

MEDIA ADVISORY

For Immediate Release

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

Sept. 16, 2019

MEDIA ADVISORY – Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development – Prince George; teleconference

PRINCE GEORGE – Media are invited to join Doug Donaldson, Minister of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development; Harry Bains, Minister of Labour; and Parliamentary Secretary Ravi Kahlon for an announcement about helping B.C.'s Interior forestry workers affected by mill closures.

Event Date: Tuesday, Sept. 17, 2019

Time: 10 a.m. (Pacific Time)

Location:

CN Railyards

1637 River Rd.

Prince George

Media unable to attend are invited to dial in and listen to the announcement.

Dial-in information (listen only):

s.15; s.17

Contact:

Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource
Operations and Rural Development
Media Relations
250 356-7506

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NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release
[release number]
Sept. 17, 2019

Office of the Premier
Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations
and Rural Development

Government outlines new forest worker support programs

VICTORIA –The provincial government has announced \$69 million to fund a new series of measures aimed at supporting British Columbia forest workers impacted by mill closures and shift reductions in several B.C. Interior communities. The Interior forest industry has been reducing production in an effort to adjust to the end of the mountain pine beetle harvest and the devastating 2017 and 2018 fire seasons.

“The previous government knew that the end of mountain pine beetle harvest would disrupt the lives of forest workers, contractors and communities, but they did little to prepare for this inevitable transition,” said Premier John Horgan. “While the forest sector must reduce surplus milling capacity to remain competitive, it cannot do so at the expense of the workers who built the industry. Our government will ensure that forests workers impacted by mill closures are supported.”

Horgan and Doug Donaldson, Minister of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development met with the chief executive officers of the major Interior forest companies to set out measures to support forest workers in the months and years ahead. Those measures include:

- \$40 million to establish a new cost-shared, early-retirement bridging program for older forest workers;
- \$15 million to establish a new short-term forest employment program, focused on fire prevention and community resiliency projects;
- \$12 million for workers to access skills training, and for employer and community grants for training;
- \$2 million to establish a new job placement co-ordination office that will track the transition and employment of impacted forest workers on an individual basis; and
- Community support grants aimed at providing short-term assistance to communities more profoundly impacted by the closure of a major forest employer.

“The Province is committed to supporting the people impacted by this change, but we need the forest industry and the federal government to step up and do their part as well,” said Donaldson. “I’m hopeful that the Interior forest sector recognizes that the new industry that will arise from this transition will need skilled, experienced workers to produce new forest products that can compete in global markets.”

Donaldson called on the forest industry to increase supports for impacted workers, ensure key corporate leaders are working on the industry transition and ensure that it does a better job of communicating effectively with impacted workers and communities.

"The forest industry and its workers have built the success of the industry and bolstered BC's economy for decades," said Harry Bains, Minister of Labour. "I am pleased that my ministry can help deliver solutions that provide direct and tangible support to workers impacted by current challenges in the forest industry and that will help sustain family-supporting jobs in communities that are home to the industry and its workers."

Quotes:

Ravi Kahlon, Parliamentary Secretary for Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development –

"Over the summer, I met with workers, industry and elected officials in many of the Interior communities impacted by permanent and indefinite mill closures. The \$69 million our government is providing to support impacted workers and families and enable resilient forest communities is a direct result of my discussions with the people who live and work in these Interior communities."

Ray Ferris, CEO, West Fraser –

"We appreciate the Province recognizing these supportive measures needed for impacted workers as industry adapts to declining timber supply. This funding for workers' support aligns with our efforts at West Fraser to ensure continuing employment and opportunity for our hard-working employees and their families as industry works together with government on longer-term solutions to our current challenges."

Melanie Mark, Minister of Advanced Education, Skills and Training –

"We're ensuring that impacted forestry workers and their communities have access to retraining and supports they need to assist them with this transition. We're providing funding for skills training programs and employer and community grants that will give people the new skills they need to prepare for sustainable employment and good family-supporting jobs."

Gary Fiege, President, Public and Private Workers of Canada –

"The Public and Private Workers of Canada stands with the provincial government, today. In doing so, we recognize the value of what is being offered to the people of rural British Columbia. It was through communication, co-operation and compassion with, and for, the affected forestry workers and the communities they call home that relief will be forthcoming. We will continue to work to save jobs but have to be realistic with the situation at hand and help people transition in a changed landscape. This funding announced today is just a start in the effort needed to accomplish this transition."

Gavin McGarrigle, Western Regional Director, Unifor –

"Taking this step to support workers and their families is the right thing for the B.C. government to do. Forestry workers are facing enormous challenges across the Interior right now and we

know that with the right supports for these workers and with the right investments by corporations, the forestry sector can rise to meet these challenges and be a vital part of our sustainable future."

Contact:

Jen Holmwood
Deputy Communications Director
Office of the Premier
250 818-4881

Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural
Resource Operations and Rural
Development
Media Relations
250 356-7506

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SPEAKING NOTES

Doug Donaldson

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

Interior Forest Workers Transition Funding

**CN Intermodal Terminal
Prince George, BC**

Tuesday, Sept. 17, 2019

10 a.m.

(Check Against Delivery)

FINAL

ADVICE FOR SPEAKER:

Summary: Minister Donaldson will provide an overview of a new series of measures aimed at supporting BC forest workers impacted by mill closures and shift reductions in several BC Interior communities.

Audience and Anticipated Size:

Speaking Time: Approx. 5-10 minutes

Contact Person:

Glen Plummer – A/Communications Manager, FLNRORD – C: **250 213-5667**

Agenda:

Times are approximate:

Time	
8:00 a.m.	GCPE events arrives onsite for event set up with Colin Wood, Northern Mat and Bridge representative
9:40 a.m. Pre-brief	Pre-brief with stage guests, led by Elena Banfield GCPE Events Location: TBD <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minister FLNR Doug Donaldson • Minister LBR Harry Bains • Parliamentary Secretary Ravi Kahlon • P.G. Mayor Lyn Hall • USW rep (TBD)
10:00 a.m.	Event begins. MC P.G. Mayor Lyn Hall welcomes everyone, introduces Minister Doug Donaldson
10:05 a.m.	Minister Donaldson makes remarks, announces \$69 million in funding
10:15 a.m.	MC thanks Minister Donaldson and introduces Minister Bains
10:17 a.m.	Minister Bains makes remarks
10:27 a.m.	MC thanks Minister Bains – thanks attendees
10:28 a.m.	Glen Plummer GCPE informs attendees of media availability
10:30 a.m.	Media availability
10:45 a.m.	Event concludes

- Good morning, everybody, and thank you Mayor Hall.
- Respectfully, I want to acknowledge that we are on the traditional territory of the Lheidli T'enneh (clayt-clay den-ay) First Nations.
- All of you here today are unfortunately all too aware of the challenges facing our Interior forestry sector.
- Those industry challenges have resulted in job losses for many workers in communities throughout the Interior.
- Our government has consistently said we are committed to supporting you and other Interior forestry workers dealing with job losses.
- Today, I'm here to let you know what that support looks like.
- We recognize the urgency of the situation, so our government is making more than \$69 million available to implement a new approach to worker, contractor and community transition.
- To do this, we are realigning our worker and community support programs and establishing capacity to ensure that workers like you have access to the services you need, from training to work placement to early retirement.
- Our new approach includes (1) job placement coordination, (2) cost shared support for incremental early retirement opportunities, (3) short-term work opportunity creation, (4) enhanced worker training and mental health support and (5) transition funding for communities to provide services to workers.
- This is for Interior forestry sector only, not the coastal sector.
- We are aware of the situation on the coast and are watching it closely, but for the time being these supports are for Interior mill workers only.

