Valemount is a community in transition.

Like most rural BC communities, Valemount’s historical growth and development is the result of natural resource development – namely forestry and hydro-electric development. Given the Village’s strategic geographical location as a gateway community to Mt. Robson Provincial Park and Jasper National Park, the Village has also served as a service centre for tourists travelling to and from these Parks.

The past two decades have been challenging for the Village. The cyclical nature of the forest industry, and forest sector markets, has resulted in numerous shift reductions and temporary closures of the local sawmill and the area’s associated logging operations. At times these layoffs and closures have resulted in significant economic uncertainty for the Village and resulted in population decline.

At the same time, the Village of Valemount’s Council, Administration and residents have demonstrated very admirable vision and strategic action during these challenging times. The Village has strategically and proactively focused on economic diversification. Working with provincial government agencies, the Village has focused on identifying new economic development opportunities. These efforts have paid off with the Village attracting the attention of two investment groups interested in developing major tourism/resort opportunities identified by the Village.

The work of the Village over the past 12 years to encourage economic development and diversification has clearly and consistently identified one major issue- the fact that the economic future of the Village is inherently and directly tied to the use and management of the crown land and resources that surround the Village. The economic viability of the vast majority of businesses within and outside the Village boundaries are either directly or indirectly dependent on the use and development of crown land and resources. New developers interested in creating new residential or commercial developments often need to purchase crown lands. As the Village grows and expands, it will require some of the surrounding crown lands for new settlement lands. Tourism operators and their clientele desire scenic viewscapes and access to backcountry recreation opportunities. The forest industry requires access to crown lands and resources, as do most other resource users (e.g., mining, oil & gas, power producers, utilities, cattle grazing etc.). These various crown land and resource users are often administered by separate agencies of the provincial government resulting in little formal coordination of approvals and impacts. At times, various crown land and resource users can be in direct conflict with one another.

It is obvious that if the Village of Valemount is to achieve its objective of a strong, vibrant, growing and mixed economy – the Village must have direct input into how the crown land and resources surrounding the community are managed.
THE VALEMOUNT & AREA INTEGRATED LAND USE
DEVELOPMENT PLAN

As the Village of Valemount, the Regional District of Fraser-Fort George and several provincial agencies began working on the initial proposal to establish a destination resort at Canoe Mountain, it became apparent that the project had implications for all three levels of government. It also became apparent that while the community welcomed the economic benefits associated with Canoe Mountain Resort (and increased tourism-related growth) it did raise issues of growth management, future land use pressures, tourism/forestry sector interactions and community/resort integration issues for the Village, Regional District and provincial government agencies.

As a result of discussions regarding the above issues – and in recognition of the fact that the Village’s future economic development was inherently tied to crown land and resource management policies and decisions – representatives of the Village, Regional District, Land & Water BC and the Ministry of Sustainable Resource Management agreed to work collaboratively to create an integrated land and resource plan for the area.

Although a variety of different planning initiatives have been undertaken in the area over the past several years, none of these initiatives provided a strategic and integrated approach to land use, resource management and economic development for the region. The Ministry of Sustainable Resource Management (MSRM) is responsible for leading strategic level planning and management of crown land and resources in the province. Recognizing the need for an integrated planning approach that would strategically link the planning and land management efforts of the Village, Regional District, LWBC and MSRM – all four partner agencies agreed to develop the Valemount & Area Integrated Land Use Development Plan (VAILUDP). During the creation of the VAILUDP, one of the original members of the formation of the initiative – Gordon Borgstrom – was transferred to the Ministry of Small Business & Economic Development. At the request of the Village of Valemount, Mr. Borgstrom has remained an active member of the steering committee.

**SCOPE AND PURPOSE OF THE VAILUDP:**

In creating the terms of reference for the VAILUDP study process the Partners identified seven major components to the VAILUDP study:

1. To identify, discuss and analyze probable future economic growth prospects in the study area; and their related governance, resource management and land use implications.

