

BRIEFING NOTE FOR DECISION

DATE: April 20, 2020

PREPARED FOR: Honourable Doug Donaldson, Minister of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development

ISSUE: Billed stumpage payment deferral to increase forest industry liquidity during Covid-19 pandemic.

RECOMMENDED:

Defer payment for billed stumpage, with interest, for a period of three months with the option to extend for an additional three months if economic conditions remain poor, for holders of Tree Farm Licences, Replaceable Forest Licences, and First Nations' Woodlands Licences deemed not to be a credit risk by the Ministry of Finance.

BACKGROUND:

s.13; s.14; s.17

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s.14; s.13; s.17

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Withheld pursuant to/removed as

s.13; s.14; s.17

Decision:

Defer payment for billed stumpage, with interest, for a period of three months with the option to extend for an additional three months if economic conditions remain poor, for holders of Tree Farm Licences, Replaceable Forest Licences, and First Nations' Woodlands Licences deemed not to be a credit risk by the Ministry of Finance.

Approved / Not Approved


 Signature
 Hon. Doug Donaldson, Minister of Forest,
 Lands, Natural Resource Operations and
 Rural Development

April 22, 2020
 Date

ATTACHMENTS

s.13; s.14; s.17

PREPARED BY:

Melissa Sanderson
 Assistant Deputy Minister
 Forest Policy and Indigenous Relations
 (250) 812-7253

REVIEWED BY:

	Initials	Date
DM		
Associate DM		
DMO		
ADM	MS	April 20, 2020
Program Dir/Mgr.		

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s.14; s.13; s.17

Page 06 of 38 to/à Page 15 of 38

Withheld pursuant to/removed as

s.13; s.14; s.17

GUIDANCE DOCUMENT FOR ADDRESSING THE COSTS OF EXTRA COVID-19 SAFETY RELATED REQUIREMENTS ASSOCIATED WITH TREE PLANTING

1.0 Introduction

1.1 Tree Planting during the Covid-19 Pandemic

Tree planting typically occurs in remote areas and near First Nation and rural communities throughout the province. It is important for BC to protect those who live in rural and remote communities and to ensure the safety of all forest workers.

The BC Centre for Disease Control has released *Protecting Employees, Contractors, and Employers Working in the Silviculture Sector During the Covid-19 Pandemic* which outlines safety requirements for tree planters. Additionally, guidelines for industrial camps have been released. For copies of these policies, please go to:

<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/health/about-bc-s-health-care-system/office-of-the-provincial-health-officer/current-health-topics/covid-19-novel-coronavirus>

Following these new safety requirements is anticipated to increase costs associated with reforestation. Since major licensees are responsible for reforestation as part of their tenure obligations (*BC Forest and Range Practices Act*, Section 29), they will initially bear any extra costs.

1.2 Objective

This note clarifies how any additional planting costs associated with compliance with the BC Centre for Disease Control's *Protecting Employees, Contractors, and Employers Working in the Silviculture Sector During the Covid-19 Pandemic* will be recognized in the Tenure Obligation Adjustment within the BC stumpage system.

2.0 Recognition of Tree Planting Costs

Silviculture costs are adjusted annually as part of the *Coast and Interior Appraisal Manual's* update process. This process ensures licensees receive fair compensation for their tree planting costs. Costs incurred by licensees meeting Covid-19 related safety requirements will be factored into the silviculture cost estimates used in the stumpage appraisal system. This is consistent with current practice pre-Covid-19.

For any costs in a contract between licensees and silviculture contractors to be recognized in the appraisal system, they need to be realized costs. If a silviculture contractor experiences any unforeseen extraordinary costs during the planting season, the licensee and the contractor can report the event and associated costs incurred to the Area Director for Pricing and Tenures. The Director will work with Timber Pricing Branch on possible solutions.

It is expected that licensees will comply with the safety guidance and be able to provide evidence of compliance upon request. See Attachment 1: Except from *BCTS Checklist for Assessing Contractor Covid-19 Preparedness Plans* for an example of how BCTS is documenting compliance. Timber Pricing Branch will use comparisons to extra costs experienced by BC Timber Sales as appropriate when adjudicating reported information.