Job Placement Coordination:

- We have allocated \$2 million for a B.C. Interior Forest Industry Placement Coordination Office, which will:
- Provide fair and equitable treatment of workers impacted by permanent and indefinite closures, with a focus on individual worker needs and circumstances.
- Facilitate placement opportunities within and outside the forest sector.
- Ensure that workers are receiving needed support services – ranging from employee and family assistance programs delivered by your companies, tuition support for training programs, job search assistance and support for resume-writing services where needed.
- We are also calling on the federal government to add to the available funding, to make it accessible to more workers.

Early Retirement Bridging

- We have allocated \$40 million over two years toward a B.C. Interior Forest Industry Adjustment Program.
- Based on the early retirement coverage your employers are offering, our government will establish an early retirement bridging opportunity program for age-eligible workers impacted by a permanent or indefinite mill closure or for age-eligible workers whose position could be filled by an impacted worker from another facility.

Short-Term Work Opportunity Creation

- We are providing \$15 million to establish a new short-term forest employment program, focused on fire prevention and community resiliency projects.
- My ministry is prioritizing forest enhancement and wildfire prevention initiatives that can offer interim employment for impacted workers and contractors.

Enhanced Worker Training and Mental Health Support

- A further \$12 million will be used to fund new worker training, and enhanced community mental health support programs.

Support for Communities

- We are also providing municipalities with funding to assist workers, families and businesses impacted by change.
- Municipalities impacted by a permanent closure will be eligible to receive immediate funds of \$100,000 and municipalities responding to a publicly-announced indefinite closure will be eligible to receive funds of \$75,000, where more than 1/3 of the workforce remains in need of permanent or temporary employment.
- Municipalities responding to a shift reduction will have access to a pool of funding to provide defined services for workers and families, based on identified need.
- Additional funding will be available, including through the \$10 million Labour Market Partnerships Fund which helps municipalities transition to new economic opportunities and the Cooperative Marketing Funding Program for communities looking to further develop the tourism industry.

WHAT WE'RE ASKING INDUSTRY TO DO

- We are asking industry to stand with us and step up to support the worker programming I've outlined here. We want industry to be partners in this.
- Company approaches to closures and curtailments have varied, and we need to work together to create a uniform, fair and organized response those impacted by closures.
- I'm standing here today and asking all Interior forest companies to step up and throw your support behind these initiatives.

- Our government is committed to supporting the people impacted by this change, but we need to forest industry and the federal government to step-up and do their part as well.
- Thank you.

Header: Supports for forestry workers

This site will be updated with resources to support interior forestry workers and communities impacted by mill closures.

Supports are currently being put into place and will include:

- A new job placement coordination office that will help match up workers with new opportunities;
- establishing a new, short-term forest employment program focused on fire prevention and community resiliency projects;
- an early-retirement bridging program to help people transition to retirement;
- new training and better community mental health support programs;
- Community transition and response teams to address the unique needs in each impacted community;
- and grants to help impacted communities stay afloat where forestry is the main source of employment.

Changes are also being made to help the forestry industry adapt to changing circumstances. From moving ahead with taller wood building construction to doing more to motivate local companies, municipalities and First Nations to use B.C. engineered wood products for their projects.

SPEAKING NOTES FOR

MINISTER HARRY BAINS

MINISTER OF LABOUR

**NEW FOREST WORKER
SUPPORT PROGRAM**

CN Rail Intermodal Terminal
1637 River Road, Prince George

September 17, 2019
10:00 a.m.

Speaking length – 3 minutes

CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

EVENT DETAILS & LOGISTICS

Event: New Forest Worker Support Program

When: Sept 17, 2019 at 10 a.m.

- Minister requested to arrive by 9:40 a.m. for pre-brief
- Minister Donaldson to speak on the details of the new program and investment, as well as an overview of new measures aimed at supporting forestry workers impacted by mill closures in B.C.'s Interior
- Minister Bains to follow and speak 2-3 minutes re-emphasize the value and commitment to the forest sector why this matters for workers and communities around the province.

Where: CN Rail Intermodal Terminal, 1637 River Road, Prince George

Contact: Onsite person: Elena Banfield (GCPE Events)
C | 604-842-0984

Key Participants:

- Minister Donaldson- speaking
- Minister Bains-speaking
- Parliamentary Secretary Kahlon - speaking
- Prince George Mayor Lyn Hall – speaking (MC)
- Mackenzie Mayor Joan Atkinson – speaking (TBD)
- West Fraser CEO Ray Ferris – speaking (TBD)

Post Event Validators:

Jeff Bromley	United Steel Workers (USW)	Cell 250 426-9870 / Jbromley@usw.ca
Brian O'Rourke	United Steel Workers (USW) P.G. Local President	s.22
Gary Fiege	Public and Private Workers of Canada (PPWC)	Cell 250 715-8320 / Gfiege@ppwc.ca
Lynn Lindeman	Public and Private Workers of Canada (PPWC)	Cell 250 246-7022 / s.22
Jon Hawkins	Unifor	s.22 / Jon.hawkins@unifor.org

EVENT DETAILS:

Media Attending: Yes

Audience: local government reps, industry reps, labour reps, ministry staff.

Event Context: Government is providing \$69 million to support mill workers and contractors impacted by permanent and indefinite mill closures in the B.C. interior. The funds are aimed at addressing short-term challenges faced by impacted workers and the supports include:

- \$2M for a new job placement coordination office that will track the transition of and assist the re-employment of impacted forest workers on an individual basis;
- \$40M for a cost-shared early-retirement bridging program for older forest workers;
- \$15M for a short-term forest employment program focussed on fire prevention and community resiliency projects;
- \$10M for worker training and community mental health support programs; and
- Community support grants aimed at providing short term assistance to communities more profoundly impacted by the closure of a major forest employer.

Mill Closure/Curtailment Summary

- Currently, there are 24 mills that have adjusted their output through indefinite or temporary curtailments and shift reductions.
- There have been four permanent mill closures.
- More than 6,000 workers are being affected across 23 communities.

Mill closures and curtailments are primarily the result of impacts to timber supply as a result of the Mountain Pine Beetle (MPB) and related fire losses. The MPB outbreak in B.C. began in the early 2000's with impacts peaking in 2005. By 2012, MPB had killed 53% of merchantable pine forests in the B.C. Interior.

British Columbia's forest industry is facing difficult times. In the Interior, the end of the pine beetle cut, lower prices for lumber, and back-to-back catastrophic wildfire seasons have led to a number of sawmill closures. This has created hardship for workers and uncertainty for the communities that depend on forestry for their livelihoods.

For more than a decade, industry experts predicted the mountain pine beetle epidemic would result in multiple mill closures. Despite this, the previous government failed to take the necessary action to help workers, industry and communities adapt. This failure to act has compounded the difficulties forest workers and communities are facing today.

Logistics notes: Theatre style set up with a riser, podium. Minister to be seated in the front row.

Clothing: Business casual.

