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Softwood Lumber - What's going on?

By Jillian Tamblyn

The dead line for solving the Softwood Lumber Dispute has passed and hardly a peep out of Alberta. What's been going on? Well it appears that there is still a bit of time to strike a solution. The International Trade Commission's final decision on whether the U.S. lumber industry has been injured by imports from Canada is now scheduled to be finalized by May 16. If they find the U.S. industry has been injured then the duties will have to be paid.

In the mean time both sides seem to be taking some steps to get back to negotiating. Unfortunately, while the BC Coastal Industry is finally putting some dramatic and innovative cards on the table to get a solution - like a 25% tenure take back - the Alberta Government just allocated a new Forest Management Agreement to Manning Diversified Forest Products in the Chinchaga region. With the status quo process of zero public input and public forest lock-up with big industry, Alberta doesn't appear to be getting much closer to a solution oriented stance.

Seems to me that we need to start calling our MLA's and asking THEM - What's going on? When are we going to start to see some solutions for Alberta's environment and economy?

For more information on the AWA's position visit our forests archive on the web at <http://www.albertawilderness.ca/Issues/FOR/Archive.htm>

