

# News Release

## UBC Professor Chairs Major Forestry Initiative

September 13, 2004

**For Immediate Release**

**Prince George** - Respected forestry professor Dr. Gordon Weetman, has been elected as the first Chairperson of the BC Coalition for the Implementation of the National Forest Strategy. Dr. Weetman is a Professor Emeritus at the University of BC and a well known leader in the field of forest management.

The Coalition's mission is to have BC become known as a world leader in sustainable forest management. Starting with the framework provided by the National Forest Strategy themes and objectives, the group proposes to carry out a number of workshops over the next 18 months to identify where BC leads in certain aspects of forest management and identify areas requiring improvements. Armed with this information, Coalition members will be able to set priorities within their own organizations and promote action by others.

The Coalition is made up of over thirty individuals or organizations from the public and private sector who support its mission and have either signed the National Forest Accord, or support for the National Forest Strategy. The McGregor Model Forest Association was a key initiator of the Coalition and will provide administrative and facilitation support through a combination of its own funding and support from the BC Ministry of Forests.

Dr. Weetman was a Professor of Silviculture at UBC from 1978 to 1999 and also taught advanced silviculture at the Forest Management Institute of BC and the Alberta Advanced Forest Management Institute.

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**Editor's note:**

Background information attached.

For more information contact:

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