

Ministry of Forests
Transition Binder
October 2024

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OVERVIEW

The Ministry of Forests has launched a comprehensive series of actions to promote the health and regeneration of forests and forest eco-systems in British Columbia and to support industry efforts to expand advanced wood product manufacturing and to increase sector participation with First Nations.

These integrated sets of initiatives promote forest ecosystem health and optimize timber supply to address the end of the beetle kill harvest as well as the significant increase in catastrophic wildfires, which along with a protracted period of low lumber prices has led to reduced access to economic fibre.

These initiatives have been designed through consistent engagement with the broad forestry sector and the ministry has worked across government to ensure programs and investments respond to the needs of forest communities. The initiatives have also taken into consideration international market opportunity and trade provisions.

Key actions have included:

- Over \$90M has been invested in forestry operations to diversify wood product manufacturing, triggering over \$630M in private sector investment in areas such as mass timber, modular home construction and other areas of advanced wood product manufacturing.
- A new Value-Added program offering a dedicated timber supply to build longer term predictability for wood product manufacturing and expanded support through Value Added Accelerators initiative.
- Diversification of economic and other interests through expanded collaboration with the First Nations Forestry Council and BC Community Forests Association.
- A range of fibre recovery, forest regeneration and salvage initiatives to address increasing demand for economic fibre with the end of the beetle kill harvest and catastrophic wildfires.
- Expanded BC Wildfire Service Operations working year-round on prevention and community protection initiatives as well as rapid response during fire season.
- The launch of the new Thompson Rivers University wildfire education and training center
- An expanded Silviculture Investment Program, including a \$10M investment in climate-informed silvicultural research through the Bulkley Valley Research Centre

- Modelling new harvesting practices to strengthen ecological resilience as part of a forest ecosystem management approach.
- Piloting new local planning regimes through the introduction of Forest Landscape Planning tables.
- Investing \$185M in creating new opportunities for forestry workers displaced by curtailments and closures of forestry operations.
- Greater public access to data and mapping of harvesting activity through the introduction of online tools such as Forest Operations Mapping.

Increasing fibre recovery and managing timber supply

Expanding fibre supply is a priority for the ministry and the sector. A range of initiatives have been launched such as wildfire salvage, reducing timber left behind, and speeding forest regeneration through new silvicultural approaches.



Collaborative Wildfire Salvage Planning to Support Ecosystem Recovery in the Merritt Area



“A Part of the Forest” Video (Atli Resources)



“We Work Together with the Land” Lil’wat Video



BC Timber Sales Seedling Services and Reforestation Activities

Reducing the risk of wildfire and expanding wildfire response

Keeping communities safe while reducing the threat of wildfires has led to multiple initiatives including expanding the practice of cultural and prescribed burning in partnership with BC Wildfire service, significant investments in new technology, more responders, and a new training centre at TRU.



"Living with Fire" Westbank First Nation and Ntityix Resources



A selection of videos from Prescribedfire.ca



Browns Creek Wildfire Restoration Project

Expanding advance wood products manufacturing through partnership

The ministry has taken unprecedented action to increase advanced manufacturing across British Columbia through establishing a dedicated source of timber under the newly developed Category Value-Add licensing program. Partnering with the Ministry of Jobs, Economic Development and Innovation has resulted in co-investment with industry to expand value-added manufacturing through tech upgrading and expanding infrastructure.



BC Made, Building Innovation



Government 101

Overview of Key Roles, Structures & Processes

October 2024



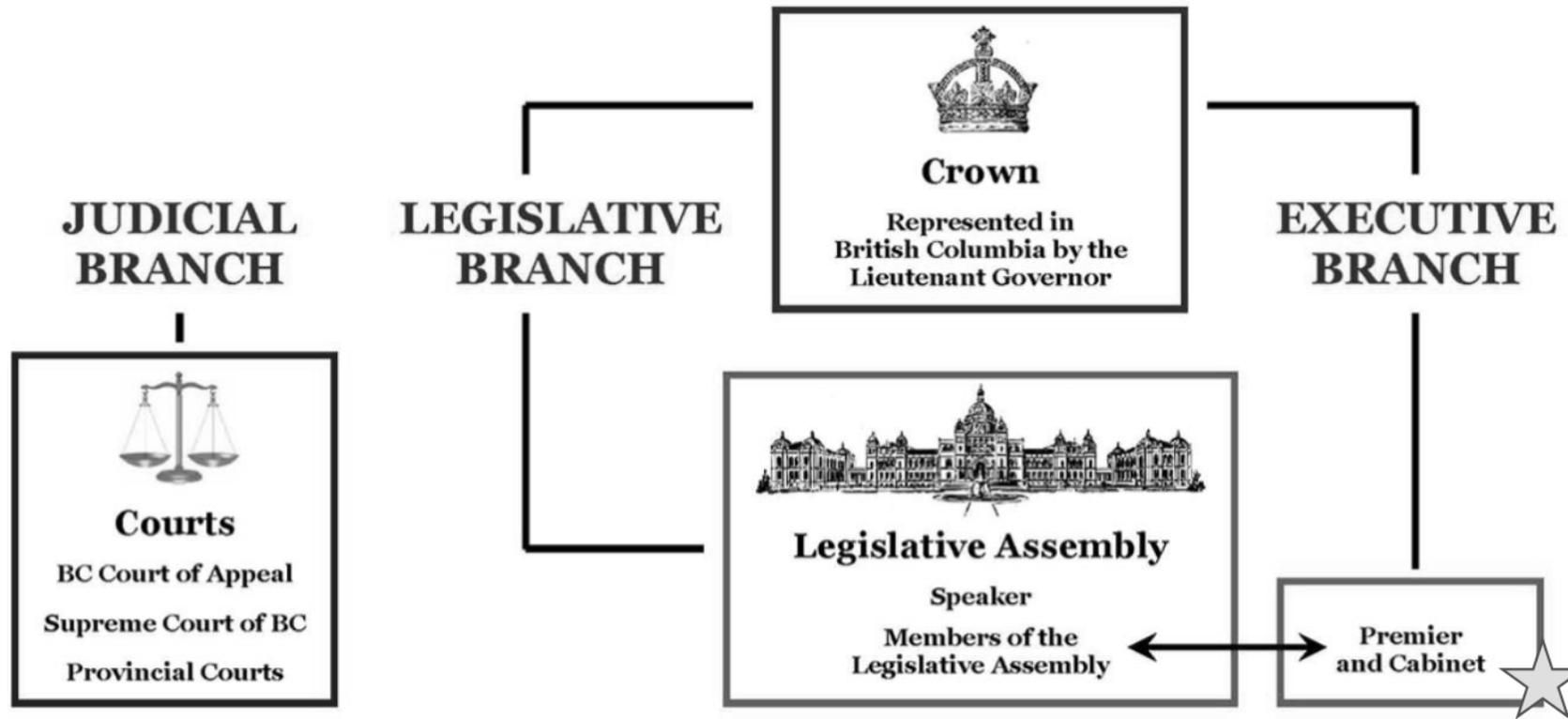
Overview

- Introduction
- Office of the Premier
- Roles & Responsibilities
- Government Decision Making
- Cabinet Confidentiality
- Conflict of Interest
- Records Management

Introduction



The Three Branches of Government



The Executive Council or Cabinet

- Established under section 9 of *Constitution Act*
- Ultimate decision-making body of government
- Members appointed by the Lieutenant Governor on advice from Premier
- Chaired by the Premier

Office of the Premier



Office of the Premier

- The Office of the Premier has two principal roles:
 - 1) **Political:** overseen by the Premier's Chief of Staff, who acts as the senior political advisor to government
 - 2) **Non-partisan Public Service:** overseen by the Deputy Minister to the Premier
- Premier's **Chief of Staff** and **Deputy Minister to the Premier** work collaboratively to:
 - Support the Premier to advance government's policy and legislative agendas
 - Represent the Premier in providing direction to their respective staffs:
 - Chief of Staff provides direction to political staff, including Ministers' chiefs of staff
 - Deputy Minister to the Premier provides direction to public servants

Key Roles

Premier's Chief of Staff

- Most senior political advisor
- Provides strategic advice to the Premier and Executive Council (Cabinet) to advance government's policy and legislative agenda
- Coordinates and develops government's strategic and policy objectives
- Coordinates cross-government communications and issues management
- Develops and maintains relationships with major stakeholders
- All Ministers' chiefs of staff report to the Premier's Chief of Staff

Deputy Minister to the Premier

- Most senior public servant (non-political official)
- Serves as Cabinet Secretary and head of the BC Public Service
- Provides non-partisan advice to the Premier on public policy, development of legislation, and operational issues
- Ensures effective administration of programs and services, the development and implementation of key policy initiatives
- Manages a professional and non-partisan public service
- All Deputy Ministers report to the Deputy Minister to the Premier

Roles & Responsibilities



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Advice/Recommendations

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Government Decision-Making



Cabinet-Level Decisions



Policy

Cabinet considers and provides direction on significant new policies or shifts in policy. It may also provide direction on contentious issues and issues with significant cross-government and inter-governmental implications.



Fiscal

Treasury Board considers and provides direction on the overall financial decision making of the province and the execution of the fiscal plan, including making regulations or issuing directives to control or limit expenditures.



Legislative

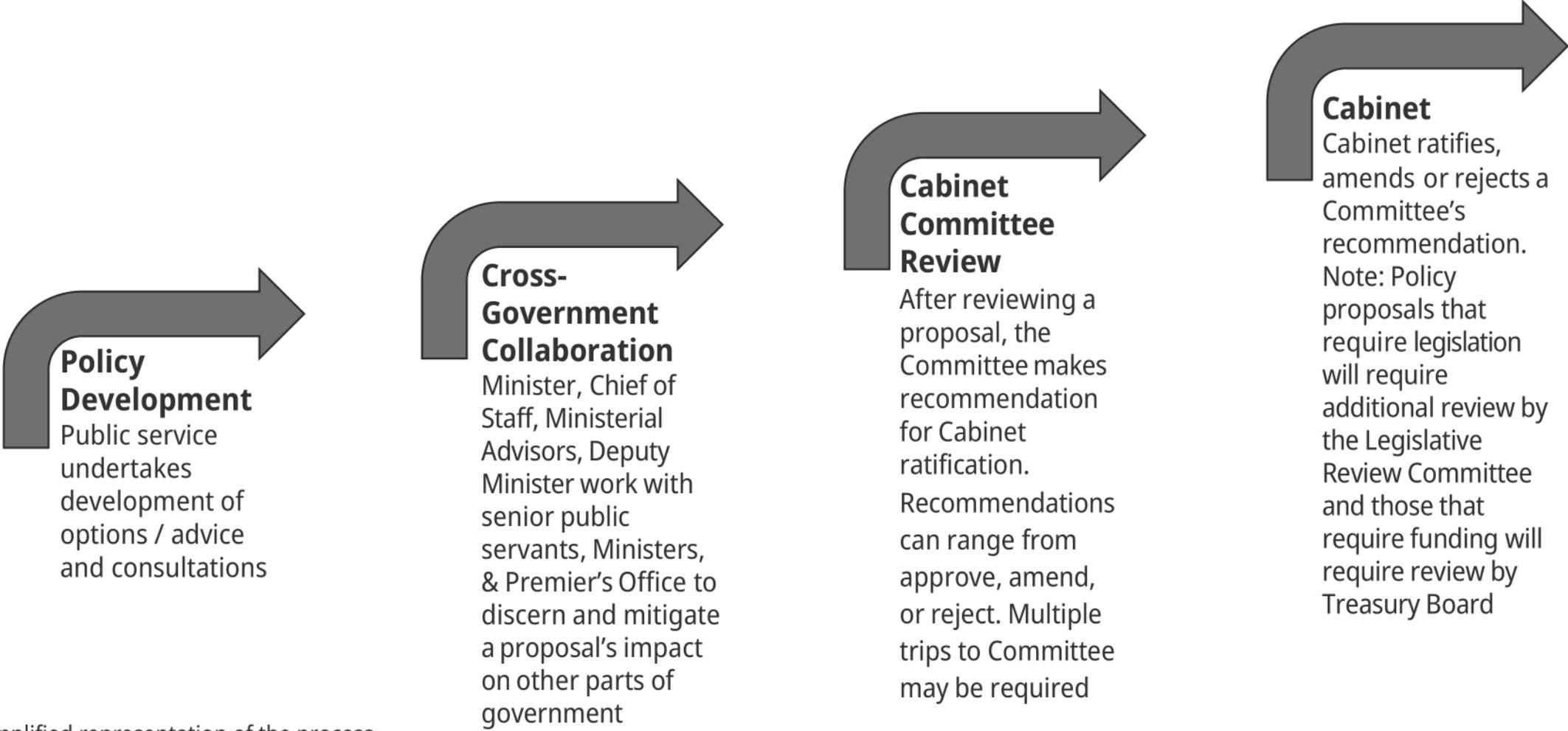
Cabinet considers and provides direction on legislative priorities and legislation.



