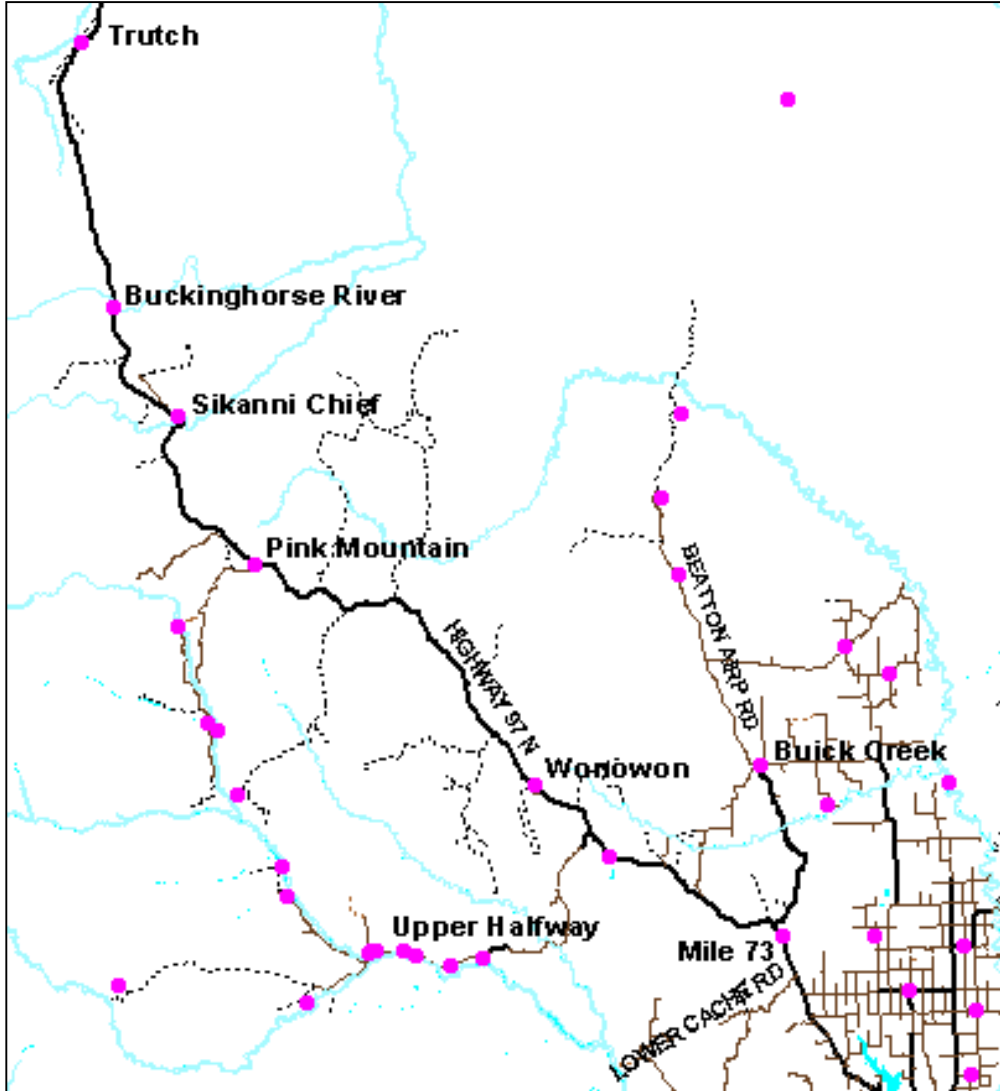


## Chapter 2.0 Consultation Outputs

### 2.1 Community Workshop Summaries

<b>TAB</b>	<b>Rural Workshop Location</b>	<b>Rural Community Cluster Represented</b>
<b>A</b>	<b>Wonowon Elementary School</b>	(Alaska Hwy Mi.73-220 incl.73 Mile, Wonowon, Upper Halfway, Pink Mtn., Sikanni, Buckinghorse, Trutch)
<b>B</b>	<b>Community Hudson's Hope Hall</b>	(Hwy 29 – Charlie Lk to HH incl. Bear Flats, Attachie, Beryl Prairie, Farrel Ck.)
<b>C</b>	<b>Chetwynd Recreation Centre</b>	(Hart Hwy; E.Pine to Pine Pass incl. Jackfish Lk., Lone Prairie, Hasler Flats, Willow Flats, Pine Valley, Lemoray)
<b>D</b>	<b>Tupper Community Hall</b>	(Hwy No. 2 E. incl. Tomslake, Tupper, One Island Lake, Kelly Lake)
<b>E</b>	<b>Clearview Elementary School</b>	(Cecil Lake Rd incl. Cecil Lake, Goodlow, Clayhurst, Clearview, Flatrock)
<b>F</b>	<b>Rose Prairie Curling Rink</b>	(Rd. 101 incl. North Pine, Montney, Rose Prairie, Doig, Osborne, Buick Ck. Prespatou)
<b>G</b>	<b>Parkdale School</b>	(Alaska Hwy Mi.6 – Taylor incl Bessborough, Farmington, Kilkarren, Sweetwater, Tower Lk.)
<b>H</b>	<b>Rolla Community Hall</b>	Rolla Rd. (Rolla, Doe River, Shearer Dale, Valleyview)
<b>I</b>	<b>McLeod School &amp; Community Hall</b>	Hart Hwy (E. Pine to Heritage Hwy) – Groundbirch, Fellers Heights, Upper Cutbank, Sunset Prairie, Progress, E. Pine

# (A) Wonowon Workshop



Communities Represented

## Workshop Outputs

**Location: Wonowon School Gymnasium**

**Date: April 23, 2003**

### Registered Participants:

Lee Wilkerson – Blueberry Farms  
 Alvin Roes – Blueberry Farms  
 Wes Shaw – Blueberry Farms  
 John Baker – Wonowon  
 Mel Woolfolk – Hilltop Ranch  
 John Kitt – Wonowon  
 Lynford Fraser – Wonowon  
 Jim Large – Ft.St.John

Michael McCord – Blueberry Farms  
 Carl Tuttle - Wonowon  
 Don Cush – Buick  
 Kim John – Headwaters 143 mile  
 Joyce and Jay Coy – Pink Mtn  
