou. While the Minister of Forests has the power to reduce the cut of TFL 46 under Section 71 of the Forest Act, the fact that the Ministry's own independent review found that TimberWest was justified in closing the mill makes such action unlikely. In addition, any take-back under Section 71 would result in unionized loggers being thrown out of work and the decision would be challenged in court by the company.

"We are very concerned that the IWA claim for damages against the government could be interpreted by some as potentially leading to an order requiring TimberWest to run the Youbou mill," said Bentsen. "That would not be the case and irrespective of the outcome of the IWA claim, we will continue with the decommissioning of the mill. Certain pieces of equipment will be moved to our Elk Falls Sawmill where we hope to add a third shift once economic conditions improve," Bentsen said.