2. To identify key areas required for future municipal and economic development growth; and provide recommendations on appropriate land use designations for those areas.
3. To identify, examine, and prepare recommendations on managing economic growth and land use in the study area in a manner consistent with local social and environmental issues.

4. To prepare a discussion and analysis of the major issues the Village of Valemount is likely to face given resort and tourism related growth, and to make recommendations to the Village regarding the same.

5. To identify, examine and prepare recommendations on integrating tourism and forestry land use and resource management in the study area.

6. Identify issues, provide analysis and prepare recommendations for the Ministry of Sustainable Resource Management, Land & Water BC, and other provincial government agencies, on future Crown Land use and resource management within the study area.

7. The preparation of a recommended updated Crown Land Use Map of the study area showing proposed formal land designations by land status, proposed land use and agency responsibility.

The VAILUDP partners recognized that the completed VAILUDP would need to be implemented through a variety of means including:

- incorporation of the Plan’s recommendations into the Official Community Plans and development controls of the Village of Valemount and the Regional District of Fraser Fort George
- incorporation of the Plan’s findings and recommendations into a MSRM Sustainable Resource Management Plan
- incorporation of the Plan’s recommendations by other provincial government agencies responsible for crown land and resources management, and
- provincial approval of an updated Robson Valley Crown Land Plan for the larger Valemount area.

To be consistent with historical work and government information databanks, the VAILUDP study area was selected to be the area shown in Map 1.
CREATION OF THE VAILUDP

Creating the VAILUDP has been a lengthy process. However, it could be argued that to remain relevant and effective the VAILUDP will in fact never really be complete. To truly be effective in achieving integrated land and resource use, the VAILUDP will need to be constantly updated. This Executive Summary Report of the VAILUDP explains the major conclusions and recommendations of the VAILUDP as at end of 2004. As circumstances change, and some of the VAILUDP recommendations are completed, the Plan will need to be updated to reflect new information, challenges and approaches.

To create the initial version of the VAILUDP, the partner agencies commissioned several background reports. In creating these background reports some of the VAILUDP consultants held community workshops. The major information sources and documents used to complete the VAILUDP included:

- Results of Community Survey 2003 - Valemount and Area Industrial Adjustment Services Committee
- A compilation of municipal planning documents from other BC and Alberta communities that are experiencing resort and tourism growth.
- The Valemount Workshop - Resorts & Community Planning workshop held in Valemount in November 2003.
- VAILUDP Environmental Background Report - MSRM Omineca-Peace Region, April 2004
- VAILUDP Socio-Economic and Land Use Impact Analysis Study and Reports:
  - Socio-Economic Opportunity Study for the Valemount Area -- Brent Harley & Associates, March 2004
- Valemount – A Community in Transition VAILUDP Background Report – Silvio Gislimberti, October 2004

As noted above, to remain relevant the VAILUDP will need to remain a living document with portions of the Plan occasionally updated. Indeed, the Village and other VAILUDP partner agencies are currently working on several of the recommendations contained within this document. To view the most recent versions of the full VAILUDP and VAILUDP Background Reports readers should contact the Village of Valemount.
VAILUDP - MAJOR FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The following sections provide a summary overview of the major findings of the VAILUDP background reports and provide a summary of the major recommendations of the VAILUDP. It must be recognized that these are recommendations only. Before the VAILUDP partner agencies can formally act on many of these recommendations, formal consultation with First Nations, stakeholder groups and with the general public will be required. For purposes of this Executive Summary Report the major VAILUDP findings and recommendations have been grouped under four major headings – Future Economic Growth; Maintaining Environmental Quality; Local Governance and Village and Regional District Planning and; Crown Land & Resource Use.

