



## Land Sale Agreement Between Tseshahṭ First Nation and Western Forest Products Paves Way for Residential Development

**May 2, 2024 – Port Alberni, B.C.** – ḱišaaṭaṭḥ (Tseshahṭ) First Nation and Western Forest Products Inc. (Western) announced today the completion of the sale of a parcel of Western's private land located in Port Alberni to Tseshahṭ for residential development.

The purchase of the 7.9 acre property supports Tseshahṭ's vision to build housing within the City of Port Alberni for its members and the broader community. The parcel of land was formerly used as a parking lot by Western's Alberni Pacific Division (APD) facility. Western continues to explore options for the property comprising its APD facility following the indefinite curtailment of such facility in April 2024.

The land purchase by Tseshahṭ is the first following a July 2023 agreement between the Tseshahṭ and the Province of BC (Province) which provided \$5 million in land purchase funds from the Province.

"Governments, First Nations and the private sector working together to take action on reconciliation, returning land back to First Nations and addressing the housing crisis is the exact collaboration we all need. A huge Kleco, Kleco to the Province of BC and Western Forest Products for stepping up to the plate and working alongside our Nation as we move towards developing housing in our territories, now off-reserve, not only for our members but to support housing for all. Today we celebrate as we move on to next steps with the property, the creation of our Tseshahṭ Housing Society, and acquire other lands, together moving forward as one," said Wahmeesh (Ken Watts), Elected Chief Councillor, Tseshahṭ First Nation.

"We are pleased to have identified an opportunity that fulfills an important objective for the Tseshahṭ First Nation to address housing supply and supports the community's growth and development," said Steven Hofer, President and CEO of Western Forest Products. "We look forward to seeing this property transition into a thriving, vibrant residential development in support of reconciliation, while providing lasting positive impacts in Port Alberni more broadly."

"Through this agreement with Western Forest Products, Tseshahṭ First Nation is providing vital housing supply to the residents of Port Alberni," said Murray Rankin, the provincial Minister of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation. "Partnerships like this one, built through mutual respect and a commitment to reconciliation, help communities across B.C. to thrive. I extend my congratulations to Chief Watts and all those involved in this exciting step forward."

"Governments at all levels are struggling to find solutions to our housing crisis which is why agreements such as this one between Tseshahṭ First Nation, the Province and Western Forest Products is so transformative," said City of Port Alberni Mayor Sharie Minions. "It recognizes the evolution in our relationship with First Nations as rights-holders and partners while also providing much needed land to build housing for Tseshahṭ members and the broader community, breathing life into a vacant, waterfront parcel of land that has sat idle for more than two years."

### About Tseshahṭ First Nation

ḱišaaṭaṭḥ [Tseshahṭ] First Nation has over 1300 registered members whose ḥaḥuuli includes from the Somass watershed including the entire Alberni Valley, the western portions of both Horne Lake and Cameron Lake, the Alberni Inlet, and surrounding lands and watersheds to the Broken Group Islands of central Barkley Sound, and out to the Pacific Ocean. Tseshahṭ possesses Aboriginal Rights within the ḥaḥuuli (ha-houl-thee) [traditional territory] owned by our tayii ḥawii (ty-ee ha-wil-th), including Aboriginal Title. For more information, please visit [Tseshahṭ.com](https://www.tseshahṭ.com).



**About Western Forest Products Inc.**

Western is an integrated forest products company building a margin-focused log and lumber business to compete successfully in global softwood markets. With operations and employees located primarily on the coast of British Columbia and Washington State, Western is a premier supplier of high-value, specialty forest products to worldwide markets. Western has a lumber capacity of 885 million board feet from six sawmill, as well as operates four remanufacturing facilities and two glulam manufacturing facilities. The Company sources timber from its private lands, long-term licenses, First Nations arrangements, and market purchases. Western supplements its production through a wholesale program providing customers with a comprehensive range of specialty products.

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