Regulations / OICs

Cabinet considers and provides direction on regulatory changes, appointments and more through Orders in Councils (OICs).

Government Decision-Making: Key Steps*



*This is a simplified representation of the process

Mandate Letters

- Usually, Mandate Letters are issued to each Minister by the Premier and set out the expectations and deliverables regarding their portfolio and priorities for government as a whole
- Mandate Letters act as a guide for the Minister and Deputy Minister to follow in their day-to-day work, as well as the means for evaluating it
- How and when Mandate Letter deliverables are achieved is determined through collective decision making at Cabinet
- Any policy proposal that falls outside of the objectives set out in Mandate Letters requires approval from the Premier's Office to enter into the Cabinet review and decision-making process

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Advice/Recommendations

Cabinet and Cabinet Committees

- Policy or program proposals require formal Cabinet approval to proceed:
 - This process involves a Cabinet Submission, sometimes more than one, for review and decision
 - Policy and funding decisions are determined separately, through Cabinet and Treasury Board respectively
 - This process applies even if the item is listed in a Minister's Mandate Letter
 - The Deputy Minister to the Premier, in their role of Cabinet Secretary, is responsible for what advances into the Cabinet review process
 - The process and administration of Cabinet and Cabinet Committees is managed through the office of Cabinet Operations
- Cabinet and Cabinet Committees reach decisions through discussion and consensus
- Decisions are set out in minutes and are formally communicated to ministries through Records of Decision

Role of Cabinet Committees in the Review Process

- Prior to proceeding to Cabinet for decision, a submission may be vetted by a Cabinet Committee
- Practically speaking, Cabinet Committees help manage the high volume of items requiring decision so that Cabinet meetings can focus on the most significant, high-profile public policy issues
- Cabinet Committees are established by the Premier, by convention or by legislation
- Membership is composed of Cabinet Ministers and some government caucus MLAs. Each Committee is chaired by a member of the Executive Council (Cabinet)
- Cabinet Committees assess submissions and make recommendations to Cabinet, which the Chair reports out on at a full Cabinet meeting
- Cabinet can ratify, amend or reject the Committee's recommendation and Ministers are expected to leave Cabinet with a united voice

Cabinet Confidentiality



Cabinet Confidentiality

- The work undertaken by Cabinet and its Committees is and must remain confidential. This includes anything that would reveal the substance of Cabinet deliberations:
 - Cabinet and Treasury Board Submissions and supporting documents
 - Discussion around the Cabinet table
 - Attendees, agendas and dates that items are scheduled to come forward
- Cabinet is a safe place to talk frankly and emerge with one voice
- All Ministers, MLA Cabinet Committee members and their supporting political staff are required to uphold the confidentiality provisions under the oaths or confidentiality agreements they have taken:

Cabinet Minister	Oath for Member of Executive Council
MLA Cabinet Committee Member	Oath of Confidentiality for Committees of Executive Council
Ministers' Chiefs of Staff	Political Staff Oath Confidentiality Agreement for attending Cabinet & Committee meetings

Cabinet Confidentiality

- The requirement for Cabinet confidentiality prohibits direct and indirect disclosures outside of government – to stakeholders, lobbyists or the media
- Breaches in Cabinet confidentiality violate the collective responsibility shared by all Cabinet Ministers and can have serious implications for Government as a whole
- Confidentiality applies to Cabinet as an entity – individual ministers do not have the authority to waive it
- Advice/Recommendations

Conflict of Interest



Conflict of Interest

- Ministers and political staff are required to avoid conflicts of interest
- Ministers must abide by the *Members' Conflict of Interest Act*, which prohibits acting in an official capacity if a conflict of interest or a perceived conflict of interest exists
- Similarly, political staff must abide by the conflict of interest requirements outlined in the Standards of Conduct for Political Staff
- There are three types of conflict of interest: real, potential and perceived
- A conflict of interest exists if an official power or an official duty or function is performed when the person knows that there is the opportunity to further a private interest
- A private interest does not include an interest that applies to the general public or affects a minister as a broad class of people
- **Effectively managing conflicts of interest is one of the primary ways that public confidence in the integrity of government is fostered and maintained**

Conflict of Interest Commissioner

- The Conflict of Interest Commissioner is an independent, non-partisan Officer of the Legislative Assembly who is responsible for independently and impartially interpreting and administering the *Members' Conflict of Interest Act*
- All Members of the Legislative Assembly are required to file a confidential disclosure statement with the Commissioner within 60 days of being elected, and after that, annually
- Once the contents of the confidential disclosure statement have been finalized, a Public Disclosure Statement is prepared, which contains most, but not all, of the information provided to the Commissioner
- The Public Disclosure Statement is filed with the Clerk of the Legislative Assembly and is available for public inspection

Records Management



Records Management

- All records created are subject to the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (FOIPPA)*, whether they are considered transitory in nature or are related to government decisions
- These include both hard copy and electronic records (E.g., emails, texts, Post-It notes, notebooks)
- Records relating to government decisions need to be maintained by Ministers and Ministers' office staff
- Maintaining records does not equate to disclosure of records
- Records belong to government, not to individual members of Executive Council or political staff

Records Management

- Content related to Cabinet and Cabinet Committee deliberations cannot be disclosed under section 12 of FOIPPA
- Section 13 of FOIPPA provides a similar rule for policy advice or recommendations developed for a Minister
- Information and Privacy Analysts in the public service help with redacting content from records from records in accordance with FOIPPA as part of preparing responses to freedom of information requests
- Some records are proactively disclosed, including Minister's calendars and travel expenses

Records Management

- Deputy Minister Offices (DMOs) are responsible for the proper management of government records that reside in a Minister's Office and sign off on the final response packages for freedom of information requests
- DMO and Minister's Office staff should establish protocols regarding records management and responses to freedom of information requests
- Minister's Office staff should undertake training via the Corporate Information and Records Management Office related to records management, freedom of information requests, and protecting the personal privacy of individuals
- Specific executive training may be available via dedicated sessions in addition to online learning courses through the Public Service Agency
- **Staying on top of records management is key – any record you didn't need to keep but is still in existence is subject to FOIPPA**



MINISTRY PROFILE

Ministry: Ministry of Forests

Ministry Mandate:

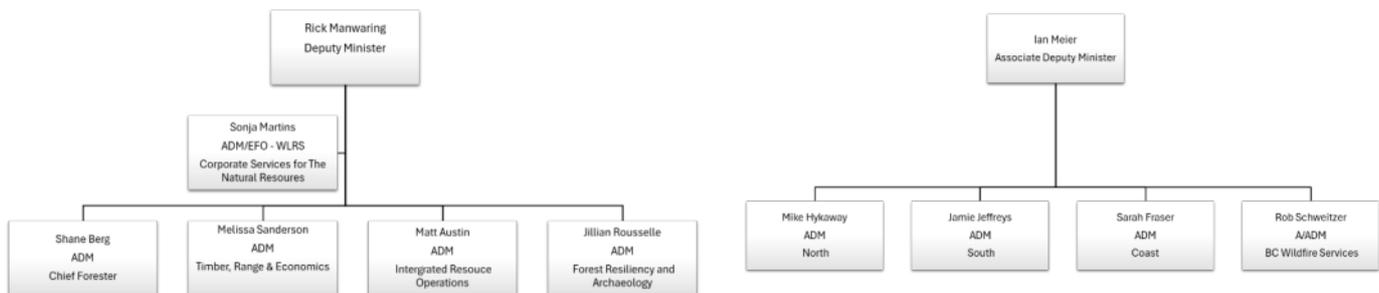
The Ministry of Forests (the Ministry) supports resiliency of the province’s land-base and economy by providing collaborative management of forest, range and archaeological resources, and leading the province’s wildfire response and mitigation. With a commitment to sustainable natural resource management, the Ministry is enhancing the role of forests and forest products as carbon sinks, managing forests to support healthy ecosystems, and working to ensure greater value for B.C. wood and high-value manufacturing. The Ministry is continually pursuing ways to strengthen partnerships, collaboration, and engagement with Indigenous Peoples, and to collaborate with other government ministries in conducting this work.

More than 90 percent of British Columbia’s forest and rangelands are publicly owned and managed by the provincial government on behalf of the public, and B.C. strives to be a world leader in sustainable forest and range management. Managing such a broad and diverse area, however, is complex, and brings a number of factors that can impact the achievement of the Ministry’s goals.

Full Time Equivalent (FTEs): 4,684

Division	Grand Total	Active			On Leave		
		Aux.	Reg.	Sub total	Aux.	Reg.	Sub total
Associate Deputy Minister's Office	32	1	30	31		1	1
BC Wildfire Service	2,351	1,692	629	2,321	11	19	30
Deputy Minister's Office	48	1	46	47		1	1
Forest Resiliency and Archaeology	48	14	33	47		1	1
Integrated Resource Operations	234	22	202	224		10	10
Office of the Chief Forester	297	54	230	284		13	13
Regional Operations - Coast Area	354	25	320	345		9	9
Regional Operations - North Area	468	51	394	445		23	23
Regional Operations - South Area	650	81	541	622		28	28
Timber, Range, and Economics	202	14	184	198		4	4
Forests Total	4,684	1,955	2,609	4,564	11	109	120

Executive Organizational Chart:



Budget:

Financial Summary

	Estimated (\$000)	Other Authoriz- ations ¹ (\$000)	Total Estimated (\$000)	Actual (\$000)	Variance (\$000)
Operating Expenses					
Integrated Resource Operations	82,012	(21,650)	60,362	54,191	(6,171)
Office of the Chief Forester	140,179	54,413	194,592	191,341	(3,251)
Timber, Range and Economics	11,264	512	11,776	10,443	(1,333)
Fire Preparedness	45,437	0	45,437	40,887	(4,550)
Regional Operations	138,854	(34,895)	103,959	99,647	(4,312)
Executive and Support Services	65,822	3,766	69,588	89,205	19,617
Fire Management	204,120	890,760	1,094,880	1,094,880	0
BC Timber Sales Account	236,929	0	236,929	168,184	(68,745)
Crown Land Special Account	500	(500)	0	0	0
Sub-total	925,117	892,406	1,817,523	1,748,778	(68,745)
Adjustment of Prior Year Accrual ²	0	0	0	(12,423)	(12,423)
Total	925,117	892,406	1,817,523	1,736,355	(81,168)
Ministry Capital Expenditures					
Executive and Support Services	35,749	0	35,749	43,525	7,776
Fire Management	16,000	0	16,000	14,738	(1,262)
BC Timber Sales Account	41,107	0	41,107	30,687	(10,420)
Total	92,856	0	92,856	88,950	(3,906)
Other Financing Transactions					
BC Timber Sales Account					
Receipts	0	0	0	0	0
Disbursements	89,131	622	89,753	89,753	0
Net Cash Requirements (Source)	89,131	622	89,753	89,753	0
Crown Land Administration					
Receipts	0	0	0	0	0
Disbursements	6,382	(6,382)	0	0	0

	Estimated (\$000)	Other Authoriz- ations ¹ (\$000)	Total Estimated (\$000)	Actual (\$000)	Variance (\$000)
Net Cash Requirements (Source)	6,382	(6,382)	0	0	0
Habitat Conservation Trust					
Receipts	(6,500)	6,500	0	0	0
Disbursements	6,500	(6,500)	0	0	0
Net Cash Requirements (Source)	0	0	0	0	0
Summary					
Total Receipts	(6,500)	6,500	0	0	0
Total Disbursements	102,013	(12,260)	89,753	89,753	0
Total Net Cash Requirements (Source)	95,513	(5,760)	89,753	89,753	0

¹ "Other Authorizations" include Supplementary Estimates, Statutory Appropriations, Contingencies and Government Reorganization. A breakdown of Other Authorizations for Operating Expenses are Statutory Appropriations of \$890.760 million, Contingencies of \$81.422 million, and Government Reorganization of \$(79.776) million. Amounts in this column are not related to the "estimated amount" under sections 5(1) and 6(1) of the *Balanced Budget and Ministerial Accountability Act* for ministerial accountability for operating expenses under the Act.