ITINERARY: TBC

8:00 a.m.	GCPE events arrives onsite for event set up with CN Rail representative
9:40 a.m. Pre-brief	<p>Pre-brief with stage guests, led by Elena Banfield GCPE Events Location: TBD</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Minister FLNR Doug Donaldson• Minister LBR Harry Bains• Parliamentary Secretary Ravi Kahlon• P.G. Mayor Lyn Hall (MC)• Mackenzie Mayor Joan Atkinson (TBD)• West Fraser CEO Ray Ferris (TBD)• Union reps (TBD)
10:00 a.m.	Event begins. MC P.G. Mayor Lyn Hall welcomes everyone, introduces Minister Doug Donaldson
10:05 a.m.	Minister Donaldson makes remarks, announces \$69 million in funding
10:15 a.m.	MC thanks Minister Donaldson and introduces Minister Bains
10:17 a.m.	Minister Bains makes remarks
10:22 a.m.	MC thanks Minister Bains and introduces P.S. Kahlon
10:24 a.m.	P.S. Kahlon makes remarks
10:29 a.m.	MC thanks P.S. Kahlon, introduces Mackenzie Mayor Joan Atkinson (TBD)
10:31 a.m.	Mackenzie Mayor Joan Atkinson speaks (TBD)
10:36 a.m.	MC thanks Mayor Atkinson, introduces West Fraser CEO Ray Ferris (TBD)
10:38 a.m.	West Fraser CEO Ray Ferris speaks (TBD)
10:43 a.m.	Media availability
11:00 a.m.	Event concludes

PARTICIPANT INTEL:

P.G. Mayor Lyn Hall (TBD)



Mayor Lyn Hall has been an active member of the Prince George community for over 30 years. He and his wife Lorrelle are the parents of twin daughters, both of whom graduated from UNBC.

Hall began his political career as a School Trustee on the Prince George School Board. He spent 10 years on the board holding various positions including vice-chair and chair. In 2011, he ran and won a seat on Prince George City Council. In 2014 and 2018, he ran successful campaigns for Mayor of Prince George.



Mackenzie Mayor Joan Atkinson (TBD)

Joan moved to Mackenzie with her husband Jim and two sons in 1997; both sons and her husband work in the local forest industry. She professes to recognize the importance of maintaining a strong forest economy, said publicly that she is concerned with the current provincial forest model that puts her community's forest future at risk due to fibre supply and says her community is in crisis after three wood products operations closed in Mackenzie.

Joan, once recognized as Volunteer of the Year in her community, was acclaimed as mayor in 2018, but has been a member of council since 2007.



West Fraser CEO Ray Ferris (TBD)

Ray is a professional engineer and holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Engineering from the University of New Brunswick. He assumed the role of Pres/CEO of West Fraser as of July 1, 2019. Ray joined the company in 1997 and has served in several executive positions since on both the Alberta and B.C. operations.

West Fraser has more than 50 locations throughout B.C. and Alberta in Canada, and in Texas, Arkansas, Louisiana, Tennessee, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Alabama and Florida in the United States. B.C.'s operations currently account for 34 per cent of the company's total lumber capacity – 7.2 billion board feet – with Alberta supplying 23 per cent and the USA 43 per cent.

SPEAKING NOTES

- **Thank you Mayor Hall.**
- **I want to begin by saying that behind every productive business and viable industry, in fact, driving their success and sustainability...**
- **Is a workforce that is also, at the same time, contributing to the social fabric of their communities...**
 - **Workers who coach hockey and lead girl guides or boy scouts;**
 - **Or that serve on school committees and volunteer in local service clubs like the Rotary.**
- **And let's not forget, it's workers that built B.C.'s forestry sector...**
- **That built an industry that has fueled our economy for decades.**
- **And now it's these same forestry workers who are suffering in the wake of historic job losses, particularly in B.C.'s Interior.**
- **Our communities, B.C. businesses and their workers are strong and resilient, innovative and industrious...**
- **But even still, they need a helping-hand sometimes.**
 - **And that's what today's announcement is about...**
 - **It's about working with industry to provide a helping-hand.**
- **Because when an industry like forestry takes a downturn, family supporting jobs and wages become threatened.**
- **And in turn, communities like Prince George, Mackenzie and so many others with deep roots in forestry, also suffer.**
 - **Young workers need family supporting wages to make ends meet or they leave to find work elsewhere.**

- **Today's announcement helps prevent the hollowing-out of rural communities hardest hit by the curtailments and closings.**
 - **It supports impacted workers, their families and the communities that are their home.**
 - **It helps provide incentives for early retirement so that we can retain workers with a long career still ahead of them.**
 - **And it provides training, job placement assistance and mental health supports for those reeling from job losses.**
- **Because our government believes that our purpose is to make life better and easier for people in the province.**
- **And because it's not lost on us that forestry is an important economic driver in B.C. and our industry is in crisis.**
 - **That log costs and market conditions...**
 - **Trade sanctions and timber supply issues caused by things like wildfires and beetle infestations...**
 - **Has led to market uncertainty and instability...**
 - **As well as operational slow-downs and shut-downs...**
 - **And they are having real, tangible and personal impacts.**
- **It matters.**
 - **It matters to those working or benefiting from the forestry sector – and let's be clear – that's all of us in B.C.**
 - **This is not just a rural problem, it's merely where the impacts are most often, or most profoundly seen.**
 - **So, let me also be clear: it matters to your government and we're all working together to find solutions.**

- **Stealing from a June headline in the Vancouver Sun, we all recognize that there is no quick fix to our forestry situation.**
 - **It was created over time and without an eye towards the future or how to mitigate the impacts to come.**
 - **Today we are investing for both today and tomorrow.**
- **And I am glad to have our ministry help deliver solutions and provide direct support to help sustain family-supporting jobs.**
- **I'm glad mayors like Lyn and Joan are here (TBC), because they see the direct impacts on friends and neighbours in their communities.**
- **And perhaps nowhere is it more greatly felt or recognized than in Joan's own family, since her husband and sons work in forestry.**
- **Let me add that I'm happy to be part of something that even the B.C. Council of Forest Industries president said is needed:**
 - **A systematic, collaborative approach to the industry's transition by industry, government, First Nations, communities and workers combined.**
- **And since Ray is here today (TBC), I'd like to say that I'm grateful too for the support of industry leaders like West Fraser.**
 - **He once said that their past and future success is built on the strengths of their people and that together, they're driven to deliver a better today than yesterday as a company.**
- **Lastly, I'd like to offer thanks to my cabinet colleague for allowing me to aid in his forest worker support plan; it is important work.**
- **I know Minister Donaldson shares my concern for the health and prosperity of the industry and its workers...**
- **Because like me, he has first-hand working experience in forestry.**

- **And maybe it's because of my forestry roots or that I began my career in sawmills, that I feel so proud of today's announcement...**
 - **But today we outlined how we'll help workers continue to participate and be proud of their forestry jobs;**
 - **And when they can't work, providing additional supports to help them get back on their feet and back to work;**
 - **So that like me, while working in a mill, they too can build a good and stable life, family and future in this province.**
- **Be assured that while standing up here, we're also standing along side our forest industry partners and shoulder-to-shoulder with the people working in forest industries who are worried or have been impacted by mill closures or curtailments.**
- **We understand how important these jobs are to you...**
- **To your families, your communities and to the province.**
- **They're important to us too.**
- **Thank you.**

-30-

Event Title: Government announces \$69 million New Forest Worker Support Programs

(Min/MLA): Minister Doug Donaldson, Minister Harry Bains, Parliamentary Secretary Ravi Kahlon

Date: September 17, 2019 10:00am	Media Market: Province-wide
Location: Northern Mat and Bridge Lot 1637 River Road Prince George, B.C.	English Media Spokesperson: Minister Donaldson
	Multicultural Media Spokesperson: Minister Bains, P.S. Kahlon

THE EVENT

EVENT

- Government will be announcing \$69 million dollars to fund a new series of measures aimed at supporting BC forest workers impacted by mill closures and shift reductions in several BC Interior communities.

WHO'S ORGANIZING?