❖ FUTURE ECONOMIC GROWTH

Although extremely important to attempt, it is also very difficult to accurately predict long-range economic trends. Yet economic activity largely drives land and resource demand and use. To determine the most probable future economic drivers of the Valemount area the VAILUDP partners engaged Brent Harley & Associates (BHA) to conduct a Socio-Economic Opportunity Study for the area. This study examined Valemount’s economic sector growth prospects, specific tourism market development trends and opportunities, the probable economic and social impacts of the Canoe Mountain Resort development, and a Destination Competitive Assessment and community SWOT analysis. The major conclusions of this VAILUDP background report included:

➤ That the potential for growth in the forestry sector surrounding Valemount in the next twenty years is considered by low by most authorities. The report suggested the best growth opportunities might lie in niche value-added forestry products.

➤ While amenity migration and attraction of “knowledge workers” might form a small part of the Valemount growth scenario over time, it was not anticipated to be a major factor for at least the next decade. Similarly, the report noted that while other economic sectors such as agriculture and mining may have some growth potential it was not anticipated that these sectors would be major components of the future Valemount economy.

➤ The report concluded that while tourism and resort development offered the most potential for economic growth in the Valemount area, the rate of growth would likely be
determined by the community’s ability to develop critical supporting infrastructure—specifically tourism ATTRACTORS, improvements to the airport and scheduled air service.

➢ In examining the projected population increase and housing requirements created by the construction jobs and operating employees of the Canoe Mountain Resort development, the report suggests that the Village should be able to accommodate the projected increase (approximately 132 people). The report also suggests that the Resort property at full build-out would result in an “equivalent population” increase of an approximately 614 people by 2014. The BHA report notes that the rate of build-out at Canoe Mountain Resort may be impacted by the amount of similar product available at southern resorts which are closer to major population centres.

VAILUDP Major Recommendations - Future Economic Growth

1. That the Village of Valemount work with the local tourism sector and other stakeholders to complete a Tourism Development Strategy. The Strategy should examine issues of competitive advantages, community marketing and tourism attractor development. Given that the winter economy of Valemount is heavily reliant on visiting snowmobilers, a Tourism Development Strategy could also build on the recently completed winter recreation conflict resolution process and examine options for increasing the local economic impact of both winter and summer recreationalists who use the area. A key component of the Tourism Development Strategy would be the identification of additional infrastructure (e.g. trails) and events that would promote tourism growth.

2. That the Village of Valemount complete a Forest Sector Strategy. The Strategy should examine issues such as local timber supply, options for encouraging local value-added manufacturing, the feasibility of a community forest and opportunities to collaborate with Canoe Mountain Resort to encourage use of local timber in the resort construction.

3. That the Village of Valemount consider working with the Village of McBride, the Regional District and/or others to encourage further development of micro hydro-electric Independent Power production (IPP) in the Robson Valley. Development of these IPPs would provide not only local economic benefits but could also provide much needed stability of power supply to the region.

4. That the Village of Valemount continue to examine new economic development diversification opportunities including potential spin-off opportunities created by Canoe Mountain Resort.
MAINTAINING ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

Much of Valemount’s competitive advantage from a tourism and resort development perspective is a result of its surrounding environment, scenic mountain vistas, significant recreational attributes and its location as a park gateway community. For Valemount to successfully expand its tourism and resort sector in a sustainable manner requires that the region’s environmental quality and integrity be maintained. It must also be recognized that the Valemount valley lies between two of the larger blocks of parks and protected areas in the Province – the Mt. Robson/Jasper National Park system to the East of the planning area and the Cariboo Mountains/Wells Gray/Bowron Lakes Park system to the West.

An Environmental Background Report completed for the VAILUDP assembled and examined known environmental information for the area. The VAILUDP Environmental Background Report identified specific fish and wildlife species of management concern in the region. The Report also discussed and identified the importance of protecting key wildlife habitat areas, old growth management areas and riparian areas within the study area. The Report noted that the various riparian areas within the planning area serve not only very important ecological and specialized habitat roles, but also serve as natural corridors for animal movement throughout the planning area. Discussions during the Valemount Workshop on Resorts and Community Planning confirmed the importance of considering environmental issues in regional land planning. The experience of Jasper, Banff, and Canmore have all demonstrated that it is essential to recognize the importance of protecting environmentally sensitive areas and wildlife movement corridors in regional planning and urban development. However, identifying and designating such lands is only one half of the equation; maintaining the ecological attributes of those lands over the long term is also essential. Therefore the VAILUDP Environmental Background Report also provides several recommendations on land use development and controls to protect the ecological integrity of the key environmental landscape network.

