



BRITISH COLUMBIA CONFERENCE

THE UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA L'ÉGLISE UNIE DU CANADA

Camp Future Project Process Update: *The Ministry Fund*

(Dec 2008)

Those familiar with the Camp Future Project know that it is Conference's purpose to ensure BC has a high quality, sustainable United Church camping ministry for years to come. Camp Future envisions a Regional Camping Ministry that involves *fewer* United Church camps, but with improved camp facilities, ongoing financial support, resources and training for people (staff and volunteers) at each of the regional camps. We genuinely believe that a Regional Camping Ministry has a better chance at success if it is modest in its reach, aiming to operate fewer camps than currently exist.

The financial framework, as it is laid out in the [2006 Camp Future Report](#), is very straightforward: By selling the four United Church camp properties that have been identified for divestiture we will have the funds to cover outstanding liabilities, to make significant capital investments in the remaining three camps, cover transitional expenses and develop an endowment fund to support outdoor ministry projects and annually subsidize operational expenses at each of the regional camps. The estimates in the 2006 financial framework anticipated a surplus and recommended that "any balance of funds not required for implementation of Camp Futures project should be used to create a **Ministry Fund**, accessible to and supporting ministry priorities in all Presbyteries" – priorities other than camping.

This was the starting point in 2007, as Conference began to implement the Camp Future Project. At that time, we expected to be able to sell the four properties over the course of 12 – 18 months, and to have actualized all the potential revenue before the end of 2008. As 2009 opens, however, we have only sold one of the four identified properties.

The delay is a result of our commitment to achieving a mutual agreement, as far as possible, with Comox-Nanaimo Presbytery regarding the divestiture of Moorecroft, and with Kootenay Presbytery regarding the divestiture of Rock Lake and Koolaree. We remain committed to this process and continue to be hopeful that we can, by and large, achieve the agreement we all seek.

This delay, along with a changing global economy, has added layers of complexity to our planning and has increased and extended the amount of work necessary to implement the project. Nonetheless, Conference's commitment to the Camp Future Project and the Regional Camping Ministry is unflagging. Additional resources have been made available, and all those involved in the implementation of the project have contributed extra time and effort so that we've been able to make significant progress (see [CFP Summary Update](#), online) and can continue to move forward with confidence.

As important as the Regional Camping Ministry is, it is not Conference's only priority. And, since it has taken us longer to divest the camp property than we originally anticipated, Conference have sought ways to use the assets from the sale of the Kwomais property that would not jeopardize the Project but would free up some money to act on other priorities. In the short term, the Conference Executive agreed that a percentage of the income earned from the invested Camp Future monies (not the capital) be used in 2009 to support the personnel support work in Presbyteries. Also, Terms of Reference for the Conference Ministry Fund will be developed in consultation with the Presbyteries early in the new year, with an official progress report to be presented at Conference Executive meeting in March 2009.

If you have any questions regarding the Conference Ministry Fund please contact Doug Goodwin, Executive Secretary. Questions regarding the Camp Future Project, can directed to Terry Harrison, Camp Future Project Manager. ([Contact information](#) is available online).