 Larry Pederson – Area B Alternate  
 Karen Goodings – Area B Director  
 Larry Houley – Area C Director

The meeting began with welcome comments by PRRD Chair and Area B Director Karen Goodings. Bruce Simard then made a presentation of the Rural Plan initiative, which was then followed by a presentation by Reg Whiten about the rural dialogue process, and an overview of the Workshop Agenda. An opportunity was then provided for the group to ask questions for clarification, introduce themselves with comments about what they considered as the community strengths/values to be protected. Remaining as a single group, they were then asked for input on issues to be addressed and needs/opportunities to be considered.

### Opening Comments:

“We are scared that this might be connected to grassroots”: Karen Goodings clarified that this process was not connected to the Grassroots Initiative

“Where is all this money going to come from for things that the community needs? I am concerned with details, and concerned about lack of programs for youth.”



**Responding to questions at the Wonowon workshop**

**What do you consider to be your community's strengths and values that you want to protect?**

**"Property is less expensive.** Why is there more land not available? There is all kinds of economic opportunity; what kind of things are possible here?"

"There is **freedom to go out your backdoor** to open land, crown land, without all kinds of rules, for enjoyment of wildlife and natural beauty – there is lack of zoning and regulations".

"It's **quiet peaceful rural existence** with very **little crime**".

"We have our own **autonomy**; we know best what's best for us".

"There's a greater degree of **privacy** than in urban areas; if you want to go out on back-roads somewhere and wander around in the bush, you still can. Compared this area to the lower Fraser valley/Thompson area, with their problems of encroachment."