VAILUDP Major Recommendations – Maintaining Environmental Quality

5. That the Village of Valemount and the Regional District of Fraser-Fort George review and consider formally endorsing the concept of attempting to maintain and protect the integrity and ecological functioning of the environmental land pattern identified in the VAILUDP Environmental Background Report.

6. That the Village use the VAILUDP Environmental Background Report to identify environmentally sensitive and important lands within the Village boundary and ensure that the Village’s planning and development processes recognize the environmental importance of these lands and waterbodies.

7. That the Village consider implementing development control by-laws or set-backs (similar to the Regional District’s policy) on new developments on, or adjacent to, lands, riparian areas

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and waterbodies identified as environmentally important or significant in the VAILUDP Environmental Background Report.

8. That the Regional District of Fraser-Fort George consider formally recognizing the identified environmentally sensitive areas in the Regional District’s Official Community Plan. That the Regional District of Fraser-Fort George also consider implementing development permit requirements on any new developments on, or adjacent to, areas identified as environmentally important in the VAILUDP Environmental Background Report.

9. That the Ministry of Sustainable Resource Management formally recognize and protect the environmentally sensitive and important areas, riparian buffers and wildlife movement corridors (and their ecological functions) identified in the VAILUDP Environmental Background Report through a legally established MSRM SRMP for the area.

10. That Land & Water BC formally recognize and designate the environmentally sensitive and important lands as identified in the VAILUDP Environmental Background Report in the updated Crown Land Plan for the area.

**LOCAL GOVERNANCE AND VILLAGE & REGIONAL DISTRICT LAND USE PLANNING**

Given that Valemount is a community in transition, it is clear that the Village and Regional District will experience new municipal and regional development planning challenges. Tourism and resort-related economic growth have a much more direct relationship to, and impact upon, municipal development and land use than other economic sectors. The design, appearance and supporting service and infrastructure requirements for communities with a strong tourism sector tend to be quite different than other resource-based communities. Indeed, over the past ten years the notion of “resort communities” in BC has become much more prevalent.

As noted earlier, a part of the creation of the VAILUDP, Brent Harley & Associates were hired to complete a Socio-Economic and Land Use Impact Analysis Study and Report (SELUSR) for the study area. The SELUSR process had four major components – a socio-economic opportunity study, a Community Vision, a Vision Implementation Strategy and a recommended updated Crown Land Plan Map for the study area. In engaging Brent Harley & Associates (BHA), the VAILUDP partners requested that BHA examine and identify the most common planning issues that tourism oriented communities experience, and to identify the most probable land and development pressures that Valemount specifically might experience. BHA was also requested to provide the VAILUDP partners with specific recommendations on local governance and land use and development controls that should be used to meet these challenges. Based on earlier background work completed by the Village of Valemount, and their own socio-economic study, BHA developed a set of Principles to guide future development in Valemount. Based on
stakeholder consultations and these Principles, BHA developed a story to describe Valemount’s desired future in the year 2020. The Valemount 2020 Vision Implementation Strategy then provided recommendations to the VAILUDP partners on how best to achieve this Vision.

Among the major findings of the BHA reports related to governance and municipal and regional planning were:

- The introduction of tourism into a resource dependent community will often impact the land use in the area by creating conflicts among land interests; increase the need for local land use regulation; increased pressure on the natural environment; and the need to manage recreational user groups and assets.

- That many rapidly growing tourism oriented communities face common challenges including:
  - Increased cost of living for local residents
  - Lack of financial resources for local government
  - Changing marketplace for local businesses
  - Conflicting land interests
  - Need to enhance local land use regulation
  - Increased pressure on the natural environment
  - Need to better manage outdoor recreation experiences
  - Changing of community character
  - Lack of affordable housing
  - Varied service requirements for local government
  - The community is a business

The degree to which a community experiences these challenges is often dependent on several factors including the rate of growth, size of the community and the level of economic diversification.