For further information, please contact Patrick Asante, RPF, Manager, Timber Pricing at Timber Pricing Branch (patrick.asante@gov.bc.ca).



May 4, 2020

Signature_____
Date

Allan W. Bennett, RPF
Director, Timber Pricing Branch
Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and
Rural Development

Attachment 1: Excerpt from *BCTS Checklist for Assessing Contractor Covid-19 Preparedness Plans*

3. Contractors COVID-19 PP addresses Provincial Health Authority Orders, Ministry of Health Industrial Camp Standards, WorkSafe BC requirements, and Western Forestry Contractors Association Guidelines?

Requirement	Yes/No/NA	Comments
Education & Training on COVID-19		
<i>Keeping informed on current COVID-19 requirements</i>		
<i>Educating and training workers on best practices to address COVID-19 including physical distancing, hygiene, respiratory etiquette, etc</i>		
Prior to starting the work		
<i>Communicating with communities near to where workers will be staying and accessing supplies</i>		
<i>Requiring workers to self-isolate for a prescribed period prior to deploying or if they have been travelling</i>		
<i>Requiring anyone with symptoms to self-isolate for an additional prescribed period, and obtain medical professional consent to start work</i>		
<i>Requiring anyone who has had COVID-19 to obtain medical professional approval to start or return to work</i>		
<i>Requiring workers travelling for more than 1 day to get to the worksite to provide their travel itinerary</i>		
<i>Requiring all workers to provide a log of self-isolation and monitoring</i>		
<i>Reviewing workers log books and screening workers, including observation for symptoms, taking temperatures</i>		
<i>Requiring workers to test themselves using the self-assessment tool BC COVID-19 Self-Assessment Tool</i>		

BRIEFING NOTE FOR DECISION

DATE: April 22, 2020

PREPARED FOR: John Allan, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development

ISSUE: Covid-19 related tree planting costs.

RECOMMENDED OPTION:

Allow the stumpage system's Tenure Obligation Adjustment process to address the costs of the extra safety related requirements associated with tree planting; create "one-off" policy to address verified extraordinary costs incurred resulting from a Covid-19 outbreak in a tree planting camp; and tie liquidity relief to licensees carrying out their planned tree planting activities.

BACKGROUND:

- The Covid-19 pandemic is causing a slowdown of the world economy. The price of lumber has dropped from above US \$400/mfbm (thousand board feet) to less than U.S. \$301/mfbm in a matter of weeks.
- In the B.C. Interior, companies have recently stock piled their "break-up" inventories (enough logs for several months worth of sawmill production).
- Due to the rapid fall in lumber prices, this sawlog inventory will need to be written down financially which will lead to a loss for the companies in the first quarter of 2020.
- Interior companies were just recovering from a challenging year financially in 2019 (caused by low lumber prices and scarcity driven high log prices).
- 2019 and early 2020 was also a challenging year on the B.C. Coast with Western Forest Products, controlling half of the coastal replaceable forest tenure and sawmill capacity, being on strike; the global export log prices fall which resulted from oversupply caused by a spruce beetle outbreak in Europe; and Mosaic shutting down harvest due to inability to export logs.
- The Coast industry had not recovered from 2019 when the Covid-19 slowdown occurred.
- Liquidity and credit availability have become challenging for many companies in the B.C. forest industry which is leading to increased production capacity reductions and job losses. This is evidenced by the current shutdowns of sawmills and pulp mills across the province.
- Major licensees are responsible for silviculture as part of their tenure obligations, and silviculture costs reduce stumpage through the appraisal system.
- Covid-19 safety requirement for tree planters are increasing tree planting costs.
- Extraordinary tree planting costs may be experienced by licensees if a tree planting camp become infected with Covid-19.

DISCUSSION:

Silviculture costs, including tree planting, are adjusted annually as part of the Coast and Interior Appraisal Manual's update process. This process ensures licensees receive fair compensation for their tree planting costs on average. Cost incurred by licensees meeting Covid-19 related safety requirements will be covered by average over the next two to three years through the appraisal

process. See Attachment 1: Except from *BCTS Checklist for Assessing Contractor Covid-19 Preparedness Plans* for an example of the extra safety requirements.