**"Independence of the people** and their **ability to get together** to work on some common goals is really important".

"We have **affordable farm land taxes**".

"There is **no interference from FSJ local government**".

"We have **freedom to raise family according to your own values and ways**"



Wonowon Elementary School

Photo: C.Eaton

**What are some of the challenges or issues currently facing your community? What actions can you suggest to address them?**

Agriculture

- affordability of future farming; kids can't afford to take over family farms, end up with a bunch of banker farmers and that is going to really cost us; that is one thing that really hits agriculture, the land might only cost \$50,000 but the equipment you need costs ¼ million, this is a real challenge to agriculture;

Rural Economic Diversification (no comments)

### Environment

- the oilfield environmental problems; not only affects air, but ground and surface water (had a case in the Buick area where they cleaned the leases and pushed it over the berms and across the fences, this was inspected by the OGC and they were written up and they cleaned it up right away; two big wells had oil spills which ran into a creek, they cleaned it up by pushing it over the berms)
- testing of the water; there is the Buick Advisory Committee – they did water sample tests 3 years ago but did not find anything at that time; possibly need for more samples, not necessarily domestic water, but also the water system, creeks, lakes
- problem wildlife; better organized wolf control; they're now congregating at John Kitts farm
- wildlife road-kill; Dept of Highways don't clean up dead moose off the highway, at least not this year

### Social & Recreation

- declining youth population; need to grow some kids that can afford to stay in the community; and (finding ways of) keeping the kids here
- need for adult recreational activities: we don't stay in town around the coffee shops, we like to find stuff to do in the local area;

### Community Facilities & Services

- solid waste is going to be a big problems in the next 20 years
- police protection; lack any kind of protection from the RCMP, its like its too far out, like they don't have enough people
- need for senior's facilities; have always been impressed with the seniors home over in Prespatou; lots of people can't get out and around, quite a population in this area over the age of 60 or 65, whatever you call retirement age
- community cemetery where (what government department) do they fall in; we need one in Wonowon, they applied for one up in Pink Mtn; we are working on a cemetery in the Upper Halfway, we could work on one for Wonowon, every rural community wants to have a cemetery

### Quality of Life, Safety & Governance

- road safety another threat, speeding on rural roads, driving on wrong side, you name it, we ask the police to come 2 or 3 times, they sat by the road at the 4-way stop sign where everyone already stops. Lack of police patrolling on the 73 rd, 95 rd, 81 rd.
- poor health condition for people and livestock due to flaring from gas and oil products
- noise pollution; now and in future, compressor 'rumbling', continuous noise like a lawnmower
- local autonomy: blanket bylaws are a threat – the same bylaw in Chetwynd is not going to work in Pink Mtn; 40 years ago, Charlie Lake was very similar to Wonowon, then all of a sudden it had bylaws that became more restrictive, if Wonowon enjoys success, will Wonowon have the same rules (as Charlie Lake; we moved out here because it was less restrictive; maintaining land use decision making is important, "I don't want to call Victoria to see if I can cut the grass tomorrow."
- property sightliness; the biggest thing that worries me that if some point in the future a business I have now will become an eyesore to new neighbours, would I be forced to move?

(Response: Bruce clarified the continued existence of non-conforming uses as long as the business or use is in operation, etc. selling the business does not stop the allowed use. However, if the business was discontinued for more than six months, then it would be considered a non-conforming use that could not be restarted under the new bylaws)

### Roads & Infrastructure

- heavy traffic on the roads causing considerable damage
- maintenance of Alaska Hwy, snow removal, line painting, possible additional passing lanes on every hill, lots of RV traffic, all the way from FSJ



**Workshop residents in discussion with PRRD Board representatives**

<b>What are the present needs and opportunities in your community?</b>
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### Agriculture

- ✓ need for more weed control; there's alot of foreign ownership of large ranches and problems associated with abandonment or lack of maintenance;

