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# WFP slow to act on move plans

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Western Forest Products' management team could eventually be relocated to various branch operations as the Duncan-based timber giant sells its corporate headquarters.

But the company isn't making any hasty moves before its Duncan Financial Building at 435 Trunk Rd. is sold, said spokesman Gary Ley.

"We've had a few offers and we're in the middle of evaluating those, but nothing's been signed or confirmed," he said.

Western's 36,900-square-foot Duncan building is listed with Colliers at \$2.25 million.

"Our [Duncan] people may be relocated to some of the mill operations."

But earlier ideas to move Duncan staff to leased offices in Nanaimo are complicated.

"It's not as simple as taking people in Duncan and moving them to location X," Ley said.

Meanwhile, it's status quo for WFP at the Cowichan Bay sawmill and its Chemainus sawmill and value-added plant, he explained.

WFP's leaner, meaner focus under CEO Stephen Frasher has yielded results for B.C.'s largest timber company.

On July 30, the forest firm – focused on cedar production – announced second quarter earnings of \$20.9 million before interest, taxes, depreciation and amortization. That figure compares to a \$16-million EBITDA loss in the same quarter a year earlier.

On its labour front, WFP leaders announced July 26 they'd reached a tentative four-year contract agreement with the United Steelworkers Union.

That deal includes Cowichan based Local 1-85 and other locals.

The contract needs ratification by union members in the next few weeks. WFP's former contract with the USW, the Coast Master Agreement, expired on June 15.

editor@nanaimobulletin.com

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