- GCPE Events

STRATEGIC CONSIDERATIONS / RECOMMENDATIONS and THEME:

- Government is providing \$69 million to support mill workers and contractors impacted by permanent and indefinite mill closures in the B.C. interior. The funds are aimed at addressing short-term challenges faced by impacted workers/contractors. Support for impacted workers will include:
 - \$2 million to establish a new job placement coordination office that will track the transition of and assist the re-employment of impacted forest workers on an individual basis;
 - \$40 million to establish a new cost-shared early-retirement bridging program for older forest workers;
 - \$15 million to establish a new short-term forest employment program, focused on fire prevention and community resiliency projects;
 - \$12 million to fund worker training and provide and enhanced community mental health support programs.
 - Community support grants aimed at providing short term assistance to communities more profoundly impacted by the closure of a major forest employer.

VENUE DESCRIPTION

- CN Rail Intermodal Terminal, Prince George TBD

KEY STAKEHOLDERS / PARTICIPANTS

- Minister Donaldson- speaking
- Minister Bains-speaking
- Parliamentary Secretary Kahlon - speaking
- Prince George Mayor Lyn Hall – speaking (MC)
- Union reps (TBD)

LIST OF VALIDATORS FOR POST-EVENT ROLLOUT

Name	Organization	Contact
Jeff Bromley	United Steel Workers (USW)	Cell 250 426-9870 Jbromley@usw.ca
Brian O'Rourke	United Steel Workers (USW) P.G. Local President	s.22

Gary Fiege	Public and Private Workers of Canada (PPWC)	Office 604 731-1909 Cell 250 715-8320 Gfiege@ppwc.ca
Lynn Lindeman	Public and Private Workers of Canada (PPWC)	Cell 250 246-7022 s.22
Jon Hawkins	Unifor	s.22 Jon.hawkins@unifor.org

MEDIA INVITED?

- Yes

AUDIENCE SIZE AND DESCRIPTION / TARGET AUDIENCES

- Invited guests include local government reps, industry reps, labour reps, ministry staff.
- Media

Contacts:

David Haslam (FLNR GCPE Director)	Office: 250 952-0509 Cell: 250 361-7989
Julianne McCaffrey (LBR GCPE Director)	Office: 778 698-8964 Cell: 250 888-8074
Glen Plummer (FLNR GCPE Manager)	Office: 250 952-0559 Cell: 250 213-5667
Tim Renneberg (Ministerial Assistant - MDD)	Office: 778 974-5997 Cell: 250 480-8269
Tristan Jones (Executive Assistant – MDD and PSK)	Cell: 778 584-4285
Dawn Makarowski FLNR Communications – Media	Office: 778 698-8395 Cell: 778 584-4823
Elena Banfield (GCPE Events)	Cell: 604 842-0984
Harrison Wicks, Plant Manager, Lakeland Mills (Onsite contact)	Cell: 250 617-5341
Shawn Rice FLNR Resource Manager 2000 South Ospika	Cell: 250 617-7456

Draft Itinerary:

Time	
8:00 a.m.	GCPE events arrives onsite for event set up with Colin Wood, Northern Mat and Bridge representative
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10:27 a.m.	MC thanks Minister Bains – thanks attendees
10:28 a.m.	Glen Plummer GCPE informs attendees of media availability
10:30 a.m.	Media availability
10:45 a.m.	Event concludes

Interior Forest Workers Transition Funding

Media Plan

Date: 17 Sept 2019

Time: 10 a.m. – 11 a.m.

Location: CN Intermodal Terminal, Prince George

Media Outreach:

Media outreach will focus primarily on regional outlets in communities affected by mill closures, curtailments and shift reductions. However, provincial outreach will also be made to the press gallery via the radio room, select outlets (CKNW) and radio talk shows (CBC, CHNL). We will be looking to proactively book MDD on various B.C. talk shows post-event from noon of Sept. 17 until noon of Sept. 18 (to be extended to print as well). PSRK will be doing Mackenzie media as he is in the community Sept. 17

Media will be invited to attend the event and call-arounds will be done to drum up the maximum amount of media attendance followed by targeted media outreach.

Announcement Summary:

The provincial government is announcing \$69 million to fund a series of measures that will support British Columbia forest workers impacted by mill closures and shift reductions in B.C. communities. The funds are aimed at addressing short-term challenges faced by impacted workers/contractors and include:

- \$40 million to establish a new cost-shared early-retirement bridging program for older forest workers;
- \$15 million to establish a new short-term forest employment program, focused on fire prevention and community resiliency projects;
- \$12 million to fund new worker training, and enhanced community mental health support programs; and
- \$2 million to establish a new job placement co-ordination office that will track the transition and employment of impacted forest workers on an individual basis.

The announcement is being made by Ministers Donaldson and Bains, with support from Parliamentary Secretary for Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development Ravi Kahlon at CN Rail's Intermodal Terminal in Prince George.

The event is to be videoed and photographed for use in social media from @BCGovNews, @DonaldsonDoug, @HarryBainsSN and @KahlonRav. Media interviews will be set up, and a provincial news release distributed.

Rollout:

Date/ Time	Task
One day prior	Media advisory and outreach to targeted media
10 a.m.-11 a.m.	On-site event with photo-op and media availability for interviews with MDD/MHB/union reps/industry rep Event includes a listen-only provincial media dial-in

Post announcement	Schedule call-in interviews with targeted talk radio and other media. Minister Donaldson to provide interviews from Sept. 17 @ noon – Sept. 18 @ noon PSRK to provide interviews with Mackenzie media
Sept. 18-21	PSRK visits impacted communities (Clearwater, 100 Mile House, Quesnel, Fort St. John, Prince George), re-announces the funding in each community and provides interviews with interested local media (call arounds prior to his visit in each community as listed below)

Media List:

Television

- **CKPG TV** – Cheryl Jahn (Reporter); s.22 / newsroom 250 563-0111

Radio

- **CBC North** – Nicole Oud (Reporter); 250 562-6701 s.22 s.22
- **Vista Radio** – Brendon Pawliw (Reporter); 250 564-2524 s.22
- **CFIS 93.1 FM** – Allan Wishart (Reporter); s.22

Print/Online

- **Prince George Citizen** – Mark Nielsen (Reporter) 250 562-2441 s.22 s.22
- **Caledonia Courier (Black Press – Fort St. James)** – Aman Parhar (Editor) 250 567-9258, s.22 s.22

To call and line up MDD interviews following the announcement (outside of Prince George)

Press Gallery – Radio Room: 250 387-6084

- **Vancouver Sun** – Rob Shaw (Reporter) 250 893-0841 / Vaughn Palmer (Reporter) 250 920-6677
- **Global TV** – Keith Baldrey (Reporter) 250 387-1572, 250 360-7658 / Richard Zussman (Reporter) s.22
- **Black Press** – Tom Fletcher (Reporter) 250 888-3438
- **Times Colonist** – Les Leyne (Reporter) 250 889-4138 / Lindsay Kines (Reporter) s.22 s.22
- **Globe and Mail** – Justine Hunter (Reporter) 250 220-2718, 250 857-4779
- **Canadian Press** – Dirk Meissner (Reporter) s.22 250 418-5779
- **The Province** – Mike Smyth (Reporter) s.22
- **Liza Yuzda** – News 1130 (Reporter) s.22
- **The Tyee** – Andrew MacLeod (Reporter) 250 885-7662
- **BC Today** – Shannon Waters (Reporter) s.22
- **The Narwhal** – Carol Linnitt (Editor) 250 858-1329
- **CBC Radio-Canada** – Adrien Blanc (Reporter) 604 404-4042
- **CBC** – Tanya Fletcher (Reporter) 250 384-2685
- **CHEK News** – Mary Griffin (Reporter) 250 480-3700, 250 213-8979
- **CTV Vancouver** – Bhinder Sajan (Reporter) 250 383-2480, s.22