### Rural Economic Diversification, Environment (no comments)

### Roads & Infrastructure

- ✓ pave the 81 Road
- ✓ road improvements

### Social & Recreation

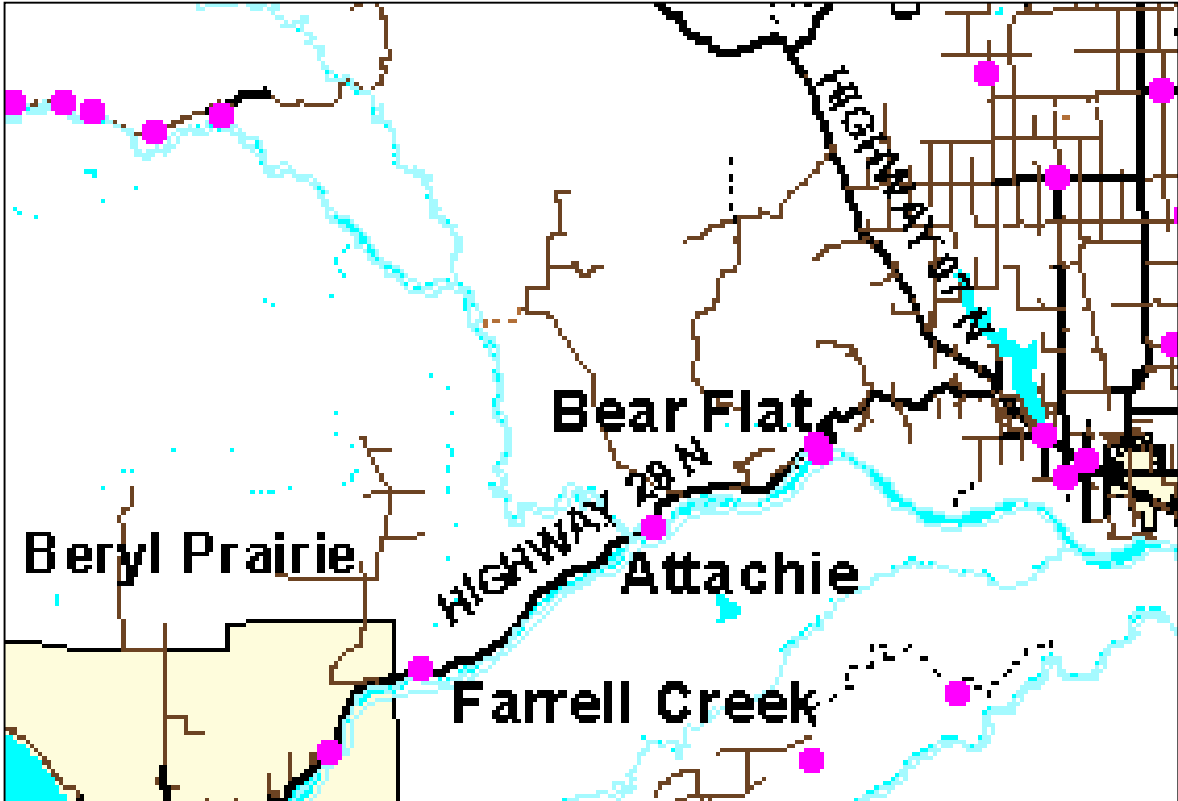
- ✓ need place to go to camp, picnic, as there is no public park north of FSJ (recreation is getting to be a big problem in this whole area, how far do you have to go to find recreation – in the whole north peace area – concern with closing the forestry recreation sites, etc.); Forestry has taken out the culverts, disabled [deactivated] the road up to Pink Mtn – this was always a nice attraction in the area, a nice place to go for a drive
- ✓ need for youth recreation facilities, programs; kinds that might attract the youth: outside skating; mostly everything in this school yard is disintegrating, they have to rely on parents to maintain and they need maintenance
- ✓ a place for 4-wheelers to go, off road trails for snow-mobiling, ATV's, ski trails; there no recreational trails around here