² The Adjustment of Prior Year Accrual of \$12.423 million is a reversal of accruals in the previous year.

Ministry of Forests Transition Binder

September 2024

Budget 2024 Summary

OPERATING

The Ministry operating budget for 2024/25 is \$850.670M.

Operating Budget – Breakdown by Vote (\$M)	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27
Vote 30 - Ministry Operations	413.993	413.993	413.993
Vote 31 - Fire Management	232.736	238.047	238.047
BC Timber Sales Special Account	203.941	219.056	235.928
Forest Stand Management Fund	-	-	-
Total	850.670	871.096	887.968

CAPITAL

The Ministry capital budget for 2024/25 is \$125.543M

Capital Budget – Breakdown by Vote (\$M)	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27
Vote 30 - Ministry Operations	55.448	34.948	34.948
Vote 31 - Fire Management	16.000	13.500	11.001
BC Timber Sales Special Account	54.095	49.693	47.362
Total	125.543	98.141	93.311

Ministry of Forests Transition Binder

September 2024

2024/25 Budget by Core Business and Category

OPERATING EXPENDITURES

Core Business (\$M)	Salaries and Benefits	Operating Costs	Transfers	Recoveries	Total 2024/25
Forest Resiliency and Archaeology	3.477	0.382	-	(0.169)	3.690
Integrated Resource Operations	22.957	35.905	0.010	(0.404)	58.468
Office of the Chief Forester	29.475	77.045	28.181	(3.590)	131.111
Timber, Range and Economics	9.878	1.626	0.281	(0.004)	11.781
Fire Preparedness	31.349	6.182	9.500	(0.039)	46.992
Regional Operations	86.906	18.167	4.729	(7.251)	102.551
Executive & Support Services	11.558	62.051	-	(14.209)	59.400
Total – Vote 30 - Ministry Operations	195.600	201.358	42.701	(25.666)	413.993
Vote 31 - Fire Management	114.393	127.415	5.000	(14.072)	232.736
BC Timber Sales Special Account	35.808	198.240	0.800	(30.907)	203.941
Total – Ministry of Forests	345.801	527.013	48.501	(70.645)	850.670

CAPITAL EXPENDITURES

Asset Category (\$M)	2024/25
Air Tanker Bases	0.837
Wildfire Facilities Expansion	27.150
Specialized Equipment	0.603
Forest Service Roads	20.225
Vehicles	6.600
Office Furniture and Equipment	0.018
Miscellaneous Hardware/Software	0.015
Total – Vote 30 - Ministry Operations	55.448
Wildfire Specialized Equipment	9.000
Buildings	2.000
Vehicles	5.000
Total – Vote 31 - Fire Management	16.000
Information Systems	0.350
Specialized Equipment	0.650
Roads	53.095
Total – BC Timber Sales Special Account	54.095
Total – Ministry of Forests	125.543

Ministry of Forests Transition Binder

September 2024

Major Budget 2024 Decisions

First Nations Community Access Roads – Funding provided to the Engineering program to improve 5 critical Forest Service Roads (FSRs) leading to 11 First Nations (FNs) communities in the Province. This includes an operating budget lift of \$3.897M for road maintenance for each fiscal year from 2024/25 to 2026/27 and a capital budget lift of \$2.500M base and \$3.000M capital contingencies each year from 2024/25 to 2026/27.

BC Wildfire – Fire Management received \$27.638M in operating funding in 2024/25 and \$32.949M for each 2025/26 and 2026/27 to secure aviation and staffing resources. Fire Management also received a capital budget lift of \$20.500M in 2024/25 to construct a new equipment depot in Prince George and complete a capital plan.

Forest Enhancement Society of BC (FESBC) – The Office of the Chief Forester received an operating budget lift of \$20.000M for each fiscal year from 2024/25 to 2026/27 and beyond to provide funding to FESBC to deliver projects including wildfire prevention planning and fuel management treatments.

Shared Recovery Mandate – The Ministry Operations vote received \$6.858M to support increases in salary costs.

BC Timber Sales – BC Timber Sales Special Account reduced operating and capital budgets in fiscal 2024/25 due to effects of the implementation of government's Old Growth Strategy, wildfire impacts, and delays related to reconciliation with First Nations.

Key Budget Issues

Fire Management – Costs are driven by length of season and severity of weather conditions, severity of fires, proportion of interface fires and size of fires. Costs have ranged from a low of \$47M in 2006 to a high of \$1.094B in 2023/24 (Fire season 2023). At Q1 2024/25, FOR forecasted a total annual spend of \$886.040M.

Softwood Lumber – FOR is anticipating legal and other operating costs upward of \$10M in 2024/25 related to trade dispute. In addition, stumpage revenues may be impacted as duties accelerate the potential for mill closures or curtailments.

Ministry of Forests Transition Binder

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Contingency Access

OPERATING EXPENDITURES

Contingency Item (\$M)	2024/25
Softwood Lumber Litigation	8.982
Forest Investment Program: Seed Production and Improvement	0.700
Forest Investment Program: Reforestation	20.500
Forest Landscape Plans for Old Growth Deferral	5.664
Forest Landscape Planning: Cranbrook	1.715
Blueberry River – Treaty 8	4.750
Value Added Sector	0.535
Capital Asset Management Plan	0.200
Carrier Sekani First Nations	14.000
Shared Recovery Mandate	4.659
Total	61.705

CAPITAL EXPENDITURES

Contingency Item (\$M)	2024/25
Forest Investment Program: Seed Production and Improvement	0.300
Forest Service Roads	3.000
Forest Service Roads – First Nation Communities Access	3.000
Vehicle Replacement Allowance	3.800
Tree Seed Centre	1.797
Total	11.897

Ministry of Forests Functional Organization Chart

Deputy Minister Rick Manwaring



Executive Operations (Andrea Wood, Director)
Records and FOI Information Management, Correspondence, Intergovernmental Relations, Executive Issues

Strategic Priorities Group (Chloe Burgess, Executive Director)
Corporate Priorities and Planning, Internal Communications and Online Content, Legislation, Litigation

Strategic Communications (Paul Corns, Executive Director)

Chief Negotiator (Justin Calof, Chief Negotiator)

Associate Deputy Minister Ian Meier



Operations (Hilary Wheeler, Executive Director)
Strategic Projects, Ministry Initiatives, Operations Priorities, Forestry Digital Services, Apparel Program, Critical Incident Stress Management (CISM)

Indigenous Relations (Ariel Taylor, Executive Director)
Strategic reconciliation policy, Consultation effectiveness, Declaration Act implementation



Office of the Chief Forester
Shane Berg
ADM
Chief Forester

Lead strategy and policy development for Old Growth Action Plan and coordinate implementation

Forest genetics, research, tree improvement (seed orchards and seed centre)

Forest inventory, timber supply, AAC determinations

Forest climate change and carbon management

Indigenous bioeconomy and innovation

Forest management legislation, including planning (landscape), FREP and FLP approvals

Forest Investment Program



Timber, Range and Economics
Melissa Sanderson
ADM

Forest Sector and Forest Policy Transformation, including forest sector stakeholder engagement and governance

Timber Pricing, including waste and fibre utilization

Business Competitiveness & Compensation

Economic Analysis & Export Policy, including the Softwood Lumber file

BCTS Provincial Operations

Value-Added Sector Strategies

Range Branch including Invasive Plant Management & Ecosystem Restoration



Integrated Resource Operations
Matt Austin
ADM

Coordination of the provincial Engineering Program, management of Forest Service Roads, engineering support to other programs (BCTS and RSTBC)

Forest tenure policy, coordination of tenure replacements, tenure transfers and negotiation and implementation of access agreements

Inspections and investigations related to contraventions of a wide range of natural resource legislation

Forest Worker Safety



Forest Resiliency and Archaeology
Jillian Rouselle
ADM

Lead strategy and policy development for implementation of Forest Landscape Planning

Old Growth deferrals

Heritage Conservation Act and Archaeology permitting



CSNR
Sonja Martins
ADM/EFO

Human Resources, including new recruitment services

Financial Services

Facilities

Fleet and Assets

Corporate Security and Business Continuity



BC Wildfire Service
Rob Schweitzer
A/ADM

Wildfire and All Hazards

Premier's Task Force on Emergencies

Managing elements of climate change risks through four pillar approach to hazard management

Emergency and Disaster Management Act implementation Coordination (EMBC & ENV)

Risk Reduction

TEAMS 2.0

BCWS FN and non-indigenous community partnerships



South
Jamie Jeffreys
ADM

Forest Landscape Planning Operations

First Nations relations and shared decision-making

Forest Service and Resource Roads

Wildfire Risk Reduction (funding from BCWS), Rehabilitation and Recovery

BCTS Regional Timber Sales

Investment and reporting on forest management to OCF and TSRs for all regions

Silviculture project delivery

Forest and range authorizations and consultation

Stewardship monitoring, FREP management and Range monitoring

Scaling, waste and revenue management

Stakeholder engagement



North
Mike Hykaway
ADM



Coast
Sarah Fraser
ADM

Regional Operations

EXECUTIVE MEMBER BIOGRAPHY



Name: Rick Manwaring

Title: Deputy Minister

Ministry: Ministry of Forests

Biography:

Rick holds a Bachelor of Science in Forestry from the University of New Brunswick. He's worked for the BC Public Service since 1992 Personal Information
Personal Information

Before his appointment as Deputy Minister, Rick was the Associate Deputy Minister for the Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development. He was responsible for Regional Operations (North, South, Coast); Rural Opportunities, Tenures and Engineering Division; and, the Integrated Resource Operations Division, with direct oversight of BC Timber Sales and the BC Wildfire Service. Prior to that, he had been the Assistant Deputy Minister for the South Area Regional Operations since 2011



Name: Ian Meier

Title: Associate Deputy Minister

Ministry: Ministry of Forests

Biography:

Before his role as Associate, Ian was the Assistant Deputy Minister of BC Wildfire Service, and has been part of the BC Wildfire Service for over 25 years.

Ian is a long-standing member of the Ministry Executive team. He provides leadership on several corporate committees and is the Executive Sponsor for Gender Based Analysis Plus for the Ministry. Ian received his Bachelor of Forestry with a Major in Forest Operations from the University of British Columbia and is a Registered Professional Forester.

Personal Information



Name: Shane Berg

Title: Assistant Deputy Minister and Chief Forester – Office of the Chief Forester

Ministry: Ministry of Forests

Biography:

Shane obtained his BSc. in Forestry from the University of Alberta and is a Registered Professional Forester (RPF) with a career spanning over 35 years with the Provincial Government. He began as a silviculture technician in Invermere, a silviculture forester in Grand Forks, a forest planning manager in Squamish, and eventually took on district manager roles in the Kispiox (Hazelton) and Kamloops Forest Districts. He spent six years working as the regional executive director for the South Area with the Ministry of Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation before returning to FLNR as the deputy chief forester in 2017.

Personal Information



Name: Melissa Sanderson

Title: Assistant Deputy Minister of Timber, Range, and Economics Division

Ministry: Ministry of Forests

Biography:

Melissa has over 15 years of experience working in both the public and private sector. Her many strengths include stakeholder relations, public engagement, organizational change management, strategic initiatives, and policy communications.