Talk Radio:

- **CKNW**
 - The Jon McComb Show (Morning) (Vancouver) – Pippa Reed (Producer); s.22
 - The Lynda Steele Show (Afternoon) (Vancouver) – Sara Hyde (Producer); 604 331-2838, s.22
- **CBC**
 - CBC Daybreak North (Prince George) – Robert Doane (Producer) s.22
 - CBC Daybreak South (Kelowna) – Marion Barschel (Producer) s.22
 - CBC Daybreak Kamloops (Kamloops) – Tom Popyk (Producer/Reporter) 250 861-3781 s.22 s.22
- **CHNL** (Kamloops) – Brett Mineer (Host) 250 374-1610, s.22
- **AM 1150** (Kelowna) – Phil Johnson (Host) s.22

Print/Online:

- **Merritt Herald** – Cole Wagner (editor) 250 378-4241, s.22
- **Kelowna Capital News (Black Press)** – Barry Gerding (Editor) s.22 250 878-7575
- **Kelowna Daily Courier** – Ben Verkerk (Editor) / Ron Seymour (Reporter) s.22
- **Castanet (Kelowna)** – Darren Handschuh (Reporter) 250 826-5829
- **InfoNews (Kelowna)** – Adam Proskiw (Reporter) s.22

Radio:

- **CKMQ Merritt (Q101)** – Michael Reeve (Reporter) s.22
- **GOAT FM (Williams Lake)** – Rebecca Dyok (Host/Reporter) 250 392-6551 s.22

For call-arounds regarding PSRK visits:**Mackenzie:**

- **Caledonia Courier (Black Press – Fort St. James)** – Aman Parhar (Editor) s.22 cells.22 s.22
- **Macktown Buzzette** – Janice Nelson (Reporter) 250 997-5038
- **Mackenzie Times** – Jackie Benton (Editor) 250 997-6675 (weekly print)

Clearwater:

- **Clearwater Times (Black Press)** – Jaime Polmateer (Editor) s.22

100 Mile House:

- **100 Mile House Free Press** – Max Winkelman (Editor) 250 395-2219
- **CKBX Country 840 AM Radio** – Chris Adams (Host/Reporter) 250 395-3848

Quesnel:

- **Quesnel Cariboo Observer (Black Press)** – Lindsay Chung (editor) 250 992-2121 s.22
- **GOAT FM (Quesnel)** – George Henderson (Reporter) 250 992-7046 s.22

Fort St. John:

- **Moose FM** – Chris Newton / Scott Brooks / Tracy Teves (Reporters) 250 787-7100
- **Alaska Highway News (shares content with BiV)** – Matt Preprost (Editor) s.22 , 250 785-5631
- **Sun FM/Bear FM/CJDC TV** – Myron Mayne (Reporter) s.22

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Objective:

To ensure British Columbians, especially those in forest dependent communities, are aware of the \$69 million the provincial government is providing to support mill workers and contractors impacted by mill closures/curtailments.

Overview:

Government is providing \$69 million to support mill workers and contractors impacted by permanent and indefinite mill closures in the B.C. interior. The funds are aimed at addressing short-term challenges faced by impacted workers/contractors. Support for impacted workers will include:

- \$2 million to establish a new job placement coordination office that will track the transition of and assist the re-employment of impacted forest workers on an individual basis;
- \$40 million to establish a new cost-shared early-retirement bridging program for older forest workers;
- \$15 million to establish a new short-term forest employment program, focused on fire prevention and community resiliency projects;
- \$12 million to fund worker training and provide and enhanced community mental health support programs.
- Community support grants aimed at providing short term assistance to communities more profoundly impacted by the closure of a major forest employer.

It is proposed that Minister Donaldson and Minister Bains announce the new programs with Parliamentary Secretary Ravi Kahlon.

Mill Closure/Curtailment Summary

- Currently there are **24 mills** that have adjusted their output through indefinite or temporary curtailments and shift reductions.
- There have been four permanent mill closures.
- More than **4,000 workers** are currently affected across **23 communities**

Mill closures and curtailments are primarily the result of impacts to timber supply as a result of the Mountain Pine Beetle (MPB) and related fire losses. The MPB outbreak in B.C. began in the early 2000's with impacts peaking in 2005. By 2012, MPB had killed 53% of merchantable pine forests in the B.C. Interior.

British Columbia's forest industry is facing difficult times. In the Interior, the end of the pine beetle cut, lower prices for lumber, and back-to-back catastrophic wildfire seasons have led to a number of sawmill closures. This has created hardship for workers and uncertainty for the

communities that depend on forestry for their livelihoods.

For more than a decade, industry experts predicted the mountain pine beetle epidemic would result in multiple mill closures. Despite this, the previous government failed to take the necessary action to help workers, industry and communities adapt. This failure to act has compounded the difficulties forest workers and communities are facing today.

Strategic Approach:

The approach will consist of pro-active/ reactive communications, stakeholder outreach, and issues management supported by earned media

Tactics:

Earned Media

- Minister of Forests, Lands, Natural Resources Operations and Rural Development Doug Donaldson, Minister of Labour Harry Bains and Parliamentary Secretary for Forests, Lands, Natural Resources Operations and Rural Development Ravi Kahlon will announce the funding at a mill (Prince George or Maple Ridge) where workers have been impacted by recent closures/curtailments.
- Parliamentary Secretary for Forests, Lands, Natural Resources Operations and Rural Development Ravi Kahlon will visit multiple locations impacted by the closures/curtailments, meet with workers, local government and First Nations to personally deliver the news.
- Minister Donaldson will reiterate government's funding announcement at a number of confirmed speaking engagements and any future speaking opportunities.
- One week following the funding announcement Minister Donaldson and/or PS Kahlon will announce the launch of the government's one-stop web portal for impacted workers/contractors/communities. The web portal will include details regarding how impacted workers/contractors may access funding.

Communications Tools:

News Release	First draft – Sept. 10
Communications Plan	First draft – Sept. 10

Q&As	TBD – CVK knows what the program is intended to be but open to who develops the Q&A
Speaking Notes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MDD • MHB • PSRK 	These can be adapted from the Premier's speaking notes for September 6 meeting with industry leaders
MLA Package <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • QA • KMs 	
Event Plan/agenda	

Critical Path:

Sept 17, 2019 – Minister of Forests, Lands, Natural Resources Operations and Rural Development Doug Donaldson announces \$69 million to support workers/contractors.

Location:

- Prince George – TBD staff are scoping out sites – possible location CN Intermodal Terminal.

Sept. 17, 2019 – Parliamentary Secretary for Forests, Lands, Natural Resources Operations and Rural Development Ravi Kahlon community announcement - \$69 million to support workers/contractors.

Location:

- Mackenzie Rec Centre

Sept. 18, 2019 – Parliamentary Secretary for Forests, Lands, Natural Resources Operations and Rural Development Ravi Kahlon community announcement - \$69 million to support workers/contractors.

Locations:

- Vanderhoof
- Fort St. James

Sept. 18, 2019 – Minister of Forests, Lands, Natural Resources Operations and Rural Development Doug Donaldson attends Forestry Innovation Centre Grand Opening.

Location:

- Quesnel – Forestry Innovation Centre, City Hall, 410 Kinchant Street.