- The impact of a developing tourism dependant economy on the social character of Valemount will be heavily influenced by how the community embraces and facilitates the change. Mountain communities that have embraced tourism must address these potentially significant impacts, including an evolving community character, a lack of affordable housing, varied service levels and the realization that the community itself is a business.

- Valemount can only achieve their vision if they have a concise plan for action and strong local leadership. Valemount will need to embrace a strategic vision that has strong leadership from decision makers as well as substantial community buy-in before tourism will be a viable economic generator. It may involve a new organization that could lead and direct tourism marketing and infrastructure, as well as provide management and financial resources.

- The growth in tourism revenues in Valemount will be dependent on significant improvements in associated infrastructure, as well as the coordinated management and marketing of the visitor attractions. Valemount will need to clearly define not only what it wants to be, but also what it does not want to be.

- It is critical for any region pursuing tourism to ensure that the destination is consistent with the community vision, while at the same time includes the capacity to
deliver the expected experience: “What makes a tourism destination truly competitive is its ability to increase tourism expenditure, to increasingly attract visitors while providing them with satisfying, memorable experiences, and to do so in a profitable way, while enhancing the well-being of destination residents and preserving the natural capital of the destination for future generations.”

- The Village must expand their boundaries to encompass all significant resort and residential development into its jurisdiction.
- The study identified several strategic parcels of lands that BHA believes are especially important to the successful development of the community including:

  - Yellowhead Highway Frontage – The greatest potential for capturing tourism visits is to increase the number, and the length of stay by highway travelers. As a result, the lands fronting the Yellowhead Highway particularly adjacent to Valemount’s commercial core are some of the most strategic. At this time the Village has constructed an attractive entry features to encourage travelers to turn off the highway and explore their community. It is therefore crucial for the community to recognize that the highway frontage is their front door, and a tremendous opportunity to showcase what Valemount has to offer. Not only should new development be consistent with the community’s vision but also provide an opportunity to promote what Valemount has to offer to the traveling public. Future highway frontage uses from the Provincial Park entrance through to Canoe should be minimized and if necessary implement appropriate design controls on any development.
  
  - Fifth Ave Commercial Core – The Fifth Avenue commercial core is extremely important to the long-term sustainability of Valemount. Although the distance from the highway (accommodation uses) to village shops is considerable, the corridor has tremendous potential. There are no fatal flaws with the layout or design as the street is wide, has ample parking and offers small, human scale development. The community park is also an asset to this area. Much care will be needed to plan the long-term character of the area in concert with the redevelopment plans for the former high school site (see next subsection).
  
  - High School Site – The former high school site is the most important parcel in the future success of the Fifth Ave commercial area. These lands currently fall between the highway commercial and accommodation uses and the Fifth Ave shops. The development site has potential to increase the vibrancy of the town centre through introducing non-commercial uses or seasonal uses that enhance the area and serve both civic and visitor interests. Design and land use guidelines should be developed in concert with the landowner, to ensure that the redevelopment will meet the interests of business, tourism and the community.
  
  - Swift Creek and Recreation Corridors – Swift Creek provides an important environmental feature to the Valemount community. It is important that this corridor be preserved and that public access through trails or undeveloped parks be provided and maintained. The Swift Creek recreation corridor could

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also serve as the primary starting point and destination for trails that wind throughout the valley.

- Canfor Mill Site – The mill site has a long economic history within the community. It will be socially and economically important to preserve the industrial use of this site regardless of the decline in forestry industry. The site represents Valemount’s economic history and will continue to be important to the blended economic vision.

- Airport – The tourist and real estate driven market will demand improved transportation connections, particularly air travel. Further recreation interests will experience an increased demand for air services, notably helicopters. The community therefore must recognize the importance of the airport lands and ensure that the uses can expand and improve while not being compromised by encroaching development.