Leading the Timber, Range, and Economics Division, Melissa will be accountable for delivering comprehensive forest policies in cooperation with stakeholders while advancing our ministry's reconciliation work with Indigenous Peoples.

Melissa previously worked at Nova Scotia Power, and was most recently with the Ministry of Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources. She is dedicated to supporting the natural resource sector, economic development, and building strong communities across the province.

Personal Information

and studied at Simon Fraser University.



Name: Jillian Rousselle

Title: Assistant Deputy Minister of Forest Renewal Initiative

Ministry: Ministry of Forests

Biography:

She has been serving as FOR's Executive Lead of the Forest Renewal initiative since August 2022. This key file has expanded under her tenure and is expected to become even more critical to our success going forward. Jillian will continue leading on Old Growth and Forest Landscape Planning implementation, with additional duties to be announced soon. She is a proven leader and a welcome addition to our Executive Team.

Jillian has over 16 years' experience with the BC Public Service. Prior to joining FOR in 2022, she was Acting Assistant Deputy Minister for Liquor and Cannabis, and Executive Director for Corporate and Strategic Services in the Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General. In these roles, she oversaw a range of high-profile and transformational initiatives and worked closely with stakeholders to support the heavily impacted hospitality industry through the Covid pandemic.

Jillian spent the first 12 years of her career with our ministry, including Director, Archaeology Branch and Director, Executive Operations. She holds a master's degree in public administration from the University of Victoria, as well as an undergraduate degree in Criminology from Simon Fraser University. Personal Information
Personal Information



Name: Matt Austin

Title: Assistant Deputy Minister of the Integrated Resource Operations Division

Ministry: Ministry of Forests

Biography:

Matt Austin was appointed as the Assistant Deputy Minister (ADM) of the Integrated Resource Operations Division (IROD) in April 2018. Matt is responsible for the Archaeology, Compliance and Enforcement, Tenures and Engineering branches.

Matt holds a Bachelor of Science in Zoology from Western University and a Master of Environmental Design in Environmental Science from the University of Calgary. Matt has been with the BC Public Service for over 25 years, spending the majority of his first decade as the Provincial Large Carnivore Specialist. Subsequently, he took a series of progressively more senior roles in a wide variety of program areas across the natural resource ministries touching on species at risk, forestry, oil and gas, mining, wind power, hydroelectric power, agriculture, geospatial analysis, biodiversity and service delivery, emergency management, and environmental assessment. This work has included extensive engagement with First Nations.

Personal Information



Name: Sonja Martins

Title: Assistant Deputy Minister and Executive Financial Officer

Ministry: Water, Land and Resource Stewardship

Biography:

Sonja Martins is the Assistant Deputy Minister for Corporate Services for the Natural Resource Ministries (CSNR) serving as Executive Financial Officer for the Ministry of Water, Land and Resource Stewardship and the Ministry of Forests. She is the lead for financial services, facilities, fleet and assets and human resources for those ministries.

Sonja has worked for the BC Public Service for over 30 years in a number of ministries and organizations, including BC Ferries, the Public Guardian and Trustee and the Ministry of Advanced Education. However the majority of her career has been in corporate services for the natural resource ministries with roles in finance, facilities and human resources. With a degree in Business Administration, she has been with CSNR since it was created in 2010 and was appointed ADM and EFO for CSNR on April 1, 2022.



Name: Rob Schweitzer

Title: Acting Assistant Deputy Minister of BC Wildfire Service

Ministry: Ministry of Forests

Biography: Rob has been with the Ministry of Forests since joining as an Initial Attack Fire Fighter in 1991. The opportunity to work fulltime took him over to the Forest District operations side of the Ministry in Prince Rupert before returning to the interior working with BC Timber Sales, Engineering Branch and the Kamloops Forest District in 2005. He rejoined the BC Wildfire Service as the Kamloops Fire Centre Manager in 2016 and has held the Director and Executive Director roles since 2019. Rob maintains a strong role in natural resource management and is an advocate for building partnerships with the forest sector, local governments, First Nations and cross divisional alignment within the Ministry.

Personal Information



Name: Jamie Jeffreys

Title: Assistant Deputy Minister for South Area

Ministry: Ministry of Forests

Biography:

Jamie is a Registered Professional Forester and has been a senior leader in the Public Service for 13 years with multiple ministries and programs including Regional Operations, FrontCounter BC, and the BC Wildfire Service in the Ministry of Forests and the Ministry of Energy, Mines, and Low Carbon Initiatives. Jamie was the Director of Strategic Engagement and Partnerships in BC Wildfire Service before assuming the role of Assistant Deputy Minister for the South Area in 2022.

Prior to joining the BC Public Service, Jamie worked in a variety of roles in the forestry sector with First Nations and industry across the north and south areas of the province.

Personal Information



Name: Mike Hykaway

Title: Assistant Deputy Minister for North Area

Ministry: Ministry of Forests

Biography:

Mike is the Assistant Deputy Minister for the North Area within the Ministry of Forests. He has been with the ministry since the formation of FLNRO in 2011, and prior to that, he was an Executive Director in the Ministry of Forests and Range, and the Integrated Land Management Bureau. Mike was recently in the role of Executive Director of Operations in the Associate Deputy Minister's Office and the Executive Director of Regional Operations for the North Area. Mike also gained valuable experience working closely with First Nations, industry, a wide range of Natural Resource Ministry colleagues, and other partners in his time leading the business transformation activities on the Natural Resource Permitting Project.

Mike has a Degree in Political Science from the University of Victoria, and a Business Administration Certificate from Camosun College. Mike has also completed a variety of post-graduate certificate courses in Executive Leadership, Strategic Planning, Project Management, Organizational Development, and Labour Relations. **Personal Information**



Name: Sarah Fraser

Title: Assistant Deputy Minister for the Coast Area

Ministry: Ministry of Forests

Biography:

Sarah was appointed Assistant Deputy Minister of the Coast Area in April 2022, after serving as the Assistant Deputy Minister of Rural Opportunities, Tenures and Engineering Division since March 2021, and is responsible for a diverse portfolio. Most recently Sarah has supported the Minister's mandate for modernizing forest policy through her role as ADM responsible for forest tenures and lead the development of a suite of programs to support forest workers and communities impacted by old growth deferrals.

Sarah holds a Master of Business Administration from Royal Roads University and has 30 years of experience working in the public service leading economic development initiatives and programs throughout British Columbia.

Personal Information

Ministry of Forests Goals and Priority Objectives



VISION

Resilient forests and rangelands are sustainably managed for the benefit of all people in British Columbia, now and for future generations.

PEOPLE AND ORGANIZATIONAL EXCELLENCE

FOR is a high-performing organization with a strong culture promoting safety, leadership, and strategies for being a great place to work for the benefit of British Columbians.

MISSION

To take an integrated and collaborative approach to natural resource management.

Economic Benefits and Resilience for All People in British Columbia

The Ministry's actions are increasing the value and resilience of forests and rangelands to achieve the highest economic returns possible for the people of B.C., and ensuring that the forest industry can respond and adapt to the challenges and opportunities facing the forest sector.

- Streamline permitting to achieve greater certainty and operational predictability.
- Improve reliability of fibre flow, increase wildfire salvage, expand commercial thinning, and strengthen B.C.'s value-added manufacturing sector.
- Enhance BC Timber Sales to support high-value production to build a more diverse, competitive and inclusive forest sector.

Partnerships to Advance Reconciliation with Indigenous Peoples

The Ministry is expanding opportunities for First Nations to collaborate in forest stewardship, engage in shared decision-making, and realize benefits from forestry and the forest economy.

- Advance forest landscape plans, a new fiscal framework and forestry revenue-sharing.
- Co-develop legislation, regulations and policy to reflect a shared strategic vision that upholds the rights of the UN Declaration.
- Support protection and mitigation of impacts to cultural resources.
- Improve forest service roads to enhance access to remote First Nations communities.

Proactive and Collaborative Natural Hazard Management

The Ministry delivers the very best wildfire mitigation, preparedness, response and land-based recovery to support strong, healthy, resilient forests and communities.

- Support the Premier's Expert Task Force on Emergencies, and implement changes to improve natural hazard incident management.
- Address the impacts of natural hazard incidents through efficient wildfire salvage, land-based recovery, and archaeology permitting.
- Implement a year-round, all-hazards approach to address the threat of extreme fire and other climate change induced events.

Sustainable Forest Stewardship for All Values

The Ministry is meeting its stewardship objectives in order to ensure that ecological, economic, cultural and recreational values connected to B.C.'s forests and rangelands are enhanced over time through management, including enforcement, and informed by Indigenous Knowledge and scientific research.

- Accelerate forest landscape plans and implement the Old Growth Strategic Action Plan in collaboration with First Nations.
- Provide innovative scientific research to guide resource management decisions and strengthen the role of B.C.'s forests in climate change mitigation and adaptation.
- Develop a Climate Adaptation Policy Framework to guide legislative and regulatory amendments connected to investment decisions in forest management activities.

Ministry of Forests

2024/25 – 2026/27 Service Plan

February 2024



For more information on the Ministry of Forests, contact:

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Or visit our website at

<http://www.gov.bc.ca/for/>

Published by the Ministry of Forests

Minister's Accountability Statement



The Ministry of Forests 2024/25 – 2026/27 Service Plan was prepared under my direction in accordance with the *Budget Transparency and Accountability Act*. I am accountable for the basis on which the plan has been prepared.

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read "Bruce Ralston". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Honourable Bruce Ralston
Minister of Forests
February 9, 2024

Minister of State's Accountability Statement



I am the Minister of State for Sustainable Forestry Innovation and under the Balanced Budget and Ministerial Accountability Act, I am accountable for achieving the following results for 2024/25:

- a) Meet with relevant officials within government, with forest industry representatives, with First Nations and with other stakeholders in order to develop an understanding of opportunities and risks respecting the stabilization and growth of fibre supply.
- b) Submit to Cabinet a report on the results referred to in paragraph (a) on or before March 31, 2024.
- c) Strengthen and improve the "Residual Fibre Utilization Policy", drawing on the support of the Minister of Forests.
- d) Work with the Minister of Forests and the Minister of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation to expedite work that is currently underway with First Nations, the purpose of which is to reach constructive arrangements and government-to-government agreements respecting certainty of access to fibre.
- e) Work with the Minister of Forests to accelerate the implementation of forest landscape planning.
- f) submit to Cabinet a report on the results referred to in paragraphs (c) through (e) on or before March 31, 2025.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'A. Mercier', written in a cursive style.

Honourable Andrew Mercier
Minister of Sustainable Forestry Innovation
February 9, 2024

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Strategic Direction

In 2024/25, the Government of British Columbia will remain focused on providing the services and infrastructure that people depend on to build a good life. Government will continue delivering results that matter to British Columbians including helping people with costs, attainable and affordable housing, strengthened health care, safer communities, and a secure, clean and fair economy. Government will continue working collaboratively with Indigenous Peoples as it implements the Action Plan for the *Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act* and delivers initiatives that advance reconciliation in ways that make a difference in communities throughout the province.

This 2024/25 service plan outlines how the Ministry of Forests will support the government's priorities and selected action items identified in the January 2024 [Minister's Mandate Letter](#).

Purpose of the Ministry

The Ministry of Forests (the Ministry) supports resiliency of the province's land-base and economy by providing collaborative management of forest, range and archaeological resources, and leading the Province's wildfire response and mitigation. With a commitment to sustainable natural resource management, the Ministry is enhancing the role of forests and forest products as carbon sinks, managing forests to support healthy ecosystems, and working to ensure greater value for B.C. wood and high-value manufacturing. The Ministry is continually pursuing ways to strengthen partnerships, collaboration, and engagement with Indigenous Peoples, and to collaborate with other government ministries in conducting this work.

The Ministry also supports the Minister in his governance responsibilities for the [Forest Enhancement Society of British Columbia](#). A complete list of Crown Agencies associated with the Ministry can be found in [Appendix A](#).