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RECOMMENDATION

- Allow the stumpage system's Tenure Obligation Adjustment process to address the costs of the extra safety related requirements associated with tree planting; create "one-off" policy to address verified extraordinary costs incurred resulting from a Covid-19 outbreak in a tree planting camp; and tie liquidity relief to licensees carrying out their planned tree planting activities.

Approved / Not Approved

Signature
John Allan, Deputy Minister, Ministry of
Forest, Lands, Natural Resource Operations
and Rural Development

Date

ATTACHMENTS

- Except from *BCTS Checklist for Assessing Contractor Covid-19 Preparedness Plans*

PREPARED BY:

Allan W. Bennett, RPF
Director
Timber Pricing Branch
(778) 974-2707

REVIEWED BY:

	Initials	Date
DM		
Associate DM		
DMO		
ADM		
Program Dir/Mgr.		

Attachment 1: Except from BCTS Checklist for Assessing Contractor Covid-19 Preparedness Plans

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<i>observation for symptoms, taking temperatures</i>		
<i>Requiring workers to test themselves using the self-assessment tool BC COVID-19 Self-Assessment Tool</i>		

BRIEFING NOTE FOR INFORMATION

DATE: May 12, 2020

PREPARED FOR: Honourable Doug Donaldson, Minister of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development

ISSUE: Crown Land Tenures During COVID-19 Pandemic

BACKGROUND:

- The Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development (FLNRORD) – Corporate Services for the Natural Resource Ministries (CSNR) issues invoices for Crown Land Tenures, including leases, licenses of occupations, rights of way, and permits, on a monthly basis to cover annual rent.
- There are over 40,000 Crown land tenures across 28 land use activities on the land base ranging from agriculture to utilities, commercial recreation to alternative energy, quarrying to residential and oil and gas.
- The most recent revenue forecast for 2020/21 land tenure revenue is \$57M with upcoming billings estimated as follows:

Invoice Send Month	Number of Invoices	Total Amount	Due Date (various days)
March (on hold)	1,165	\$3.3M	May
April* (on hold)	1,515	\$4.3M	June
May*	1,318	\$3.2M	July

*Estimates based on prior year invoicing.

- Crown Land tenure invoicing since COVID-19 has been put on hold.
- The Province employs an annual minimum rent (i.e. \$500) to offset the ongoing annual costs of administering a tenure in those cases where pricing would not produce enough rent to recover costs.

DISCUSSION:

- Although regions have received some inquiries from clients regarding payment of rent, to date there has not been an overwhelming number of clients seeking relief.
- The following tourism and recreation sector-specific requests have been received in writing to the Ministry of Tourism, Arts and Culture (TAC) and/Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development (FLNRORD):
 - **Tourism Industry Association of British Columbia (TIABC):** tenure fee suspension or deferrals.
 - **Canada West Ski Areas Association (CWSAA):** reduction and deferral of land tenure fees.
 - **Guide Outfitters Association of BC (GOABC):** defer the fees payable to the Crown.
 - **Commercial Bear Viewing Association (CBVA):** waive all crown fees and taxes for 2020.

- **Back Country Lodges of BC Association (BLBCA):** Waive all rental fees for tenures/permits, property taxes and other related costs for a period of 2 years.

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Attachment(s):

1. Potential Land Tenure Revenue by Purpose
2. Commercial Recreation (Adventure Tourism) Category Summary
3. Rod Day Fee Charges

PREPARED BY:

Melissa Sanderson
ADM
Forest Policy and Indigenous Relations
(250) 812-7253

REVIEWED BY:

