

## AFTER THE MILL – HOW WILL WE PROTECT OUR QATHET COMMUNITY?

The closure of the Catalyst pulp and paper mill presents huge challenges for our region – not only the lost jobs and tax base (17% of the total), but environmental costs that affect the quality of life – and the property taxes – of every resident.



A group of your neighbours, and several community organizations, have come together to raise these issues, and advocate forward-looking **solutions**:

### to ensure that Paper Excellence of Catalyst Paper tiskwat Mill will fulfill its legal obligations to remediate the site – at their cost, not ours.

What will happen to the asbestos, leachate, and PCBs that should be removed or contained for the safety of workers and residents? What plans are there to clean up contaminants in the marine environment? Catalyst has already been warned (July 2022) by the Ministry of Environment about multiple permit violations, including improper containment of asbestos, and leakage of contaminants from the mill's Wildwood landfill into groundwater – a problem that Catalyst has known about since 2019.

### to ensure that the community benefits from the hydroelectric power generated for the former mill site.

The power generated from the Powell River and Lois Lake dams is owned by a subsidiary of Brookfield Renewable. Don't be fooled by the cuddly name! It's a multinational corporation based in the tax haven of Bermuda; it pays no corporate taxes in Canada. Brookfield wants to sell the electricity directly to the US, which would make Powell River less attractive to any new enterprise that might replace the mill. Instead, we advocate using models – like the Columbia Basin Trust and the local Community Forest – that obtain fair returns to the community from the use of public resources. The hydro power should generate revenues for the Tla'amin Nation, the City of Powell River, and qathet Regional District.

### to support the Tla'amin Nation in the restoration of wild fish habitats that were damaged or destroyed by the building of the dams.

## PROTECT THE QUALITY OF LIFE OF OUR COMMUNITY!

### HOW CAN YOU HELP?

\* **Raise these issues in letters** to the editor at The Peak. The more letters it receives, the more likely it is to publish news and opinion on these vital issues ([editor@prpeak.com](mailto:editor@prpeak.com)).

\* **Ask the candidates** for mayor, council and regional board where they stand. Ask for specifics.

\* **Convey your concerns** to the City of Powell River ([info@powellriver.ca](mailto:info@powellriver.ca)) or qathet Regional District ([administration@qathet.ca](mailto:administration@qathet.ca)).

\* **Join our community group**, the After the Mill Coalition, through one or more of its member organizations:

- Council of Canadians Powell River chapter
- qathet Joint Working Group on Mill Curtailment
  - Westview Ratepayers' Society
  - Townsite Ratepayers' Society
  - Wildwood Ratepayers' Association
  - qathet Climate Alliance
- Energy Democracy for British Columbia (ED4BC)

*Membership is open to other organizations who agree with the mandate.*