Operating Environment

More than 90 percent of British Columbia's forest and rangelands are publicly owned and managed by the provincial government on behalf of the public, and B.C. strives to be a world leader in sustainable forest and range management. Managing such a broad and diverse area, however, is complex, and brings a number of factors that can impact the achievement of the Ministry's goals.

A vibrant and prosperous forest sector is vital to B.C.'s overall economic well-being, and is particularly important for rural communities. In 2022, the forest sector supported about 56,000 direct jobs in communities across B.C., generated \$6.4 billion in gross domestic product (GDP), and \$1.9 billion in government revenues (2022/23)¹. Challenges such as a declining timber supply, ongoing trade disputes with the U.S., and strained market conditions, however,

¹ Statistics Canada and BC Ministry of Forests

continue to face the B.C. forest sector. Economic conditions are also difficult for the secondary manufacturing sector, with temporary and permanent reductions in milling capacity being necessary. It is clear that B.C. must find new, innovative ways to support the forest sector to adapt and ensure it continues to thrive into the future.

The impacts of climate change continue to be increasingly felt by people and communities across B.C. Anticipating and addressing the long-term environmental consequences continues to be a key challenge at the provincial, national, and international levels. In the summer of 2023 the province experienced the most destructive wildfire season in B.C.'s history, with over two million hectares of forest and land burned, tens of thousands of people forced to evacuate, and hundreds of homes lost. Combined with the effects of an unprecedented drought, the ecological and economic damage is likely significant.

With climate change, forest health management has also become increasingly challenging as hotter and drier conditions lead to increased stress for B.C.'s ecosystems. In this context, forest resources help reduce the amount of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere by sequestering carbon dioxide through photosynthesis. The Ministry is supporting [CleanBC](#) by screening and planting trees that are more resistant to pests, diseases, and drought. Ministry researchers generate new and innovative scientific knowledge on climate change adaptation to support decision-making towards the successful management of B.C.'s forests.

Central to the Ministry's mandate are its commitments to meaningful reconciliation with Indigenous Peoples, and considerations of how diverse groups of British Columbians may experience Provincial policies and programs. The Ministry has a fiduciary responsibility to manage forest resources for public benefit, but decisions about forests and forest landscapes have disproportionate impacts on First Nations and their inherent rights. The Ministry is aligning programs, policies, and legislation with the [United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples](#) (UN Declaration). The Ministry also has been working on developing a responsive, diverse workforce that has a strong mandate to work collaboratively with Indigenous Peoples to realize these changes together.

In October 2023 the responsibility for the *Land Act*, *Water Sustainability Act*, *Wildlife Act*, and a number of other authorities for the administration of land, water, fish and wildlife were transferred from the Ministry of Forests to the Ministry of Water, Land and Resource Stewardship. As a result, there are some changes to this 2024/25 service plan. The Ministry has introduced a new goal and associated performance measures to demonstrate how the Ministry is advancing proactive and collaborative natural hazard management in B.C. In addition, some content has been reorganized to reflect the Ministry's ongoing priorities, including its focus on transforming the forest sector, supporting a resilient and sustainable land-base, and delivering Government's priorities and the Ministry's mandate in a way that supports meaningful reconciliation with Indigenous Peoples.

Economic Statement

B.C.'s economy posted modest growth last year as interest rate increases weighed on the economy, and employment continued to expand, supported by immigration. Inflation in the province continued to ease and the Bank of Canada has not raised its policy interest rate since July 2023. The impact of higher rates on borrowing costs and elevated household debt led to lower consumer spending and reduced home sales. Lumber, natural gas and coal prices declined in 2023, reducing the value of the province's goods exports. Meanwhile, there was a record number of housing starts in the province in 2023. There is uncertainty over the transmission of high interest rates to the residential construction sector and the duration of slower growth for the rest of the economy in B.C. and among our trading partners. The Economic Forecast Council (EFC) estimates that B.C. real GDP expanded by 0.9 per cent in 2023 and expects growth of 0.5 per cent in 2024 and 2.1 per cent in 2025. Meanwhile for Canada, the EFC estimates growth of 1.1 per cent in 2023 and projects national real GDP growth of 0.5 per cent in 2024 and 1.9 per cent in 2025. As such, B.C.'s economic growth is expected to be broadly in line with the national average in the coming years. The risks to B.C.'s economic outlook continue to center around interest rates and inflation, including the risk of price increases stemming from geopolitical conflicts, the potential for interest rates remaining higher for longer, and uncertainty around the depth and timing of the impact on housing markets. Further risks include ongoing uncertainty regarding global trade policies, lower commodity prices, climate change impacts and the volatility of immigration levels.

Performance Planning

Goal 1: Economic Benefits and Resilience for All People in British Columbia

The Ministry is committed to supporting a strong future for the forest industry in B.C. and is taking action to increase the value and resilience of forests and rangelands to achieve the highest economic returns possible for people in B.C. Through forest policy modernization and transformational initiatives, the Ministry is enabling greater planning certainty and diversified participation to respond to the present and emerging challenges and opportunities facing the forest sector, and is supporting good jobs for families and communities.

Some actions to support this goal have changed from previous service plans due to the transfer of responsibilities pertaining to land, water, fish and wildlife authorizations to the Ministry of Water, Land and Resource Stewardship. The performance measure tracking Client Satisfaction with natural resource authorization services has also been removed as a result of this change.

Objective 1.1: Support a strong economy and strengthen forest policy to create the conditions for an innovative, diverse and sustainable forest sector

This objective directs Ministry efforts towards creating the conditions that support a vibrant, innovative forest sector in B.C. Through specific policy changes and initiatives aimed towards modernizing forest policy, the Ministry is leading a forest sector transition to enhance stewardship and sustainability, as well as increase forest sector participation and economic development in the province.

Key Strategies

- [Modernize Forest Policy in British Columbia](#), and support ongoing transformation of B.C.'s forest sector through implementing policy, regulatory and legislative changes that benefit communities and Indigenous Peoples, maintain a competitive forest industry, and promote excellence in stewardship;
- Encourage forest industry diversification through initiatives that strengthen B.C.'s value-added manufacturing sector, including the new BC Timber Sales Value-Added Manufacturing Program that will provide a dedicated supply of fibre to the value-added sector;
- Facilitate the growth of B.C.'s bioeconomy through key partnerships that advance manufacturing of new and innovative forest products, supporting the Province's [CleanBC Roadmap to 2030](#);
- Represent B.C.'s interests in Canada-US litigation on the softwood lumber dispute and fight unwarranted softwood lumber duties by working with the federal government to challenge the duties through the [North American Free Trade Agreement](#), [the Canada –](#)

[U.S. – Mexico Agreement](#) and the World Trade Organization dispute settlement processes.

Discussion

This objective addresses how the Ministry is supporting B.C.'s forest sector in an era of change. Changing needs and interests of Indigenous and local communities, a changing climate, as well as a decreasing timber supply are some of the influencing factors.

Through bold initiatives to strengthen the forest sector in B.C., the Ministry is leading a forest sector transition and finding new ways to manage B.C.'s forests. Together with Indigenous Peoples, other ministries, interested parties and communities, the Ministry is supporting forest sector diversification, as outlined in the Modernizing Forest Policy in British Columbia Intentions Paper. This work aims to provide more opportunities for communities and First Nations to participate in the forest economy, and to create the conditions that encourage a shift from a "high volume" to "high value" mindset through expanding opportunities for the value-added sector and B.C.'s bioeconomy.

The Ministry is exploring ways to accelerate supply of timber and fibre for manufacturing and value-added processing in B.C. Through the creation of the BC Timber Sales Value-Added Manufacturing Program, BC Timber Sales (BCTS) is providing harvest opportunities through competitive auction to Crown timber for non-tenured or minimally tenured timber processing facilities. In addition, the Ministry is leading the [Value-Added Accelerators](#) in partnership with the Value-added Wood Coalition, [First Nations Forestry Council](#) and [Council of Forest Industries](#). The Value-Added Accelerators will develop solutions to grow value-added manufacturing in B.C. as a critical element of an integrated, competitive forest industry. The Ministry is also working to strengthen and improve the [Residual Fibre Utilization Policy](#) to increase fibre security and to address the demand from secondary and value-added manufacturers for sustainable fibre supply.

The Ministry tracks progress towards this objective through performance measure 1.1, which demonstrates the success of economic diversification activities, including the promotion of value-added forest manufacturing. The Ministry is also working to ensure timely and strong representation of B.C.'s interests in the softwood lumber dispute.

Objective 1.2: Integrated, coordinated and timely delivery of authorizations services to citizens, clients and businesses

This objective promotes effective management of service delivery processes in order to ensure that the Ministry is supporting a strong economy and providing public services that British Columbians can rely on.

Key Strategies

- Deliver forest, range, and archaeology authorizations services and decisions in accordance with the requirements of service users and standards of the Ministry;
- Continue to monitor and improve the timeliness and ease of access of authorizations services;

- Provide focused compliance and enforcement services to ensure responsible natural resource stewardship.

Discussion

The Ministry is responsible for statutory decision-making for forests, range, and archaeology activities in B.C., receiving on average over 15,000 applications annually for forests and archaeology authorizations alone. These decisions are complex – the Ministry must consider multiple interests on the land-base to provide reliable, effective services that meet the needs of clients and businesses, support reconciliation with Indigenous Peoples, and achieve the Ministry’s stewardship objectives. Through its monitoring, compliance, and enforcement services the Ministry ensures that natural resource legislation and associated decisions are upheld, including Crown land tenures and trespass, dam safety, forestry and range practices, water use, and conservation of heritage resources.

Delivering durable, coordinated, and timely decisions is a priority for the Ministry, and concerted efforts are made in this area to ensure continuous improvement. Progress towards this objective is monitored through internal metrics on application workload, staff capacity and processing timelines.

Performance Measures

Performance Measure	2023/24 Forecast	2024/25 Target	2025/26 Target	2026/27 Target
1.1 Annual BCTS timber volume auctioned, targeted at the value-add sector	520,000 m ³	750,000 m ³	670,000 m ³	680,000 m ³

Data source: BC Timber Sales

Discussion

Under the direction of the Ministry, BC Timber Sales manages about 20 percent of the province’s allowable annual cut for Crown timber, operating in 33 communities, directly supporting over 8,000 jobs across B.C.

The value-added sector is primarily made up of small- to medium- sized companies that manufacture a diverse range of specialty products that maximize the value of B.C.’s forests. One of the contributing factors to the value-added sector’s ability to maintain capacity and create new and innovative products and processes is access to fibre (both logs and lumber); however, many value-added manufacturers do not hold replaceable Crown tenure and may source input materials through the open market. In order to support this vital sector of the forest industry, BCTS provides harvest opportunities through competitive auction to Crown timber for non-tenured or minimally tenured timber processing facilities.

This performance measure tracks how much timber is sold at auction to the value-added sector, providing critical data to the Ministry to guide decisions about how it can continue to better support the growth of this sector. Targets are set based on the amount of volume

apportioned to BCTS and may be adjusted annually based on market conditions and government direction.

Goal 2: Partnerships to Advance Reconciliation with Indigenous Peoples

Furthering Government's commitment to work toward true and lasting reconciliation, the Ministry is taking action to expand opportunities for First Nations to participate and collaborate in forest planning, share decision-making, and realize benefits from forestry and the forest economy.

Objective 2.1: Strengthen partnerships and meaningful engagement with Indigenous Peoples in the management of the land base and forest resources in B.C.

This objective is directed at improving the engagement activities that would result in economic development for Indigenous communities and Peoples. The Ministry is committed to the B.C. Government's plans to share the sustainable management of the province's natural resources with Indigenous Peoples.

Key Strategies

- Continue implementation of the UN Declaration through application of the [*Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act*](#) in alignment with the Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation, and other ministries;
- In collaboration with the Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation and the Ministry of Finance, continue work with First Nations to co-develop a new fiscal framework and forestry revenue sharing model;
- Explore greater opportunities to promote partnerships through program-level operations and government-to-government mandates;
- In collaboration with First Nations and with support from the Ministry of Tourism, Arts, Culture and Sport, transform the [*Heritage Conservation Act*](#) in accordance with the [*Declaration Act Action Plan*](#);
- Continue to reform forest legislation, regulations and policy to reflect a shared strategic vision with First Nations that upholds the rights articulated in the UN Declaration.