	Initials	Date
DM		
Associate DM		
DMO		
ADM	MS	May 12, 2020
ED		

Attachment 1: Crown Land Potential Revenue

Crown Land Potential Revenue - By Purpose All Regions					
Purpose	Number of Clients	Sum of Rent & Potential Revenue	% of Rent & Potential Revenue	No of Clients Paying Minimum Rent of \$500/year	No of Clients Paying More than Minimum Rent
Agriculture	423	427,743	0.85%	268	155
Alpine Skiing	298	105,975	0.21%	3	295
Aquaculture	478	2,691,959	5.35%	112	366
Commercial	957	7,583,870	15.08%	64	893
Commercial Recreation (Adventure Tourism)	604	1,030,296	2.05%	177	427
Communication	1,372	2,961,355	5.89%	1	1,371
Community	571	3,440	0.01%	2	569
Energy Production (Oil and Gas)	12,970	18,399,279	36.58%	808	12,162
Environment, Conservation, & Recr	6	500	0.00%	1	5
First Nations	2	-	0.00%	0	2
Industrial	1,943	9,324,793	18.54%	757	1,186
Institutional	964	28,694	0.06%	1	963
Miscellaneous Land Uses	3	-	0.00%	0	3
Ocean Energy	8	4,500	0.01%	7	1
Quarrying (Aggregates)	605	665,231	1.32%	297	308
Residential	4,989	4,587,184	9.12%	462	4,527
Solar Power	12	6,000	0.01%	12	-
Transportation	1,220	444,411	0.88%	61	1,159
Utility	12,651	175,989	0.35%	39	12,612
Waterpower	305	1,181,028	2.35%	104	201
Windpower	159	680,617	1.35%	115	44
Total	40,540	50,302,864	100%	3,023	37,249
Land Royalties		11,983,881			
Grand Total		62,286,745			
Note: The \$50.3M sum of rent and potential revenue is based on Tantis data. This data does not include lease income from Ski Resorts and other revenues derived from power projects under Crown land, (e.g. hydroelectric projects). The current year-to-date actuals is at \$51.8M as of February 2020. FY21 revenue forecast on lease income is set at \$57M.					

NOTE: For further breakdown of Commercial Recreation (Adventure Tourism) category see Attachment 2.

Attachment 2: Commercial Recreation (Adventure Tourism) Category Summary

Summary of Annual Rent for Commercial Recreation													
As of March 31, 2020	Months												
SUB-PURPOSE	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Grand Total
CAT SKI	7,420	500	500	500	6,300	3,889	14,805	30,611	18,045	6,435	2,000	5,316	96,321
COMMUNITY OUTDOOR RECREATION				2,898	709						905		4,511
ECO TOURIST LODGE/RESORT	1,748	5,840	5,040	1,230	9,046	17,040	21,348			16,254	19,888	25,741	123,175
FISH CAMPS	2,363	10,254	1,356	3,275	2,784	11,757	26,149	8,884	6,797	1,091		2,669	77,379
GUIDED FRESHWATER RECREATION	1,600	500	3,200	3,000	6,000	14,100	8,500	2,000	7,840	12,340	3,500	1,000	63,580
GUIDED MOUNTAINEERING/ROCK CLIMBING	500	1,000	1,018	3,000	500	1,500	500	1,500					9,518
GUIDED NATURE VIEWING	1,500	500	1,500	1,500	1,500	1,500	500	4,268	1,000		2,886	1,500	18,154
GUIDED SALTWATER RECREATION	1,500		1,000		1,175	1,700	1,100			500		500	7,475
HELI HIKING	2,160			1,500	500	16,140	500	14,500	11,708		1,000	1,080	49,088
HELI SKI	9,100	20,580	1,500	9,646	10,235	4,400	1,900	12,600	6,897	30,378	8,296	134,422	249,953
HUNT CAMPS	8,640	14,465	27,251	20,256	10,982	23,190	23,583	14,934	14,096	20,025	13,943	18,651	210,016
MISCELLANEOUS	12,690	24,923	5,010	20,744	27,351	15,463	11,475	23,823	6,353	5,270	8,433	10,525	172,059
MULTIPLE USE	63,114	2,100	7,812	11,643	44,104	19,718	43,456	8,064	2,000	15,744	22,993	17,971	258,718
NORDIC SKI (X COUNTRY SKIING)	4,595		500	500		1,340	500		1,000		3,380	10,613	22,428
PRIVATE CAMPS	2,606	4,290	1,031	16,787	60,500	4,149	860	1,823	3,149	4,560	1,000	1,000	101,754
SNOWMOBILING	1,500	13,405	9,324	17,893	9,037	3,000	27,797	10,724	35,314	15,648	10,424	17,689	171,757
SPECIAL ACTIVITIES									500				500
TIDAL SPORTS FISHING CAMPS	500	7,034		500		3,105	500					8,255	19,895
TRAIL RIDING	1,000	2,000		1,000	3,000	2,000	1,500	500	5,173	1,760	4,030	3,530	25,492
COMMERCIAL A	54,226	16,762	56,705	47,323	65,258	28,700	187,390	49,956	10,239	47,375	77,684	140,352	781,968
COMMERCIAL B	31,764	30,635	35,512	62,306	68,180	62,983	117,210	22,196	98,003	27,962	123,531	16,037	696,319
GENERAL					1,871		43,736						45,607
HUNTING/FISHING CAMP	890		779	1,295			10,752	42,275	6,255	8,647			70,891
MISCELLANEOUS	3,440	11,317	500	2,121	6,588	5,105	8,277		16,628	4,815		8,569	67,360
Grand Total	212,856	166,107	159,536	228,916	335,618	240,779	552,337	248,655	250,996	218,803	303,891	425,420	3,343,915

