

Ministry: Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations (FLNR)

Issue: A1-6: *Wildfire Act* - Statutory Spending

Background:

- At UBCM in September 2015, government announced that FLNR would be developing a Forest Enhancement Program to undertake forest rehabilitation, wildfire prevention, and wildlife habitat restoration. At the same time, government announced a \$10M top-up to the Strategic Wildfire Prevention Initiative.
- The Direct Fire Vote of \$63M is generally exhausted each year for direct fire control costs. This provides FLNR with limited ability within existing budget allocations to engage in activities like wildfire prevention and the rehabilitation of Crown land damaged by fire.
- FLNR is requesting approval to increase statutory spending under the *Wildfire Act* by up to \$95M in 2015/16 to support these government commitments.
- The current statutory spending authority under the *Wildfire Act* is limited to direct fire control expenditures and does not cover expenditures for wildfire prevention and mitigation (e.g. fuel management to reduce potential fire intensity and spread) or rehabilitation activities (e.g. reforestation, habitat restoration).
- *Budget 2016* legislation will expand the existing statutory appropriation to allow for expenditures related to wildfire prevention, preparedness, and mitigation as well as rehabilitation. The proposed scope is activities that are not in response to imminent or existing fires, but are intended to prevent or mitigate the impact of future wildfires. Out of scope activities would include reforestation of low-value forests on high productivity sites on the coast and wildlife habitat restoration when there is no risk of or damage from wildfire.

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Date: January 22, 2016

Analyst: Jonathan Dubé

Decision: The Chair of Treasury Board approved Option 1 on January 25, 2016.

Confidential – for the advice and decision of Treasury Board – Chair, Secretary and Deputy Secretary

Ministry: Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations (FLNR)

Issue: *Wildfire Act* - Statutory Spending for Forest Carbon Initiative

Background:

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s.12,s.13,s.16

- The Forest Enhancement Society of BC provides wildfire prevention and mitigation services as well as reforestation and wildlife habitat restoration on Crown land damaged by wildfires. It was created in 2015/16 and provided an initial contribution of \$85M from BC.

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Financial Summary:

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Confidential – for the advice and decision of Treasury Board – Chair, Secretary and Deputy Secretary

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Date: January 23, 2017

Analyst: Sarah Cunningham

Decision: Option 1 approved by the Chair of Treasury Board January 24, 2017.

Confidential – for the advice and decision of Treasury Board – Chair, Secretary and Deputy Secretary

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Meeting Date: January 24, 2017

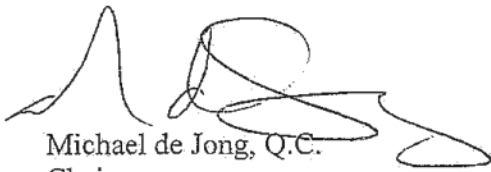
Confidential

Honourable Steve Thomson
Minister of Forests, Lands and
Natural Resource Operations
Room 248 Parliament Buildings
Victoria BC V8V 1X4

Dear Colleague: 

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Sincerely,


Michael de Jong, Q.C.
Chair

cc: Tim Sheldan, Deputy Minister,
Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations

Trish Dohan, Assistant Deputy Minister and Executive Financial Officer,
Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations

Ministry of
Finance

Treasury Board

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