Discussion

The Ministry has a key role in supporting genuine and enduring reconciliation with First Nations, and is focused on several priorities to advance reconciliation. This includes changing the approach to manage and make decisions around B.C.'s heritage resources by making long-sought changes to the *Heritage Conservation Act*; and implementing improvements to forest service roads to enhance access to remote First Nations communities. The Ministry is also continuing to work towards increasing the amount of replaceable forest tenure held by First

Nations, co-developing a new fiscal framework, and creating more tenure opportunities for First Nations.

The Ministry recognizes that these initiatives are just a start. The Ministry also has long-term reconciliation strategies, with critical work focused on the development of [Declaration Act Section 7](#) agreements to legalize co-management approaches and to share the benefits provided by B.C.'s forests. Through this work, the Ministry is taking action – as directed by the Declaration Act Action Plan – to create a more prosperous and inclusive future for all British Columbians, now and for generations to come.

Objective 2.2: In partnership with First Nations, implement a new vision for forest management that prioritizes B.C.'s ecosystem health and community resiliency

The Ministry recognizes and honours First Nations' rights and title on their traditional territories. To further our government's commitments in this respect, the Ministry continually seeks opportunities to partner with First Nations communities to ensure forest management practices benefit from Indigenous stewardship, values, and knowledge.

Key Strategies

- In partnership with First Nations and other interested parties, continue to advance implementation of the recommendations from the [old growth strategic review](#), which will be guided by the Old Growth Action Plan and advanced in collaboration with partner ministries;
- Continue to work toward full partnership with First Nations in managing B.C.'s forest resources through collaborative management agreements, shared decision-making tables, and [forest landscape planning](#);
- Co-develop a [cultural and prescribed fire](#) program with First Nations and local governments to enable cultural and prescribed fire as an accessible, efficient land management tool that supports the integrated and expanded use of prescribed fire, and enables the use of cultural fire by Indigenous Peoples;
- Work collaboratively with the Ministry of Water, Land and Resource Stewardship and First Nations governments to develop land-use objectives through [modernized land use planning](#), ensuring that sustainable natural resource management reflects shared social, cultural, economic, and environmental values.

Discussion

The Ministry is committed to a new integrated approach to enhance forest ecosystem health and resiliency throughout the province, and is working to achieve full partnership with First Nations in the management of B.C.'s forests through a number of actions and strategies.

The Ministry is working with First Nations, interested parties, and others to continue implementation of the recommendations from the Old Growth Strategic Review. In 2024/25, the Ministry will continue to implement the strategic and operational commitments made

through the Old Growth Action Plan, which will guide the management of B.C.'s old forests into the future.

Cultural and prescribed fire supports land-based revitalization and forest health, and can be utilised as a restoration tool for improving community safety and well-being. Many First Nations in B.C. have a long history of utilizing fire to nurture ecosystems, and controlled burning can connect First Nations to traditional foods as well as spiritual resources. The Ministry is committed to adapting and updating policies and practices to increase cultural and prescribed fire across the province.

The Ministry monitors progress towards its objective through performance measure 2.1, which demonstrates progress towards building and implementing a cultural and prescribed burning program with First Nations.

Performance Measures

Performance Measure	2020/21 Baseline	2023/24 Forecast	2024/25 Target	2025/26 Target	2026/27 Target
2.1 Number of cultural and prescribed fire projects developed by or co-developed with First Nations ^{1,2,3}	3	26	40	60	85

Data source: BCWS prescribed fire provincial project data tracking spreadsheet

¹“Cultural and prescribed fire” is defined by the Wildfire Regulation as Resource Management Open Fire and includes the use of fire by government for purposes established in Section 18 of the *Wildfire Act*; “Developed by First Nations” is a BCWS-approved independently developed First Nations’ burn plan. “Co-developed with First Nations” is: a First Nation actively engaged in project development, a First Nation is a burn plan co-proponent, or where cultural burning is the primary objective.

²The reporting period for this performance measure is January 1 to December 31.

³This performance measure was tracked under Goal 1 in the 2023/24 – 2025/26 service plan.

Discussion

Cultural fire is an Indigenous-led practice of using fire on the land as part of First Nations stewardship practices, informed by cultural knowledge and objectives. Prescribed fire is the planned and controlled application of fire to the landscape to achieve objectives, including fuel management (risk reduction), habitat enhancement, ecosystem restoration, climate adaption and resilience, and pest management. These two practices have their roots in different management systems, but each contributes to ecosystem health and resilience, as well as reducing the risk of large-scale wildfire.

Burn planning ensures the use of fire supports the revitalization of ecosystems and does not damage environmental and other values, and incorporates considerations including fuel types, weather, topography, fire intensity, rate of spread, smoke management, and various local values and objectives. Burn plans ensure the use of fire is undertaken in safe conditions, and protects public safety. Projects are often developed in collaboration by burn proponents, burn practitioners and professionals.

This performance measure reports on the number of approved burn plans developed by or co-developed with First Nations. Tracking partnership-based burn plans allows the Ministry to assess its performance in relationship development, partnership opportunities, and capacity development which are the foundation of program growth. Burns can only be successfully conducted under favourable seasonal weather conditions which can vary significantly from year-to-year, and burn plans, rather than burn completion, is considered a more reliable measure of performance. A baseline was defined from the 2020/21 program data. Following assessment in 2023, targets for 2024/25, 2025/26 and 2026/27 were adjusted from the 2023/24 Service Plan to reflect anticipated program growth. Targets are cumulative, and will be assessed annually and adjusted accordingly.

Goal 3: Proactive and Collaborative Natural Hazard Management

Through this new goal for 2024/25, the Ministry commits to delivering the very best wildfire mitigation, preparedness, response, and land-based recovery to support strong, healthy, and resilient forests and communities. Through collaborating with First Nations, other governments, and agencies, the Ministry continues to implement a year-round, all-hazards approach to address the threat of extreme fire and other climate change induced events.

Objective 3.1: Improve community resiliency and reduce wildfire risk

This objective aims to reduce the risks and impacts of wildfires through the implementation of a risk-assessment based approach, including incorporation of Indigenous values, knowledge and practices.

Key Strategies:

- Reduce risk and increase community resiliency through the implementation of [Government's Action Plan - Responding to wildfire and flood risks](#) and the development of a Provincial Risk Reduction Strategy to reduce wildfire risk in B.C. through targeted fuel management activities in high wildfire risk landscapes;
- Support work in treating the [Wildland Urban Interface](#) through delivery of [FireSmart](#) activities, and strengthen capacity of local emergency authorities and Indigenous communities to prepare and respond to wildfire events;
- Continue to provide advice, support, and funding to local governments through programs such as the [Community Resiliency Investment program](#) and [FireSmart](#) to strengthen capacity, reduce risk to communities, and improve preparedness for wildfires and other natural hazard events.

Discussion

As extreme climate events increase in frequency, complexity and severity, the Ministry recognizes the need to improve landscape and community resiliency through natural hazard prevention, preparedness, response, and land-based recovery.

The Ministry is advancing key actions such as co-developing a scalable cultural and prescribed fire program with Indigenous Peoples, working to increase FireSmart activities in communities, and developing a wildfire risk reduction strategy. Through these actions, the Ministry aims to reduce wildfire risk and improve B.C.'s resilience to the impacts of natural hazard events.

The Ministry tracks progress towards this objective through performance measure 3.1, which monitors wildfire risk reduction activities taking place on Crown land, focusing on areas around communities and critical infrastructure.

Objective 3.2: Deliver excellence in natural hazard incident management and support strong, healthy land-based recovery

This objective focuses on the Ministry's efforts to improve natural hazard incident management and wildfire land-based recovery, which includes preparing for and responding to wildfire and natural hazard incidents, and repairing the land-base affected by a wildfire.

Key Strategies:

- Advance the action-oriented recommendations of the Premier's Expert Task Force on Emergencies in 2024 and beyond;
- Continue to make strategic investments in predictive technologies and capabilities to strengthen the Ministry's ability to anticipate and rapidly respond to wildfire events;
- In collaboration with First Nations governments, partners and interested parties, continue the development and implementation of a [wildfire land-based recovery](#) strategy to enhance ecosystem resilience and reduce future negative impacts from wildfire.

Discussion

Since 2017, unprecedented natural hazards have caused significant damage and destruction in the province and resulted in severe consequences for many people in British Columbia. The difficult work of recovery continues and is a priority for the Province, local and First Nations governments, and all those living in affected areas.

In October 2023, the Province launched the Premier's Expert Task Force on Emergencies to develop action-oriented recommendations on enhancing natural hazard emergency mitigation, preparedness, response and recovery in B.C. The Ministry plays an important role in transforming the task force's advice into actions that address key priorities related to emergency management and wildfire management in advance of the 2024 hazard season.

The Ministry is also working to repair the land-base affected by wildfire and wildfire suppression activities, including restoration to an acceptable level or, when feasible, improving sustainability and resiliency of the landscape to reduce vulnerability and future negative impacts by wildfire.

In addition, the Ministry is taking steps to further evolve the BC Wildfire Service into a year-round multi-hazard preparedness and response organization. This includes working with

municipalities and First Nations to improve coordinated response through the development of a Wildfire Emergency Response Strategy for B.C. that improves the transparency of BC Wildfire policies, workflows, and procedures and strengthens a partnership-based approach to wildfire response.

The Ministry monitors progress towards this objective through performance measure 3.2, which tracks the Ministry’s obligation to recover the land-base affected by wildfire suppression activities.

Performance Measures

Performance Measure	2020/21 Baseline	2023/24 Forecast	2024/25 Target ¹	2025/26 Target ¹	2026/27 Target ¹
3.1 Area treated with the priority objective of reducing wildfire risk in and around communities and critical infrastructure (ha)	3,000	4,500	5,000	9,000	9,000

Data source: BC Wildfire Service

¹Includes fuel management activities completed by the Forest Enhancement Society of BC (FESBC), as reported in the FESBC 2024/25-2026/27 Service Plan.

Discussion

With the ever-increasing frequency and severity of wildfires in B.C., proactively mitigating the effects of wildfire on public lands around communities is a priority for the Ministry.

Through the BC Wildfire Service, the Community Resiliency Investment Program funds wildfire risk reduction activities including cultural and prescribed fire, fuel management planning and treatments, and wildfire risk reduction activities targeting critical infrastructure such as government owned radio repeaters, weather stations, and airtanker bases. The BC Wildfire Service uses its Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) Risk Class Framework to support and prioritize these wildfire risk reduction initiatives and improve public safety.

Performance measure 3.1 is new to the 2024/25 service plan, and reports the area of completed fuel management activities with a primary objective of reducing wildfire risk by modifying forest fuel attributes around communities. The targets are set using a trend-based analysis, and data is collected through various programs and initiatives such as BC Wildfire Service spatial databases.

In the short to medium-term, targets reflect the planning activities (Community Wildfire Resiliency Plans, WUI Wildfire Risk Reduction Plans and Fuel Management Prescriptions) needed before operational fuel management activities can take place. Over the longer term as the program evolves, a percentage of hectares treated will be maintenance (e.g. prescribed fire, brushing to manage surface fuel) of existing fuel breaks to ensure they maintain effectiveness.

Performance Measure	2020/21 Baseline	2023/24 Forecast	2024/25 Target	2025/26 Target	2026/27 Target
3.2 Rehabilitation plans created for wildfires that require rehabilitation treatment	80%	85%	90%	95%	100%

Data source: BC Wildfire Service

Discussion

Wildfire Land-Based Recovery was added as a new program to the BC Wildfire Service in 2023, as the fourth pillar of emergency management. Wildfire Land-Based Recovery is a phase of emergency management in which steps are taken to repair the land-base affected by a wildfire itself and wildfire suppression activities.