NOTE: Actual dollar amounts and billing months shown in chart

Attachment 3: Rod Day Fee Charges

Fees are per rod, per day.

All fees go to the Fresh Water Fisheries Society of BC (FFSBC) and Habitat Conservation Trust Fund (HCTF).

Fees are due at the end of May if the Angler Guide is already registered, or upon registration for new Angler Guides.

Deferral or waiving of fees will lead to a direct financial impact to HCTF and FFSBC and their work on habitat restoration and fish stocking.

Daily Charge

The following are fees paid to each organization per rod, per day.

WATER	FFSBC	HCTF	TOTAL
Class I coastal	\$16	\$15	\$31
Class II coastal	\$11	\$15	\$26
Class I inland	\$6	\$15	\$21
Class II inland	\$1	\$15	\$16

Total Fees per year: \$548,429

BRIEFING NOTE FOR DECISION

DATE: April 15, 2020

PREPARED FOR: Doug Donaldson, Minister of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development

ISSUE: Covid-19 Response – Extension to the forest invoice deferral period

RECOMMENDED OPTION:

OPTION 1: Extend the forest invoice deferral period to May 1, 2020

BACKGROUND:

- Covid-19 pandemic is causing a slowdown of the world economy.
- As US housing starts and overall lumber consumption has fallen, the price of lumber has dropped from above US \$400/mfbm (thousand board feet) to less than US \$300/mfbm.
- In the BC Interior, companies just stock piled their “break-up” inventories (enough logs for several months worth of sawmill production).
- Due to the rapid fall in lumber prices, this sawlog inventory will need to be written down financially which will lead to a loss for the companies in the first quarter of 2020.
- Interior companies were just recovering from a challenging year financially in 2019 (caused by low lumber prices and scarcity driven high log prices).
- 2019 was a challenging year on the BC coast with Western Forest Products, controlling half of the coastal replaceable forest tenure and sawmill capacity, being on strike; the global export log prices fall which resulted from oversupply caused by a spruce beetle outbreak in Europe; and Mosaic shutting down harvest due to inability to export logs.
- The Coast Industry had not recovered from 2019 when the Covid-19 slowdown occurred.
- Liquidity and credit availability have become challenging for many companies in the BC Forest Industry which may lead to increased production capacity reductions (job losses) and slow down the recovery of the sector post Covid-19.

DISCUSSION:

In response to the Covid-19 pandemic, Timber Pricing Branch (TPB) received direction from the Minister to defer the issuance of all bills, invoices or other financial statements with respect to agreements held under the *Forest Act* or the *Forest Practices Code of British Columbia Act* to April 20, 2020.

The direction explicitly includes deferring invoices for stumpage, waste, annual rent and other rents payable. Areas and Districts have been advised to continue regular billing procedures and TPB will take responsibility to defer invoicing at head quarters.

The Premier’s office is currently reviewing options regarding stumpage payment deferrals to increase forest industry liquidity during Covid-19 pandemic.

