



March 20, 2018

Re: Regional Benefits Alliance. (RBA)

As Telkwa's largest year round employer with 37 professionals employed we are writing this letter of support for the RBA to convey the challenges we face as a company in Northwest BC that a RBA benefit would help alleviate.

We chose to relocate our business to Telkwa BC approximately 25 years ago because of the location and beauty of the surrounding area. Over the last two decades it has increasingly become more difficult to attract and retain employees. We prefer to have our employees living in Telkwa so that they support the community and we find resident employees have less turnover. Unfortunately, Telkwa has some of the highest property tax and utility charge burdens of any small municipality in BC, but still is unable to adequately fund core infrastructure improvements and renewals, (never mind the recreational and cultural programs and facilities that are so important to the young families which make up a large portion of our staff.) Not only does this impact our bottom line to compete competitively for contracts, it also impacts our ability to competitively compensate our employees. This impact has become significant enough that it could cause us to relocate to another community. Many other local companies also face the challenge of attracting and retaining employees, and this is stunting the potential for growth of the overall economy in North West B.C..

Without the RBA benefit becoming a reality in a timely manner, business in Telkwa will become increasingly difficult to maintain. With benefit packages for different regions of the province already in effect, our lack of an agreement puts us at an unfair disadvantage when competing against companies headquartered in communities that benefit from other regional agreements, such as the Peace River Agreement. We implore the current government to address this unfair difference in the province to ensure our company, our employees and our community has a fair chance to stay viable and contributing to the economy of BC long into the future.

Thank you for your attention on this issue.

Scott Rowsell

President
Pro-Tech Forest Resources Ltd