Government's Wildfire Land-Based Recovery process is intended to reduce the negative impacts of select wildfires. One of the areas of work is [wildfire suppression rehabilitation](#), which is a form of deactivation, specific to fire suppression activities. The amount of fire suppression activities can range from 100 to 5,000 km of disturbances annually, and rehabilitation project completion is a year-round effort.

This performance measure is new to the 2024/25 service plan. It tracks the Ministry's creation of wildfire rehabilitation plans in areas affected by wildfire suppression activities, including creation of fireguards, modified roads, trails, and handguards constructed during a wildfire response. Targets are set based on an average fire season and are tracked closely by the BC Wildfire Service. Rehabilitation plans prescribe treatments to address detrimental impacts to the land during wildfire suppression while promoting ecosystem resiliency. The Ministry collaborates with First Nations communities, especially when it comes to planning and implementing rehabilitation works on Crown land.

Goal 4: Sustainable Forest Stewardship for All Values

The Ministry is dedicated to ensuring that the economic benefits, recreational opportunities, and cultural significance associated with B.C.'s forests, rangelands, and heritage resources are responsibly managed and preserved for future generations.

Some strategies under this goal have changed from previous service plans due to the transfer of responsibilities pertaining to fish, wildlife, habitat, and species-at-risk to the Ministry of Water, Land and Resource Stewardship. The previous performance measure reporting the timely completion and publication of Annual Regulation Cycle per category for fish and wildlife was also removed as a result of this change.

Objective 4.1: Revitalize and protect B.C.'s forests, and strengthen climate change mitigation and adaptation activities

The [Intergovernmental panel on climate change](#) recognizes that land management is critical for mitigating climate change and its impacts. In this context, strengthening B.C.'s ability to mitigate and adapt to climate change continues to be an important objective for the Ministry.

Through this objective, the Ministry is advancing towards its goal of sustainable natural resource management while taking steps to protect B.C.'s forests by fostering innovative management activities, modernizing forest policies to include Indigenous Peoples' perspectives, and strengthening the resiliency of B.C.'s forests to climate change.

Key Strategies

- Invest in forest management activities that reduce emissions, enhance carbon sequestration, and rehabilitate and restore forests, such as reforestation, improving fibre utilization, planting higher densities, forest health treatments, and expanding fertilization;
- Continue to develop, update, and implement Climate Action Plans to incorporate climate adaptation and mitigation strategies into the Ministry's core businesses using the latest climate science, data, and Indigenous knowledge;
- Develop a Climate Adaptation Policy Framework to underpin the Ministry's climate policies, strategies, and priorities, and guide legislative and regulatory amendments to enable the consideration of climate risks and data in Ministry decision-making and operations;
- With support from the Minister of Water, Land and Resource Stewardship, work together with First Nations to complete work to improve the protection and stewardship of forest resources, habitats, biodiversity, and cultural heritage in the [Great Bear Rainforest agreement](#).

Discussion

Through the Forest Investment Program, the Ministry is investing in fertilization, reforestation, tree improvement, and road rehabilitation to increase carbon sequestration, and is encouraging better use of wood fibre to reduce slash pile burning. The Ministry's efforts towards climate action and implementation planning include developing strategies, tools, and guidance to manage climate risks and support operational decision-making and climate policy development. Through research, education, policy, and decision support tools, the Ministry works to incorporate climate change information into its natural resource assessment, planning, and development initiatives with the goal of creating resilient communities and ecosystems.

The Ministry monitors progress through performance measure 4.1, which tracks how the Ministry's forest investment activities are reducing the province's greenhouse gas emissions. The Ministry is also working to implement the activities outlined in the forest bioeconomy pathway of the CleanBC Roadmap to 2030, including advancing the manufacturing and

markets for B.C. bioproducts. In 2024/25 the Ministry is developing and completing public engagement on a Climate Adaptation Policy Framework, a strategic anchor underpinning the Ministry's climate policies, strategies, and priorities.

Objective 4.2: Deliver effective and collaborative forest and range management and planning to support ecosystem health

The Ministry is working to implement a transformative approach to forest stewardship in B.C. with First Nations, that supports healthy ecosystems, resilient communities and sustainable economies.

Key Strategies

- Advance forest landscape planning in B.C. through the development of regulation, policy, and guidance, that will effectively support new and existing government-to-government planning tables;

Continue to strengthen and improve B.C.'s forest stewardship planning framework through transformation of the *Forest and Range Practices Act* to advance reconciliation with Indigenous Peoples and to help address local issues.

Discussion

Through the forest landscape planning framework, the Ministry is working with First Nations rights holders to establish legal direction for forestry practices – harvesting, roadbuilding and other investments - for the management of forest resource values within a planning area. Central to this new approach is working collaboratively with First Nations to co-develop plans, and engaging communities, forest tenure holders, and other interested parties. Development of forest landscape plans enables First Nations to partner in the development of operational plans that direct forest management and operations in their territories.

The Ministry monitors progress towards this objective through performance measure 4.2, which tracks the phased implementation of forest landscape planning across B.C. Through the Declaration Act Action Plan progress reporting, the Ministry is also tracking the number of collaborative stewardship agreements, which includes collaborative forest landscape plan projects and the number of First Nations that are engaged.

Objective 4.3: Deliver exceptional research and scientific analysis to sustainably manage B.C.'s forests and natural resources

This objective relates to the Ministry's role of conducting science-based research and analysis that informs the development of policies and regulations that guide sustainable natural resource management and decisions.

Key Strategies

- Provide scientific expertise and analysis, and continue to invest in operationally relevant and innovative science-based research to guide resource management decisions;

- Advance the goals and priorities of the [Future Forest Ecosystem Centre 2023-2025 Strategic Plan](#), focusing on climate data, ecological forecasting, and capacity building;
- Work collaboratively with other ministries and agencies to collectively provide science that supports natural resource management;
- Enable forest carbon-offset projects on provincial public forest lands, and generate new scientific knowledge on forest carbon and climate change to support decision-making, and support changes in behavior and practices through education, outreach, and development of decision support tools.

Discussion

This objective ensures that the Ministry has the science-based information needed to inform the development of policies and programs that support durable natural resource management decisions that support environmental sustainability. The research delivered by the Ministry is operationally relevant and responsive to existing and emerging needs. On an annual basis more than 140 research projects provide critical information in key areas including climate change, old growth, timber supply, and forest health.

The Ministry’s research scientists communicate their work by [publishing in peer-reviewed journals, technical reports, and extension publications](#) with direct applicability to natural resource management. Through the Future Forest Ecosystems Centre 2023-2025 Strategic Plan, the Ministry is supporting the understanding of how climatic disruption will affect ecosystems by forecasting climate change impacts to B.C.’s forest ecosystems using scientific methods and data.

Performance Measures

Performance Measure	2023/24 Forecast	2024/25 Target	2025/26 Target	2026/27 Target
4.1 Greenhouse gas emissions reduced or sequestered through forest investment activities (MtCO ₂ e) ^{1,2}	2.0	2.0	2.0	2.0

Data source: Forest Carbon and Climate Services Branch

¹Emission reductions and sequestration delivered in the current fiscal year are measured in units of MtCO₂e (Millions Tonnes Carbon Dioxide Equivalent) and the cumulative benefits of each year’s activities are modeled up to the year 2050.

²Targets are based on funding commitments and may be adjusted in future plans.

Discussion

The performance measure tracks the cumulative greenhouse gas emissions reduced by 2050 resulting from investments in each fiscal year, demonstrating the impact of Ministry strategies to mitigate climate change risk and its effects. Estimates are updated annually to reflect changes in program delivery, impacts of disturbances that occur after treatment, and methodological improvements.

Targets for this measure are set by assessing current and ongoing funding from multiple sources including the Forest Investment Program and CleanBC, as well as recoveries from the federal [2 Billion Trees program](#), and determining the greenhouse gas emissions reduced or sequestered through activities funded by these programs.

Performance Measure	2023/24 Forecast	2024/25 Target	2025/26 Target ³	2026/27 Target ³
4.2 Number of forest landscape plans initiated with First Nations through government-to-government agreements ¹	8 ²	3	TBD	TBD

Data source: Office of the Chief Forester.

¹This performance measure was tracked under Goal 2 in the 2023/24 – 2025/26 service plan.

²Four pilot projects were also initiated in 2020/21, and work continues to complete those projects.

³Targets for 2025/26 and 2026/27 will be determined over the course of 2024/25, based on resourcing and other criteria.

Discussion

Forest landscape planning was introduced in Bill 23, the *Forest Statutes Amendment Act* in November 2021 as a new forest management planning regime under the *Forest and Range Practices Act* that will replace the existing [Forest Stewardship Plans](#) regime over time. Forest landscape plans will be integral in delivering on the recommendations of the Old Growth Strategic Review.

Conducted in partnership with First Nations governments and in collaboration with forest and range tenure holders, forest landscape plans provide legal direction for where and how forest management activities, such as timber harvesting, road layout, and silviculture activities, can occur on the land-base, for the 10-year life of the plan. These plans will also address values such as climate change adaptation and mitigation, old growth management, species-at-risk and wildlife habitat, wildfire risk reduction and wildfire resiliency management, recreation, cultural values, and watershed health.

This performance measure tracks the Ministry’s efforts to successfully engage with First Nations on this initiative, which is a first critical step towards implementing forest landscape plans across B.C. Priorities for new projects are identified in collaboration with First Nations partners and natural resource sector ministries, and are considered initiated once a government-to-government agreement has been signed by both parties. Four forest landscape plan pilot projects are currently underway in partnership with First Nations, communities, and the forest sector, which will help inform future forest landscape planning processes. In early 2023 the Ministry identified resourcing to support eight new Forest Landscape Plans projects over a three-year period, and initiated engagement with First Nations build agreement on priority areas. As of November 2023, agreements were reached on five new forest landscape plans projects, and discussions are underway to confirm the remaining three.

Financial Summary

(\$000s)	2023/24 Restated Estimates ¹	2024/25 Estimates	2025/26 Plan	2026/27 Plan
Operating Expenses				
Forest Resiliency and Archaeology	3,309	3,690	3,720	3,720
Integrated Resource Operations	53,424	58,468	58,468	58,468
Office of the Chief Forester	134,568	131,111	131,111	131,111
Timber, Range and Economics	11,264	11,781	11,781	11,781
Fire Preparedness	45,437	46,992	46,992	46,992
Regional Operations	97,770	102,551	102,520	102,520
Executive and Support Services	58,520	59,400	59,401	59,401
Fire Management	204,120	232,736	238,047	238,047
BC Timber Sales Account	236,929	203,941	219,056	235,928
Total	845,341	850,670	871,096	887,968
Capital Expenditures				
Executive and Support Services	35,749	55,448	34,948	34,948
Fire Management	16,000	16,000	13,500	11,001
BC Timber Sales Account	41,107	54,095	49,693	47,362
Total	92,856	125,543	98,141	93,311
Other Financing Transactions				
BC Timber Sales Account Disbursements	89,131	106,017	107,238	97,934
BC Timber Sales Account Receipts	(0,000)	(0,000)	(0,000)	(0,000)
Total Disbursements	89,131	106,017	107,238	97,934
Total Receipts	(0,000)	(0,000)	(0,000)	(0,000)
Total Net Cash Requirements (Source)	89,131	106,017	107,238	97,934

¹ For comparative purposes, amounts shown for 2023/24 have been restated to be consistent with the presentation of the 2024/25 Estimates.

* Further information on program funding and vote recoveries is available in the [Estimates and Supplement to the Estimates](#).

Forest Practices Board Resource Summary

The Forest Practices Board (the board) independently monitors and reviews forest and range practices in B.C.'s public forests and rangelands. The Board audits both tenure holders and government ministries for compliance with forest and range practices legislation, carries out special investigations and issues reports as appropriate, investigates concerns and complaints from the public, and participates in appeals to the [Forest Appeals Commission](#). It informs both the B.C. public and the international marketplace of forest and range licensees' performance in carrying out sound practices and complying with legal requirements.

The Board's mandate is provided by the *Forest and Range Practices Act* and the *Wildfire Act*. While the Board operates independently from the Ministry of Forests, its budget vote is the responsibility of the Minister. The Board reports its accomplishments and priorities through an annual report that can be at: www.bcfpb.ca.