### Community Facilities & Services

- ✓ more residential land (for Wonowon, Buick Creek, Pink Mountain)
- ✓ mail delivery to our ranch, Hilltop
- ✓ Hydro should start heading north; they're already improvements in Buick, Rose Prairie, Cecil lake, North Pine
- ✓ need new Hydro in Pink Mountain
- ✓ natural gas – everywhere!
- ✓ need new garbage dump; our's was closed, need one!; also need more capacity in the Buick Creek transfer station
- ✓ solid waste is a challenge, possibly transfer bins

### Quality of Life, Safety & Governance (no comments)

**(B) Hudson's Hope Workshop**



**Communities Represented**

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## Workshop Outputs

Location: Hudson's Hope Community Hall

Date: April 24, 2003

Registered Participants:

Lenore Harwood – Mayor, Hudson's Hope  
 Karen Goodings – Chair, PRRD  
 Steve Metzger  
 Roger Wood  
 Dale Johnson  
 Gwen Johansson  
 Renee Ardill

Jim Little  
 Guy Armitage  
 R. Miller  
 Robert Bach  
 Steve Winnichy  
 George Holohoff  
 Gerry Sarauer

The meeting began with welcome comments by PRRD Chair and Area B Director Karen Goodings. Bruce Simard then made a presentation of the Rural Plan initiative, which was then followed by a presentation by Reg Whiten about the rural dialogue process, and an overview of the Workshop Agenda. An opportunity was then provided for the group to ask questions for clarification and introduce themselves. Breaking into four groups, the participants were then asked for input on community strengths/values to be protected, issues to be addressed and needs/opportunities to be considered. Community plans and other information was also available for participants to review, and have specific questions asked regarding land-use or other related matters.

Opening Comments:

"Interests here (HH) are different than in other areas; what work's in one area may not here, and don't make planning area so large"

"What about people who live in the Upper Halfway?" Response (Bruce): Maybe take a trip to Upper Halfway; we are in initial stages; comprehensive plan over next 8 months; different sectors; seed growers, cattlemen, people from forage, large group focused by sectors as opposed to community; Other elements of consultation will include a region wide survey starting around the end of May.

"This meeting wasn't very well advertised; didn't hear about it in time" Bruce solicited ideas from the participants: "How best do we get the word out in HH area for future meetings?" suggestions: e.g. Local newspaper, District of Taylor newsletter, more on radio.

"Other government representatives have been meeting recently here promoting coal-bed methane development and a lot of people think they are going to be destroying the environment, water, etc.. Are you here now asking how the community can *protect* the environment? It seems like a contradiction" Response (Bruce): "The PRRD is here to take people's concerns and go to bat with government if necessary"; Karen Goodings expressed eagerness to hear concerns of the people, their suggestions and how the PRRD could help

to mediate, so they feel their concerns can be brought out and addressed. She said we need to list the concerns; “please be very vocal about water protection, beauty of the valley, etc. We can’t quit trying! “We want all concerns expressed!”

“My wife and I have 1,300 acres...there are existing plans; we should have a look at them before we make brand new ones.” Response (Bruce): “Most definitely.” “Crown range plans and issues, etc. It is not our objective to build boundaries around ALR lines. The boundaries are up there (on wall, visually) for people’s interests.”



Road re-construction on Hwy 29 near Bear Flats

**What do you consider to be your community’s strengths and values that you want to protect?**

- “Protect the **rights to use existing trails** (on Crown land) for use of horses, snowmobiles, bikes”
- “Protect the **wildlife**” (4 responses)
- “Monetary **value of land**”
- “Assess value of land by looking into the future”
- “**Land ownership** itself a strength”
- “Community **spirit/cooperation** and trust within it”
- “**Willingness to approach government** to ensure our local rights (respectfully)”
- “Hard workers/**good work ethic**”
- “**Quality of life/solitude**”
- “**Affordability** of property”
- “Varied **outdoor activities**”
- “**Freedom** to enjoy outdoors – locally”
- “**Diversity/variety in communities** here”
- “**Fair Share Program** – keep it so rural people have that money and decide on expenditures . e.g. appropriate use of funding – use of local funding and decisions made locally”
- “**Independence** – let us manage land at our own pace – people do not like to be controlled”
- “Appreciation of **local lifestyle** – we value this and politicians need to physically see the north and experience it”
- “**Water, air and soil** need to be protected” (2 responses)