➢ The Village must take into account the financial impacts of the new growth strategies, existing development cost charges and fees to ensure that the existing tax base does not subsidize new development.

➢ The Village should ensure that its OCP incorporates strategies to ensure that they have sufficient land resources to fulfill their historic, cultural and social needs; development permit guidelines designed to retain and nurture their historic and cultural traditions; and nuisance bylaws to preserve the ambiance of the small town community character.

➢ The Village’s OCP must incorporate and implement a social, economic and environmental monitoring program to ensure that local resident needs will be accommodated in the long term.

➢ The VILUDP partners should work to facilitate and require ongoing consultation among all Provincial Ministries to ensure that all applications for new development or dispositions of Crown land within and adjacent to the area take into account the Valemount 2020 Vision Implementation Strategy and the final VILUDP Report.

**VILUDP Major Recommendations – Local Governance and Village & Regional District Land Use Planning**

11. That the Village of Valemount expand the Village’s municipal boundaries so that the Canoe Mountain Resort area and lands on the west side of Highway 5 across from the Village are incorporated into the Village’s municipal boundaries.

12. That the Village of Valemount undertake a municipal design plan and commercial area strategy. The municipal design plan should examine options and provide recommendations on overall community planning, land use zoning, building design guidelines and public space design within the Village boundary. This design plan should also recommend design options to develop and maintain a unique ‘character’ for the Village as well as recommend options
(e.g. design guidelines, connecting trails, etc.) to connect the Canoe Mountain resort area with the remainder of the Village. A commercial area strategy is required to ensure that the downtown core of the Village remains the major commercial and retail focus of the community.

13. That the Village of Valemount work with Sunrise International and any future major resort development groups to discuss options and develop collaborative strategies to work together on issues such as the training and use of local residents as resort employees, housing resort staff and building design guidelines.

14. That the Village of Valemount and the Regional District of Fraser-Fort George review the very specific planning recommendations made in the Valemount 2020 Vision Implementation Strategy and consider making revisions to their Official Community Plans and Zoning Bylaws to incorporate the recommendations made in that report.

15. That the Village of Valemount should develop and implement a community transition monitoring process. Through various previous studies and community surveys, the Village of Valemount has developed a significant amount of baseline data on community resident’s desires and concerns regarding the Village’s future social and economic development. A community transition monitoring program would allow the Village to objectively track key indicators to determine the nature of social and economic change in the community.

**CROWN LAND & RESOURCE USE**

As noted earlier, Valemount’s economy is directly tied to the use and management of the crown lands and resources that surround the Village. In the past, the Village has felt that its interests have not always been recognized enough by provincial agencies responsible for crown land and resource management decisions. As Valemount’s economy continues to grow and diversify, it is imperative that an integrated approach to crown land and resource use planning and management occur. It is also imperative that the Village Council and Administration have significant and meaningful opportunity to comment on, and influence, crown land and resource planning and management decisions for the Valemount valley area.

A major component of the VAILUDP process was an examination of how the provincial Crown Land Plan for the area should be updated to reflect the communities’ needs and desires for crown land use along the valley floor. Based on the VAILUDP work, a new recommended Crown Land Plan Map for the area was developed.
In the north Central Interior portion of the Omenica - Peace Region, the former Ministry of Crown Lands, (now effectively Land and Water British Columbia Inc.) developed several Crown Land Plans in settlement areas surrounding the communities. The purpose of these plans was to help manage and allocate Crown lands for a variety of land uses pursuant to the Land Act and provide other resource management agencies solid guidance to carry out their respective mandates. The Crown Land Plans facilitate economic development by identifying and providing provincial Crown lands for economic development and municipal/settlement expansion while also protecting lands required for recreational and environmental purposes. These plans went through an extensive planning process involving the public, local government and provincial agencies. All of the approved Crown Land Plans were subsequently endorsed and included in the respective Land and Resource Management Plans (LRMP’s) for the region. The initial Robson Valley Crown Land Plan was approved by Cabinet Ministers originally in 1985. This Plan covered portions of the Robson Valley including the Valemount valley bottom between Canoe Mountain and Tete Jaune Cache.