TPB requires further direction regarding forest invoices if a final decision on stumpage deferrals is not made prior to April 20, 2020.



OPTIONS:

OPTION 1: Extend the forest invoice deferral period to May 1, 2020

Implications:

- The extension provides more time for the Premier's Office to make a final decision regarding stumpage payment deferrals
- The extension provides more time for FLNR and Finance to prepare and align strategies
- March 2020 invoices will continue to be deferred

s.13

RECOMMENDATION:

Option 1: Extend the forest invoice deferral period to May 1, 2020

☒ Approved / Not Approved

Signature

April 20, 2020

Date

Honourable Doug Donaldson, Minister,
Forests, Lands, Natural Resource
Operations and Rural Development

Attachment: Memo of Direction TPB

PREPARED BY:

Ryan Midgley
Manager Forecast, Reporting and
Planning
Timber Pricing Branch
(778) 974-4026

REVIEWED BY:

	Initials	Date
DM		
Associate DM		
DMO		
ADM		
Program Dir/Mgr.	RM	2020-04-07

BRIEFING NOTE FOR DECISION

DATE: April 15, 2020

PREPARED FOR: Doug Donaldson, Minister of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development

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- Due to the rapid fall in lumber prices, this sawlog inventory will need to be written down financially which will lead to a loss for the companies in the first quarter of 2020.
- Interior companies were just recovering from a challenging year financially in 2019 (caused by low lumber prices and scarcity driven high log prices).
- 2019 was a challenging year on the BC coast with Western Forest Products, controlling half of the coastal replaceable forest tenure and sawmill capacity, being on strike; the global export log prices fall which resulted from oversupply caused by a spruce beetle outbreak in Europe; and Mosaic shutting down harvest due to inability to export logs.
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☒ Approved / Not Approved

Signature

April 20, 2020

Date

Honourable Doug Donaldson, Minister,
Forests, Lands, Natural Resource
Operations and Rural Development

Attachment: Memo of Direction TPB

PREPARED BY:

Ryan Midgley
Manager Forecast, Reporting and
Planning
Timber Pricing Branch
(778) 974-4026

REVIEWED BY:

	Initials	Date
DM		
Associate DM		
DMO		
ADM		
Program Dir/Mgr.	RM	2020-04-07

File: 280-20

Ref: 255191

April 3, 2020

To: Allan Bennett
Director, Timber Pricing Branch
Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development

From: The Honourable Doug Donaldson
Minister of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development

Re: **COVID 19 Response - Issuance of Bills or Invoices under the Forest Act – For the Period ending April 20, 2020**

BACKGROUND:

- A. A State of Emergency under the *Emergency Program Act* was declared in the Province on March 18, 2020 because of the COVID-19 pandemic.
- B. The State of Emergency and the pandemic are expected to affect the ability of members of the forest industry to meet financial obligations under agreements held under the *Forest Act* in the short term.
- C. Under the *Ministry of Forests and Range Act*, a function and purpose of the Ministry is to encourage a vigorous, efficient and world competitive timber processing industry and ranching sector.

DIRECTION:

As the Minister responsible for the *Ministry of Forests and Range Act*, I am directing the Director of Timber Pricing Branch to defer the issuance of bills, invoices or other financial statements with respect to agreements held under the *Forest Act* or the *Forest Practices Code of British Columbia Act* for the period commencing today and ending on the start of business, Monday, April 20, 2020, including bills, invoices or financial statements for the following:

- i. Stumpage payable under a *Forest Act* agreement,
- ii. Waste payable under a *Forest Act* agreement,
- iii. Rent payable in relation to a *Forest Act* agreement, or
- iv. Rent payable in relation to a Special Use Permit under the Provincial Forest Use Regulation under the *Forest Practices Code of British Columbia Act*.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Doug Donaldson', with a horizontal line drawn underneath the name.

