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To the Editor:

In regards to the *Castlegar News* article of Feb. 25, 2016 “Glade Residents Outraged ...”

It is unfortunate your reporter was not at the meeting in Sept. between Atco and Kalesnikoff reps and citizens of Glade as it would have provided better insight as to why the latter is not eager to cooperate at this time. At the September meeting we asked for the location of cut blocks and roads to be identified so we could have a better picture of what we might have to live with. We were told by Mr. Hodgkinson that this info would be made available once Dr. Greens' assessment was complete. At the meeting of Feb. 17 we sat quietly and respectfully through her report; interesting for its historical value but sorely lacking in regards to actual assessment of impact, as it only dealt with impact from the removal of trees. As Dr. Green admitted; this report cannot be used to assess potential impact from the construction of roads required to facilitate logging. Her credentials were not questioned. The question was whether or not her report could be unbiased when both she and her husband rely on Atco and Kalesnikoff as a source of income.

Once again the companies were asked to identify the location of proposed roads and cut blocks and although it is believable that the roads cannot be identified until after the tagging is completed, no one believes that these companies have no idea what blocks they plan to log.

As to residents of Glade wanting to have their own assessment done: this is necessary because the assessment done by Dr. Green does not cover potential impact caused by the building of roads and the experts we will hire will look at all of the aspects of a logging operation and what the impact may be of each step and the process as a whole. It is reasonable to assume the companies who wish to log would support this idea and be willing to contribute financially to the cost. The fact that they feel it is unnecessary suggests that they might not like what this sort of assessment could reveal. It would help considerably if our experts could have access to complete information so they could focus their observations on the proposed sites.

Mr. Hodgkinson's statement to your reporter “As there was no interest from the residents to participate in the planning process, Kalesnikoff plans to carry out pre-harvest field work in the spring” is a bit of a joke. He makes it sound as though they will forge ahead because of the lack of interest when in actual fact; it was predetermined that they will proceed in the spring to commence logging in 2017. We were made clear on that way back in Sept/15.

It is correct to say that Watershed issues topped the residents' concerns but to suggest that damage done by the building of roads and the effects of opening our watershed to recreational activities is a separate issue is way off the mark. It is all of these things combined that create a huge potential for disaster and major threat to our water supply. Is it any wonder then that this is an emotional issue for the residents of Glade? To participate on a working committee that threatens the availability to a clean and abundant water supply, without complete and honest information, would be shortsighted and foolhardy. Mr. Hodgkinson's' final comment “we are coming” shows just how uninterested these companies really are when faced with valid concerns. Is this attitude worthy of co-operation?

Regards, Laurel Edwards
Glade resident