Sept. 19, 2019 – Parliamentary Secretary for Forests, Lands, Natural Resources Operations and Rural Development Ravi Kahlon community announcement - \$69 million to support workers/contractors.

Locations:

- Fort St. John

Sept. 19, 2019 – Minister of Forests, Lands, Natural Resources Operations and Rural Development Doug Donaldson delivers keynote address at Future of Forestry Think Tank.

Location:

- Quesnel – North Cariboo Community Campus, 100 Campus Way.

Sept. 19, 2019 – Minister of Forests, Lands, Natural Resources Operations and Rural Development Doug Donaldson provides welcoming remarks at the Council of Forest Industries annual community dinner.

Location:

- Prince George – Courtyard Marriott Hotel, 900 Brunswick Street.

Sept. 20, 2019 – Parliamentary Secretary for Forests, Lands, Natural Resources Operations and Rural Development Ravi Kahlon community announcement - \$69 million to support workers/contractors.

Locations:

- 100 Mile House
- Chasm
- Clinton

Sept. 21, 2019 – Parliamentary Secretary for Forests, Lands, Natural Resources Operations and Rural Development Ravi Kahlon community announcement - \$69 million to support workers/contractors.

Location:

- Clearwater

Sept. 21, 2019 – Parliamentary Secretary for Forests, Lands, Natural Resources Operations and Rural Development Ravi Kahlon community announcement - \$69 million to support workers/contractors.

Locations:

- Merritt
- Kelowna

Sept. 23, 2019 – Minister of Forests, Lands, Natural Resources Operations and Rural Development Doug Donaldson speaks at Truck Loggers Association Mayoral Dinner.

Location:

- Vancouver – Terminal City Club

Sept. 23-27, 2019 – annual Union of BC Municipalities convention.

Location:

- Vancouver Convention Centre

Sept. 23, 2019 – MDD launches web portal.

BRIEFINGS

Done	Deputy Ministers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ John Allan ✓ Trevor Hughes ✓ Shannon Baskerville • David Galbraith (tomorrow) • Stephen Brown (tomorrow) • Scott MacDonald (tomorrow) • Kaye Krishna (tomorrow)
	Ministers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ MDD and Ravi Kahlon (done) • ALL OTHERS REMAINING
Done	Industry Briefing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Major companies involved in mill closures or tenure transfers briefed by Premier and Minister Donaldson September 6, 2019 (Canfor, Conifex, Interfor, Tolko, West Fraser)
	Municipal Briefings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • John Allan and / or Larry Pedersen to call Mayors of impacted communities • Kaye Krishna to call UBCM
	COFI Interior Industry Not Involved in Closures / Tenure Transfers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • John Allan and / or Larry Pedersen to arrange a call for COFI and smaller companies
	Unions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • John Allan and Larry Pedersen to brief unions during their weekly call.

FUNDING AND PROGRAM STRUCTURE

IN PLACE	Funding Sources	Program supported through internal reallocations with no impact to fiscal plan.
ESTABLISHED	Program Structure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • FLNRO: provides community transition coordination, job fair coordination, temporary forestry work opportunities coordination, administration of funding for municipal delivery of services to impacted workers. • LABOUR: will deliver early retirement program and oversee the worker placement coordination function. • AEST: oversees designated worker retraining programs in communities and operates WorkBC website in conjunction with other ministries • SDPR: delivers community economic development programs. • HEALTH / EDUC: will scale up of counseling and mental health services in impacted communities through the K-12 and local health care system in impacted communities. • CITZ: connectivity investments • TAC: tourism program investments
This week	Eligibility Criteria and Application Method	Criteria can be quickly re-established from previous industry transition programs, s.13
Next week, subject to decisions on placement coordination office	Delivery Capacity	<p>1. PLACEMENT COORDINATION OFFICE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Placement Coordination Office is intended to have contract leadership, preferably by a retired union executive or industrial relations leader with experience in earlier cycles of forest worker placement is preferred (Frank Everitt s.13 <p>A NEAR TERM</p>

DECISION ON THIS IS NEEDED TO GET CAPACITY IN PLACE

- 4-5 impacted mill employees with strong administrative / organizational skills will be hired on an 18-month assignment to carry out placement coordination, while remaining in mill communities. FOREST COMPANIES ARE IDENTIFYING CANDIDATES TO CHRISTINE BY MID WEEK.

2. RETIREMENT BRIDGING PROGRAM

- Basic response functionality can be in place in Labour by the end of the week, with additional capacity to follow over the following two weeks.^{s.13}

s.13

3. TEMPORARY WORK OPPORTUNITIES

- FLNRO will use their district offices and rural development program staff to coordinate this work.

4. WORK BC WEBSITE IMPROVEMENTS

- New web content is under development for the WorkBC website, including a home-page link to guide impacted workers and contractors to support programs, placement coordination, work opportunities and more.

Key Messages:

s.13

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Program Overview – Forest Worker Support Programming

- \$69 million in funding to support forest workers impacted by closures/curtailments in the interior forest sector will be announced on Tuesday
- This represents funding that has been reallocated or dedicated from other / existing areas – not new funding

Programming will include:

1) \$40 million to establish a new cost-shared, early-retirement bridging program for age-eligible workers

Responsible agency: Ministry of Labour

- This program will be administered by government staff (existing staff that will be redeployed, or possibly auxiliary hires if no staff can be re-deployed).
- The program will provide up to \$75,000 per eligible worker, cost shared with industry. Government funding augments the amount that industry provides based on individual company / worker circumstances, tenure, severance eligibility.
- The program will follow some of the guiding principles and application processes/eligibility criteria as the 2008-2011 Community Development Trust Program – key differences are that funding per worker has been scaled for inflation, early retirement eligibility does not currently extend to contractors, and the program is limited to interior operations.
- To be eligible, workers must be 55 or older, and either an impacted employee from a permanent closure, an indefinite curtailment, or a curtailment of longer than four months duration.
- Workers that are not currently impacted but are 55 or older can also voluntarily transition to retirement if their resignation will create a confirmed spot for a younger, impacted worker.
- It is anticipated that information will be made available to companies and workers both through targeted outreach and web and community-based information before the end of September.
- Target for accepting applications is early October. (working target date October 1st).
- Applications will be accepted on a rolling basis, as it is possible that companies may make further rationalization decisions to scale manufacturing to post-MPB timber supply.
- A direct line and dedicated email inbox will be established for the program to ensure a high level of access to government staff that can provide support.

2) \$2 million to establish a new job placement co-ordination office that will track the transition and employment of impacted workers on an individual basis

Responsible agency: Ministry of Labour

- this office will be overseen by the Ministry of Labour – but will primarily be run through a contract with Frank Everitt, former USW President in Prince George, who has considerable history in earlier cycles of forest industry contraction and expansion and is a recognizable name for impacted workers and forestry communities.
- In addition to Frank Everitt's contract role, the objective is to engage 5 (or more) impacted workers from closed / curtailed mills to provide placement coordination and linkage with government programs and services. Potential candidates will be identified by forest companies and would have the administrative skills needed to manage the coordination and service connection function. These workers could be hired through secondment (government repays the companies), a contractor / subcontractor model, a work exchange model or as term-limited auxiliary employees. Privacy provisions will be in place for all personal information, with workers retaining the right to opt-out of coordination services.
- The coordinators and lead contractor will analyze employee information provided through forest companies, employee needs assessments, company transition offices, unions and direct contact with

impacted workers to help identify outcome preferences, clarify skills and qualifications, identify any information or support needs and assist in matching workers with placements (directly or through WorkBC offices), training services (through AEST), early retirement programming or other services;

- The coordinators will seek out information about job vacancies in the local area, through a series of outreach and information scanning methods and interaction with other transition services including WorkBC offices – and help to match impacted workers accordingly.
- The coordinators will not function as “career counsellors” rather will match opportunities and track worker outcomes, reporting to the lead contractor and to the ministry for tracking purposes.
- The role in linking workers to government programs and services is important, as workers may not be aware of existing government supports or may be reluctant to access services that are provided through what will locally be perceived as a social assistance office.
- The work of this office will augment the existing services and programs provided by government and provide a specialized focus on individual worker outcomes, through people that understand the industry and have been personally impacted by closures themselves.