- “**Water quality**...have been drinking from Peace River since approximately 1975 – we don’t want to give that up”
- “**Air quality** is important”
- “**Green space**”
- “**Surface rights** – due to conflict between surface rights and sub-surface rights”
- “Consideration of what is happening on “our” – and sensitive ranching operations”
- “Basic **land rights** – private use and enjoyment and quiet use”
- “**Respect for landowners rights**”
- “Attractiveness of **wilderness**”
- “Freedom to choose how, and when, and if, our land is developed”
- “**Stable employment** available”
- “Having my own land and space”
- “**Silence/lack of heavy industrial noise**”
- “People come here from all over the world and even move here”
- “People **appreciate the land!**”
- “**Community unity** – communities come together when necessary”
- “Good **treatment of seniors**”
- “**Clean roadsides**”
- “**Land values**”
- “**No tipping fees at landfill** in Hudson’s Hope”
- “PRRD services like **9-1-1, solid waste, Fair Share, regional policing needs**”
- “Regional unity”



**Class 1 Arable land in the Peace River valley**

**What are some of the challenges or issues currently facing your community? What actions can you suggest to address them?**

Agriculture

- Consideration of Crown resource mgt. plans; need for dealing with LRMP/CRMP
- Uncertain classification of ALR; i.e. what is accurate boundary of arable agricultural land?

Rural Economic Development

- Inequitable treatment of landowner rights (surface vs sub-surface) – landowners need better understanding and both given equal consideration/value
- Lack of landowner notification on sale of sub-surface rights by provincial gov't
- Increasing traffic/ threats to tourism for sales
- Loss of resource revenues from region; too much resource money going out and not enough coming back – Fair Share is good; there is an opportunity to fund local facilities and services with local money if more money stayed here

Environment

- Environment concerns conflict with industrial development

Roads and Infrastructure

- Poor quality roads e.g. Hwy 29 north to Fort St. John from Hudson's Hope

Quality of Life, Safety & Governance

- Need for better consultation in smaller community areas
- Developing threat to quality of life; this is very important - if oil and gas goes unchecked, values and quality of life is compromised
- Earlier notification about meetings – bulletin – radio – earlier newspaper (1 month)
- Questionable authority of regional government (PRRD) versus the Province



**Water disposal for coal-bed methane development: subsurface injection site**

## What are the present needs and opportunities in your community?

### Agriculture

- ✓ Need for more land for agriculture and recreation
- ✓ Need to know what type of tenures are being sold and that the province needs to be the one to inform the landowners (in particular sub-surface tenures)
- ✓ Need to know more about sub-surface before tenures sold – been ignored
- ✓ To preserve the agricultural opportunity in the area now and in the future, need strong protection of agriculture opportunities

### Rural Economic Diversification

- ✓ Opportunity for recreation and tourism if the Site C and Crown lands were released
- ✓ Need to create some certainty with the Site C land (affects – Hwy 29 realignment, investments in agriculture, residential, other improvement)
- ✓ Tourism investments
- ✓ Organic farming opportunity (need to keep the area pristine and to attract people to the area)
- ✓ Bee keeping opportunity
- ✓ Increased opportunity for tourism sales
- ✓ Tourism opportunity – need to preserve the natural area, eco-tourism
- ✓ Horse logging and other forestry opportunities
- ✓ Support smaller woodlots for local use; other value – added business would result i.e. Pine laminate/post factory – lots of small pine in the area
- ✓ Need support for more commercial
- ✓ resort opportunities (especially land affected by the ALR)