The founding partners of the VAILUDP recognized that as a result of several factors – including increasing tourism-related economic growth, the Canoe Mountain resort proposals and probable Village growth – that the Valemount portion of the Robson Valley Crown Land Plan needed to be revisited and updated. As a result, a recommended updated provincial Crown Land Plan Map for the area became a key product of the VAILUDP process.

The new recommended Crown Land Plan Map is intended to provide broad strategic direction with regards to land use over the next ten to twenty years. Crown land management and disposition (tenure/sales) activities and processes within the various land use designations remain the same as before. There are a few new designated uses that will have management objectives and strategies completed by Provincial agencies to address more detailed planning, land use proposals and ongoing resource management and extraction activities.

While the Crown Land Plan Map is a useful tool for the planning of crown lands along the Valemount valley floor, it is obvious that the Village’s future economic development will also be significantly influenced by how the other surrounding crown lands and resources are planned for and managed. As noted earlier, the Village of Valemount has been clear in its stated desire for a blended economy. It also seems clear that much of the Village’s future economic growth will come from tourism and resort-related growth. Recreational access and the scenic and environmental quality of the surrounding front, mid and backcountry areas are critically important for successful tourism and resort-based communities.

For Valemount to be able to achieve its desired objective of a balanced economy, a sustained commitment by all major economic sectors and levels of government to true integrated resource management of the entire study area will be required. Perhaps the single most critical resource management issue will be the successful integration of tourism and forestry planning within the study area.

As noted by Brent Harley & Associates, it is also critical that the major elements of the VAILUDP be formally approved by all three levels of government (and given ‘legal’ designation) to ensure implementation. Provincial government interests dominate the Valemount
area as the province regulates the use of Crown lands and impose associated regulatory requirements. Although the Ministry of Sustainable Resource Management (MSRM) and Land and Water BC (LWBC) have been key participants in the VAILUDP process, it is also imperative that the recommendations contained within this document be fully supported by all ministries, agencies and companies of the Provincial Government. This support is essential to Valemount’s long-term sustainability. No land use decisions in the Valemount area should be made by the Province without fully taking into account the community’s interests as expressed through this Implementation Strategy and the related VILUDP process.

**VAILUDP Major Recommendations – Crown Land & Resource Use**

16. That following public and stakeholder consultations and public comment, all four VAILUDP partners should review and formally endorse the recommended updated Crown Land Plan Map for the VAILUDP study area. It is also recommended that the Ministry of Sustainable Resource Management legally establish the Crown Land Plan Map within a Sustainable Resource Management Plan higher level plan for the area.

17. That as part of creating the recommended Forest and Tourism Sector Strategies – that the Village of Valemount lead a process of creating a forest harvesting management plan for the study area which integrates tourism, recreation and forest harvesting interests. This forest management harvesting management plan must also address issues related to visual quality and impact management, pine beetle control and wild fire hazard reduction.

18. That the Village of Valemount contact other tourism resort communities such as the District of Invermere, Panorama Resort, and Whistler to determine how other areas deal with pine beetle management and visual landscape management issues.

19. That the Village of Valemount and the VAILUDP partners complete a Visual Landscape Management Plan for the study area.

20. That the Village of Valemount consider establishing a Natural Resources Advisory Committee of Council. This Committee would be responsible for advising the Village Council on natural resource management planning issues in the study area. Part of this process could be the establishment of an annual natural resources forum where government agencies and resource users would make presentations to Council and the Valemount public on proposed activities for the upcoming year.

21. In many respects, the Village of Valemount is a unique opportunity to demonstrate and showcase leading-edge integrated resource management practices. Therefore, the Village of Valemount should continue to explore opportunities for collaboration with University of
Northern BC researchers and continue to position the area as a candidate for appropriate land and resource management pilot projects.