3) \$15 million to establish a short-term forest employment program, focused on fire prevention and community resiliency projects

Responsible agency: FLNRORD

- The ministry will work with other agencies/ministries to identify projects that can provide work opportunities for impacted contractors.
- Details of the process for contractors to access this work will be established and communicated by end of September.
- Note that ministries have been asked to determine if there is additional funding or project ideas that can be contributed to this effort.

4) \$12 million to fund new worker training, and enhanced community mental health support programs

Responsible agencies: AEST, SDPR, with some coordination support through Labour and CITZ (ServiceBC)

- No new programs will be created, rather a dedicated allocation of funding for impacted workers will be communicated through the main Forest Worker Support page (Ministry of Labour/FLNRORD joint page, links to specific programs of relevance).
- The goal of making the dedicated funding available is to highlight the most relevant areas of training and support for the workers, and provide links to these specific sites through the main worker support website
- Some workers may be sensitive about accessing funding through the regular stream, as they are typically high wage earners self-sufficient and not in need of government assistance programs. Providing dedicated programs for forest industry transition makes this clearly a support tailored for their circumstances.
- For workers that have been out of school for many years, navigating programs in the general stream can be confusing – this provides a level of way-finding and “concierge” support.
- WorkBC and ServiceBC staff in the regions will also receive information and briefing to ensure they can provide tailored support to forest workers and direct them to relevant programming.
- May wish to consider a dedicated staff person within each ministry that can talk through the program options, how to apply and what the opportunities are (either in the Labour program staff or elsewhere in ministries/regional offices).

5) Community support grants aimed at providing short-term assistance to communities more profoundly impacted by the closure of a major forest employer, including permanent mill closure, indefinite curtailment or permanent / indefinite shift reduction.

Responsible agency: FLNRORD

- This work links with the ongoing work of FLNRORD's regional teams.
- Work of this branch will continue to include community transition/adjustment.
- The direct funding to heavily impacted communities will acknowledge and support the additional resource/services that communities have been providing to workers/citizens since impact.
- Currently three communities have permanent closures: Clearwater / Vavenby, Quesnel and Clinton (Chasm)
- 4 communities have indefinite curtailments: 100 Mile – Kelowna – Mackenzie - Fort St. John, and many others are dealing with a shift reduction.

From: [Hughes, Trevor LBR:EX](#)
To: [McCaffrey, Julianne GCPE:EX](#)
Subject: RE: FOR REVIEW - speaking notes for MHB on Tuesday - forestry announcement
Date: September 13, 2019 7:37:09 PM
Attachments: [SN - FLNRO early retirement announcement - Sept 17 2019.docx](#)

See attached for a couple edits on SNs. I thought they were too long. But on point.
T.

From: McCaffrey, Julianne GCPE:EX
Sent: September 13, 2019 5:41 PM
To: Hughes, Trevor LBR:EX <Trevor.Hughes@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: FOR REVIEW - speaking notes for MHB on Tuesday - forestry announcement

Hi Trevor, attached is our SN and the quote for MHB in the NR by FLNRO.

I've attached the news release for context, but what requires your review is only our Minister's quote, which is as follows:

s.13

In the SN, please note that there are still some unknowns, and I need to cross-reference things like the revised itinerary just received, but that should not impact your ability to review the content of the speaking notes themselves.

Many thanks, and apologies for sending this so late on a Friday afternoon.

Jules

Julianne (Jules) McCaffrey
Communications Director | Ministry of Labour
Government Communications & Public Engagement
Province of British Columbia
O: 778.698.8964 | M: 250.888.8074

SPEAKING NOTES FOR

MINISTER HARRY BAINS

MINISTER OF LABOUR

**NEW FOREST WORKER
SUPPORT PROGRAM**

CN Rail Intermodal Terminal
XXXXX, Prince George

September 17, 2019
10:00 a.m.

Speaking length – 3 minutes

CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

EVENT DETAILS & LOGISTICS

Event: New Forest Worker Support Program

When: Sept 17, 2019 at 10 a.m.

- Minister requested to arrive by XXX for pre-brief in Room XXX
- Minister Donaldson to speak on the details of the new program and investment, as well as an overview of new measures aimed at supporting forestry workers impacted by mill closures in B.C.'s Interior
- Minister Bains to follow and speak 2-3 minutes re-emphasize the value and commitment to the forest sector why this matters for workers and communities around the province.

Where: CN Rail Intermodal Terminal, Prince George (TBC)

Contact: Onsite person: Elena Banfield (GCPE Events)
C | 604-842-0984

Key Participants:

- Minister Donaldson- speaking
- Minister Bains-speaking
- Parliamentary Secretary Kahlon - speaking
- Prince George Mayor Lyn Hall – speaking (MC – TBD)
- Mackenzie Mayor Joan Atkinson – speaking (TBD)
- West Fraser CEO Ray Ferris – speaking (TBD)

Post Event Validators:

Jeff Bromley	United Steel Workers (USW)	Cell 250 426-9870 / Jbromley@usw.ca
Brian O'Rourke	United Steel Workers (USW) P.G. Local President	s.22
Gary Fiege	Public and Private Workers of Canada (PPWC)	Cell 250 715-8320 / Gfiege@ppwc.ca
Lynn Lindeman	Public and Private Workers of Canada (PPWC)	Cell 250 246-7022 / s.22
Jon Hawkins	Unifor	s.22 / Jon.hawkins@unifor.org

EVENT DETAILS:

Media Attending: Yes

Audience: local government reps, industry reps, labour reps, ministry staff.

Event Context: Government is providing \$69 million to support mill workers and contractors impacted by permanent and indefinite mill closures in the B.C. interior. The funds are aimed at addressing short-term challenges faced by impacted workers and the supports include:

- \$2M for a new job placement coordination office that will track the transition of and assist the re-employment of impacted forest workers on an individual basis;
- \$40M for a cost-shared early-retirement bridging program for older forest workers;
- \$15M for a short-term forest employment program focussed on fire prevention and community resiliency projects;
- \$10M for worker training and community mental health support programs; and
- Community support grants aimed at providing short term assistance to communities more profoundly impacted by the closure of a major forest employer.

Mill Closure/Curtailment Summary

- Currently, there are 24 mills that have adjusted their output through indefinite or temporary curtailments and shift reductions.
- There have been four permanent mill closures.
- More than 46,000 workers are being affected across 23 communities.

Mill closures and curtailments are primarily the result of impacts to timber supply as a result of the Mountain Pine Beetle (MPB) and related fire losses. The MPB outbreak in B.C. began in the early 2000's with impacts peaking in 2005. By 2012, MPB had killed 53% of merchantable pine forests in the B.C. Interior.

British Columbia's forest industry is facing difficult times. In the Interior, the end of the pine beetle cut, lower prices for lumber, and back-to-back catastrophic wildfire seasons have led to a number of sawmill closures. This has created hardship for workers and uncertainty for the communities that depend on forestry for their livelihoods.