Scenic view of Peace Canyon from WAC Dam look-out site

### Environment

- ✓ Need for restructure of the hunting regulation to preserve the opportunity to hunt – with local input
- ✓ Need for stronger/more rules and enforcement of them for oil and gas/methane etc.
- ✓ Need for more conservation officers – need a local number for these guys
- ✓ Opportunity to view and enjoy wildlife and back country experiences
- ✓ Need to preserve water resources before oil and gas and coal bed development
- ✓ Water/Air/Land – all essential to our survival

### Social & Recreation

- ✓ Need for recreational facilities – provide more opportunity or support tourism now and in the future
- ✓ Need a curling rink

### Community Facilities & Services

- ✓ Need telephone/cell/Internet service – need towers (intermittent/gaps); upgrade land lines
- ✓ Need transportation i.e. Greyhound service, etc. (perhaps on a different scale – smaller bus, need freight space too – groceries supplies; perhaps Lion's Club bus could be expanded and funded?)



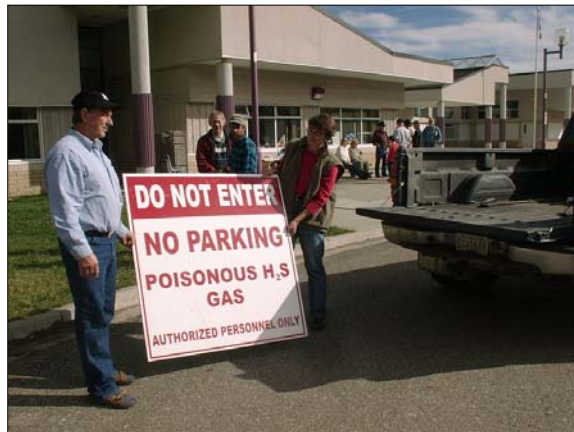
River jet-boating on the Peace and Halfway Rivers

### Roads & Infrastructure

- ✓ Need for better roads
- ✓ Farrell Creek Road (Road maintenance – dust and pot holes; Beryl Prairie and Hwy 29 – road bans not soon enough; Upper Cache – frost heaves, need base, narrow road surfaces, need ditching, and brush-cutting)
- ✓ Need for more support of railway service i.e. compete with trucking
- ✓ Need to reorient routing through the east-west corridor (rather than North-South) through to Prince Rupert, etc
- ✓ Coordinate road and land use between all agencies and forestry and oil and gas (Dunlevy Area Management)

### Quality of Life, Safety & Governance

- ✓ Need to recognize work done on LRMP/CRMP



Hudson Hope residents gather to share concerns about expanding gas development

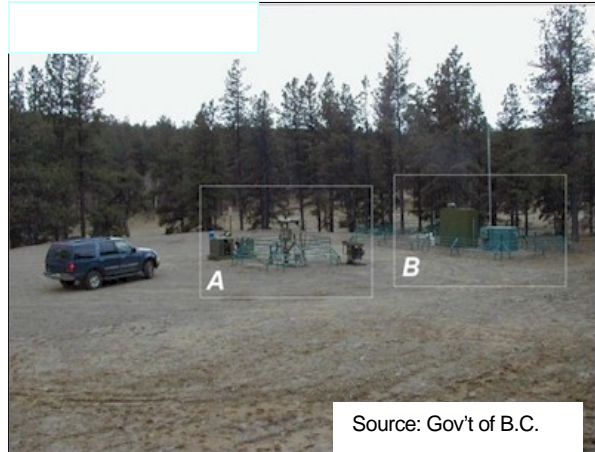
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**Typical well-site infrastructure**

Environment

- Environment concerns conflict with industrial development

Roads and Infrastructure

- Poor quality roads e.g. Hwy 29 north to Fort St. John from Hudson's Hope

Quality of Life, Safety & Governance

- Need for better consultation in smaller community areas
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