Doug Donaldson
Minister
Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development

April 20, 2020

To: Allan Bennett
Director, Timber Pricing Branch
Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development

From: The Honourable Doug Donaldson
Minister of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development

Re: **COVID 19 Response - Issuance of Bills or Invoices under the Forest Act –For the Period ending May 1, 2020 (extension)**

BACKGROUND:

- A. A State of Emergency under the *Emergency Program Act* was declared in the Province on March 18, 2020 because of the COVID-19 pandemic.
- B. The State of Emergency and the pandemic are expected to affect the ability of members of the forest industry to meet financial obligations under agreements held under the *Forest Act* in the short term.
- C. Under the *Ministry of Forests and Range Act*, a function and purpose of the Ministry is to encourage a vigorous, efficient and world competitive timber processing industry and ranching sector.

DIRECTION:

As the Minister responsible for the *Ministry of Forests and Range Act*, I am directing the Director of Timber Pricing Branch to continue to defer of the issuance of bills, invoices or other financial statements with respect to agreements held under the *Forest Act* or the *Forest Practices Code of British Columbia Act* for the period commencing today and ending on the start of business, Friday, May 1, 2020, including bills, invoices or financial statements for the following:

- i. Stumpage payable under a *Forest Act* agreement,
- ii. Waste payable under a *Forest Act* agreement,
- iii. Rent payable in relation to a *Forest Act* agreement, or
- iv. Rent payable in relation to a Special Use Permit under the Provincial Forest Use Regulation under the *Forest Practices Code of British Columbia Act*.

COVID 19 Response - Issuance of Bills or Invoices under the Forest Act – For the Period
ending May 1, 2020

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Doug Donaldson', written over a horizontal line.

Doug Donaldson

Minister

Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development

Bennett, Allan FLNR:EX

From: Berg, Shane FLNR:EX
Sent: April 27, 2020 8:13 AM
To: Allan, John FLNR:EX; Nicholls, Diane R FLNR:EX; Luchkow, Ray FLNR:EX; Bennett, Allan FLNR:EX
Subject: Fwd: Tree planting COVID 19 support

This physician works as a consultant, providing health and safety advice for a number of industries. His estimate of what it might cost to protect planters in light of the COVID-19 pandemic is definitely more reasonable...FYI

~~~~~  
Shane Berg, RPF  
Deputy Chief Forester and Executive Director  
Office of the Chief Forester  
Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development  
cell/text 250-851-6333

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Allan Holmes <aholmes@iridiamedical.com>  
Date: Apr 27, 2020 7:37 AM  
Subject: Tree planting COVID 19 support  
To: "Corneil, Trevor HLTH:EX" <Trevor.Corneil@gov.bc.ca>  
Cc: "Berg, Shane FLNR:EX" <Shane.Berg@gov.bc.ca>, "XT:Fumerton, Raina HLTH:IN" <Raina.Fumerton@northernhealth.ca>, Vern Biccum <vbiccum@iridiamedical.com>

Hi Trevor,

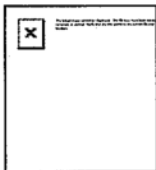
I have participated in a number of teleconferences with industry leaders over the past 2 days and have learned a lot about the complexities of how government, licences and contractors are trying to sort out how to safely start the planting season. As we have discussed and similar to many other industries there are direct costs associated with trying to do business in light of COVID 19. The current roadblock to move the season forward is not about what health measures need to be in place but who is going to pay.

Prior to the PHO order the industry has had a proposal outlining their estimate of costs which has been submitted. Now that the PHO order is in place we have been able to map out a list of additional direct health measures that are needed. I have attached a draft outline of services necessary to meet the specifics of the order along with the costing model. This estimated cost is \$3.00 per planter per day. Whether or not my group delivers these services is secondary to the fact there is consensus that an enhanced support system is required. I would be interested in any approach you may have to support how we may be able to fund the services. I am aware that there are discussions regarding a large budget deploying security guards to monitor tree planters and would certainly be interested in discussing how the listed services would provide a more education based vs. enforcement approach vs. approach to achieve a much broader goal.

I would be happy to set up a time to discuss further.

Regards,

Allan Holmes



Allan Holmes, MD, FRCP | Founder

**IRIDIA MEDICAL**

1644 West 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue, Vancouver, BC V6J 1K2

p: 604-685-4747 ext. 210

C: s.22

[www.irdiamedical.com](http://www.irdiamedical.com)