

# EAST SIDE PLANNING INITIATIVE

## Sustainable Forest Based & Mining Activities

The boreal forest in the area is environmentally significant: much of it is undeveloped. Both the southern and northern edges of the boreal forest that run through the east side area are at risk because of climate change.

The boreal forest helps maintain biodiversity; it stores carbon to counteract climate change factors, provides non-timber forest products to area residents and supports building a viable eco-tourism industry and other sustainable harvesting activities in the area.

Many residents in the area want opportunities to pursue forest based activities that will provide benefits to people living in the area.

Area residents have suggested traditional ecological knowledge (TEK) projects, where industry and communities work together to survey and map what is known about the environment in specific areas.

Different views of mining development will also be considered: For example, some are in favour of mining to create employment, while others perceive in the past, mining operations did not provide sufficient benefits to local people.