For more than a decade, industry experts predicted the mountain pine beetle epidemic would result in multiple mill closures. Despite this, the previous government failed to take the necessary action to help workers, industry and communities adapt. This failure to act has compounded the difficulties forest workers and communities are facing today.

Logistics notes: Theatre style set up with a riser, podium. Minister to be seated in the front row.

Clothing: Business casual.

ITINERARY:

8:00 a.m.	GCPE events arrives onsite for event set up with CN Rail representative
9:40 a.m. Pre-brief	<p>Pre-brief with stage guests, led by Elena Banfield GCPE Events Location: TBD</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Minister FLNR Doug Donaldson• Minister LBR Harry Bains• Parliamentary Secretary Ravi Kahlon• P.G. Mayor Lyn Hall (TBD)• Mackenzie Mayor Joan Atkinson (TBD)• West Fraser CEO Ray Ferris (TBD)• Union reps (TBD)
10:00 a.m.	Event begins. MC P.G. Mayor Lyn Hall (TBD) welcomes everyone, introduces Minister Doug Donaldson
10:05 a.m.	Minister Donaldson makes remarks, announces \$69 million in funding
10:15 a.m.	MC thanks Minister Donaldson and introduces Minister Bains
10:17 a.m.	Minister Bains makes remarks
10:22 a.m.	MC thanks Minister Bains and introduces P.S. Kahlon
10:24 a.m.	P.S. Kahlon makes remarks
10:29 a.m.	MC thanks P.S. Kahlon, introduces Mackenzie Mayor Joan Atkinson (TBD)
10:31 a.m.	Mackenzie Mayor Joan Atkinson speaks (TBD)
10:36 a.m.	MC thanks Mayor Atkinson, introduces West Fraser CEO Ray Ferris (TBD)
10:38 a.m.	West Fraser CEO Ray Ferris speaks (TBD)
10:43 a.m.	Media availability
11:00 a.m.	Event concludes

PARTICIPANT INTEL:



P.G. Mayor Lyn Hall (TBD)

Mayor Lyn Hall has been an active member of the Prince George community for over 30 years. He and his wife Lorrelle are the parents of twin daughters, both of whom graduated from UNBC.

Hall began his political career as a School Trustee on the Prince George School Board. He spent 10 years on the board holding various positions including vice-chair and chair. In 2011, he ran and won a seat on Prince George City Council. In 2014 and 2018, he ran successful campaigns for Mayor of Prince George.



Mackenzie Mayor Joan Atkinson (TBD)

Joan moved to Mackenzie with her husband Jim and two sons in 1997; both sons and her husband work in the local forest industry. She professes to recognize the importance of maintaining a strong forest economy, said publicly that she is concerned with the current provincial forest model that puts her community's forest future at risk due to fibre supply and says her community is in crisis after three wood products operations closed in Mackenzie.

Joan, once recognized as Volunteer of the Year in her community, was acclaimed as mayor in 2018, but has been a member of council since 2007.



West Fraser CEO Ray Ferris (TBD)

Ray is a professional engineer and holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Engineering from the University of New Brunswick. He assumed the role of Pres/CEO of West Fraser as of July 1, 2019. Ray joined the company in 1997 and has served in several executive positions since on both the Alberta and B.C. operations.

West Fraser has more than 50 locations throughout B.C. and Alberta in Canada, and in Texas, Arkansas, Louisiana, Tennessee, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Alabama and Florida in the United States. B.C.'s operations currently account for 34 per cent of the company's total lumber capacity – 7.2 billion board feet – with Alberta supplying 23 per cent and the USA 43 per cent.

SPEAKING NOTES

- Thank you Mayor Hall (TBC).
- I want to begin by saying that behind every productive business and viable industry, in fact, driving their success and sustainability...
- Is a workforce that is also, at the same time, contributing to the social fabric of their communities...
 - Workers who coach hockey and lead girl guides or boy scouts;
 - Or that serve on school committees and volunteer in local service clubs like the Rotary.
- And let's not forget, it's workers that built B.C.'s forestry sector...
- That built an industry that has fueled our economy for decades.
- And now it's these same forestry workers who are suffering in the wake of historic job losses, particularly in B.C.'s Interior.
- Our communities, B.C. businesses and their workers are strong and resilient, innovative and industrious...
- But even still, they need a helping-hand sometimes.
 - And that's what today's announcement is about...
 - It's about working with industry to provide a helping-hand.
- Because when an industry like forestry takes a downturn, family supporting jobs and wages become threatened.
- And in turn, communities like Prince George, Mackenzie and so many others with deep roots in forestry, also suffer.
 - ~~Since~~ yYoung workers need family supporting wages to make ends meet or they leave to find work elsewhere.

- **Today's announcement helps prevent the hollowing-out of rural communities hardest hit by the curtailments and closings.**
 - **It supports impacted workers, their families and the communities that are their home.**
 - **It helps provide incentives for early retirement so that we can retain workers with a long career still ahead of them.**
 - **And it provides training, job placement assistance and mental health supports for those reeling from job losses.**
- **Because our government believes that our purpose is to make life better and easier for people in the province.**
- **And because it's not lost on us that forestry is an important economic driver in B.C. and our industry is in crisis.**
 - **That log costs and market conditions...**
 - **Trade sanctions and timber supply issues caused by things like wildfires and beetle infestations...**
 - **Has led to market uncertainty and instability...**
 - **As well as operational slow-downs and shut-downs...**
 - **And they are having real, tangible and personal impacts.**
- **It matters.**
 - **It matters to those working or benefiting from the forestry sector – and let's be clear – that's all of us in B.C.**
 - **This is not just a rural problem, it's merely where the impacts are most often, or most profoundly seen.**
 - **So, let me also be clear: it matters to your government and we're all working together to find solutions.**

- **Stealing from a June headline in the Vancouver Sun, we all recognize that there is no quick fix to our forestry situation.**
 - **It was created over time and without an eye towards the future or how to mitigate the impacts to come.**
 - **Today we are investing for both today and tomorrow.**
- **And I am glad to have our ministry help deliver solutions and provide direct support to help sustain family-supporting jobs.**
- **I'm glad mayors like Lyn and Joan are here, because they see the direct impacts on friends and neighbours in their communities.**
- **And perhaps nowhere is it more greatly felt or recognized than in Joan's own family, since her husband and sons work in forestry.**
- **Let me add that I'm happy to be part of something that even the B.C. Council of Forest Industries president said is needed:**
 - **A systematic, collaborative approach to the industry's transition by industry, government, First Nations, communities and workers combined.**
- **And since Ray is here today, I'd like to say that I'm grateful too for the support of industry leaders like West Fraser.**
 - **He once said that their past and future success is built on the strengths of their people and that together, they're driven to deliver a better today than yesterday as a company.**

- Lastly, I'd like to offer thanks to my cabinet colleague for allowing me to aid in his forest worker support plan; it is important work.
- I know Minister Donaldson shares my concern for the health and prosperity of the industry and its workers...
- Because like me, he has first-hand working experience in forestry.
- And maybe it's because of my forestry roots or that I began my career in sawmills, that I feel so proud of today's announcement...
 - But today we outlined how we'll help workers continue to participate and be proud of their forestry jobs;
 - And when they can't work, providing additional supports to help them get back on their feet and back to work;
 - So that like me, while working in a mill, they too can build a good and stable life, family and future in this province.
- Be assured that while standing up here, we're also standing along side our forest industry partners and shoulder-to-shoulder with the people working in forest industries who are worried or have been impacted by mill closures or curtailments.
- We understand how important these jobs are to you...
- To your families, your communities and to the province.
- They're important to us too.
- Thank you.

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