Forest Practices Board	2023/24 Restated Estimates ¹	2024/25 Estimates	2025/26 Plan	2026/27 Plan
Operating Expenses (\$000)				
Total	3.986	3.991	3.991	3.991

¹ For comparative purposes, amounts shown for 2023/24 have been restated to be consistent with the presentation of the 2024/25 Estimates.

*Further information on program funding and vote recoveries is available in the [Estimates and Supplement to the Estimates](#).

Appendix A: Public Sector Organizations

As of February 2024, the Minister of Forests is responsible and accountable for the following organizations:

Coastal Logging Equipment Support Trust

The purpose of the Coast Logging Equipment Support Trust is to help eligible contractors that are negatively impacted by the ongoing labour dispute between the United Steel Workers and Western Forest Products, and the continued weakness in key markets for lumber and limited access to logs.

Forest Enhancement Society of British Columbia

The purpose of the Forest Enhancement Society of British Columbia (FESBC) is to identify and fund projects that advance the environmental and resource stewardship of British Columbia's forests.

Forest Practices Board

The Forest Practices Board provides independent oversight of tenure holders' and government ministries' compliance with the *Forest and Range Practices Act* and the *Wildfire Act* through monitoring and reviewing forest and range practices in B.C.'s public forests and rangelands.

Managed Forest Land Council

The Managed Forest Council is an independent provincial agency established under the *Private Managed Forest Land Act*. The objective of the Council is to encourage forest management practices on private managed forest land in B.C., taking into account the social, environmental, and economic benefits of those practices.

Timber Export Advisory Committee

The Timber Export Advisory Committee provides recommendations to the Minister regarding the export of timber originating from lands within British Columbia that is regulated for manufacture in British Columbia by the Government of British Columbia.

Ministry of Forests
Deputy Minister Rick Manwaring
Associate Deputy Minister Ian Meier

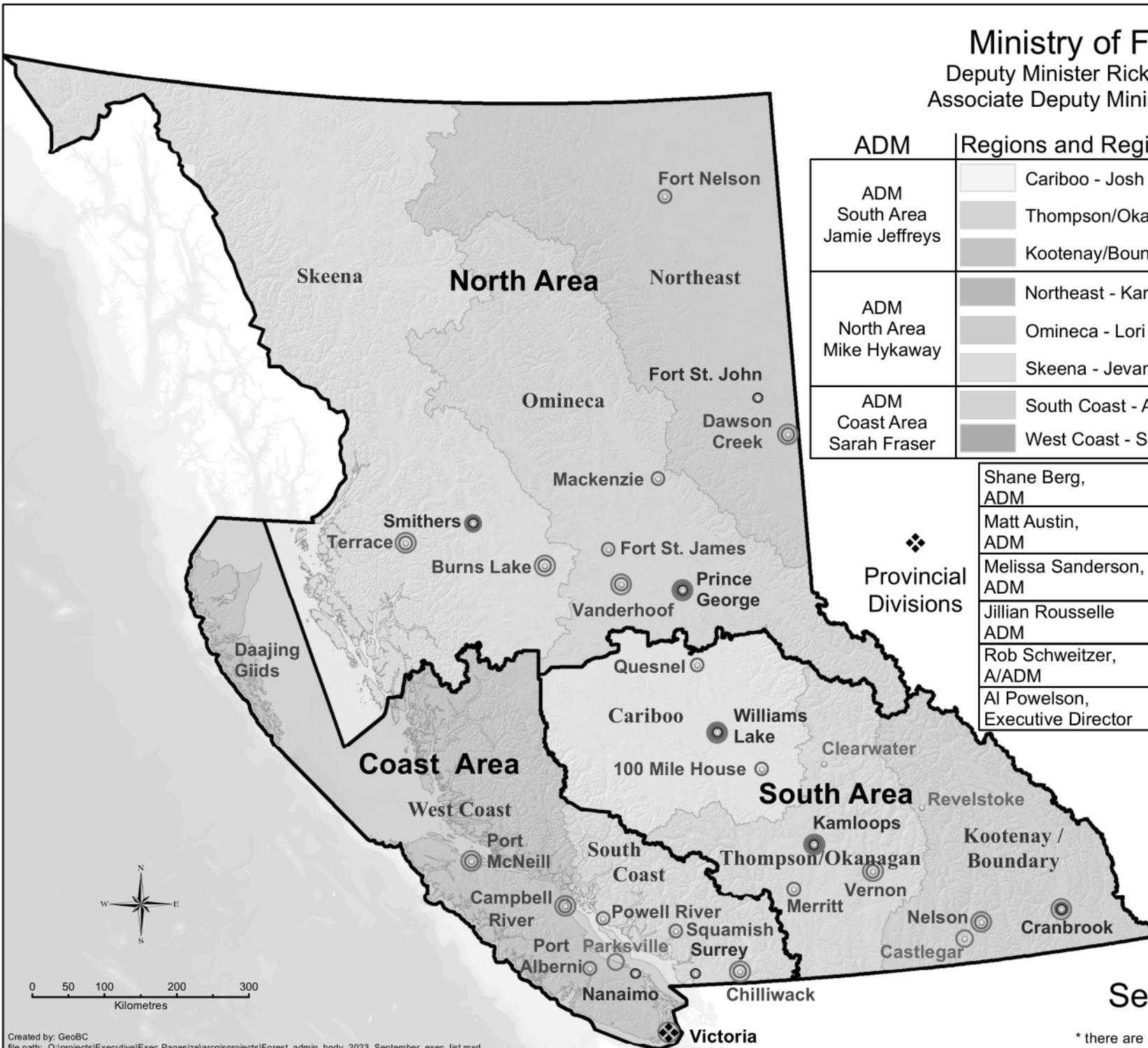
ADM | Regions and Regional Exec. Directors

ADM South Area Jamie Jeffreys	Cariboo - Josh Pressey
	Thompson/Okanagan - Gerry MacDougall
	Kootenay/Boundary - Russ Laroche
ADM North Area Mike Hykaway	Northeast - Karrilyn Vince
	Omineca - Lori Borth
	Skeena - Jevan Hanchard
ADM Coast Area Sarah Fraser	South Coast - Allan Johnsrude
	West Coast - Sharon Hadway

Shane Berg, ADM	Office of the Chief Forester
Matt Austin, ADM	Integrated Resource Operations
Melissa Sanderson, ADM	Timber, Range and Economics
Jillian Rousselle ADM	Forest Resiliency and Archaeology
Rob Schweitzer, A/ADM	BC Wildfire Service
Al Powelson, Executive Director	BC Timber Sales

❖
**Provincial
Divisions**

- FrontCounter BC Office
- Regional Office
- District Office
- BCWS Fire Centre Office
- BC Timber Sales Office



September 2023

* there are other field office locations not shown

Ministry of Forests
KEY STAKEHOLDERS
 September 2024

Branch	Organization	Contact	Description	Key Issues
All	Forest Professionals of BC https://www.fpbc.ca/	Christine Gelowitz, RPF Chief Executive Officer cgelowitz@abcfp.ca s.22 Mike Larock, RPF Director of Practice mlarock@abcfp.ca <small>(Personal Information)</small>	ABCFP is responsible for registering and regulating BC's professional foresters and forest technologists.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Professional reliance Climate change and role of forestry in mitigating impacts Species at risk Forest inventory and mid-term timber supply
TRE North South	BC Cattlemen's Association https://www.cattlemen.bc.ca/	Kevin Boon General Manager bccattle@cattlemen.bc.ca 250-573-3611 Elaine Stovin Assistant General Manager Elaine@cattlemen.bc.ca 250-573-3611	Association representing most of the beef cattle industry in BC.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Treaty and non-treaty agreements Water Sustainability Act implementation Timber harvesting practices operational policy as it relates to Range tenures Involvement with Forest Landscape Planning
IROD Coast North South	BC Community Forest Association https://bccfa.ca/	Jennifer Gunter Executive Director jgunter@bccfa.ca 250-384-4110 Susan Mulkey, Senior Manager & Governance Specialist smulkey@bccfa.ca 250-353-1477	Represents Community Forest Tenure holders across BC.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wildfire Risk reduction funding opportunities Community Forest viability and growth Forest policy
IROD	BC Forest Safety Council https://www.bcforestsafe.org/	Robert Moonen, CEO w. 250-739-5163	The BCFSC works with forest sector employers, workers, unions, contractors and provincial	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Safety of forestry workers Logging truck driver fatigue Faller safety

Coast North South		c. 250-619-7220	government agencies to support industry in implementing changes necessary to eliminate fatalities and serious injuries in the forest sector.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promoting safety in all aspect of forestry operations
TRE Coast South North	BC Pulp and Paper Coalition https://www.bcpulpandpapercoalition.ca/	Joe Nemeth, Manager Personal Information	Coastal pulp mills group	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fibre certainty for mills Forest policy
OCF TRE	BC Wood https://bcwood.com/	Brian Hawrysh CEO 1-877-422-9663 ext. 244 bhawrysh@bcwood.com	A voice for value-added industry, bringing innovative ideas on how to strengthen BC's wood Culture	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Product and systems innovation opportunities to support the sector (including bioeconomy) Advance First Nations opportunities in the value-added sector Sounding board on provincial policy and programs when they have synergies with engineered wood products (industry engagement)
BCWS	Canadian Interagency Forest Fire Centre https://ciffc.ca/	Kim Connors Executive Director Kim.connors@ciffc.ca 204-784-2030 admin@ciffc.ca	Non-profit owned and operated by the federal, provincial and territorial wildland fire management agencies to coordinate resource sharing, mutual aid and information sharing.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Interagency collaboration Resource sharing
Coast	Coast Forest Conservation Initiative https://www.coastforestconservationinitiative.com/	Scott Mitchell BCTS Personal Information Scott.mitchell@gov.bc.ca	Group of coastal forest licensees operating in the Great Bear Rainforest area.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2021 Great Bear Rainforest review Operating areas

			Jointly involved in the implementation and development of conservation and management plans based on the ecosystem of the region.	
Coast	Coastal First Nations/Great Bear Initiative	Paul Kariya Senior Policy Advisor pkariya@coastalfirstnations.ca 604-696-9889 Christine Smith-Martin CEO ceo@coastalfirstnations.ca	Alliance of 9 First Nations (Wuikinuxv, Heiltsuk, Kitasoo/Xaixais, Nuxalk, Gitga'at, Metlakatla, Old Massett, Skidegate, and Council of the Haida Nation) working together to protect the Coast and improve quality of life in their communities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recently signed MOU implementation plan
TRE DMO	BC Council of Forest Industries (COFI) https://cofi.org/	Linda Coady President and CEO Coady@cofi.org Personal Information	The Council of Forest Industries is a trade association representing forest companies operating in communities across the province of British Columbia.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Indigenous Protected and Conserved Areas • Old Growth • Species at Risk • Land Use Planning and Forest and Range Evaluation Program
IROD South Coast North BCWS	Woodlots BC	Gord Chipman, Executive Director gord@woodlotsbc.ca 250-267-9594 1-866-345-TREE (8733) Hello@woodlotsbc.ca">Hello@woodlotsbc.ca	Represent the interests of woodlot licensees and woodlot owners throughout BC.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BC Wildfire Service works with them on Crown Land Wildfire Risk Reduction and Community Resiliency Investment funding opportunities. • Forest policy
IRB	First Nations Forestry Council https://www.forestrycouncil.ca/	Lennard Joe CEO len@forestrycouncil.ca	The First Nations Forestry Council is governed by a board, with	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • FN forestry issues

TRE DMO		604-971-3448	representatives from the First Nations Summit, the Union of BC Indian Chiefs, and the BC Assembly of First Nations.	
OCF	FP Innovations https://web.fpinnovations.ca/	Stéphane Renou President and CEO Tim Caldecott Government & Strategic Partnerships Leader Tim.Caldecott@fpinnovations.ca	FP Innovations is a not-for-profit R&D private organization which spans the pulp and paper industry, forest operations, wood products, and bio-sourced products.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Supporting innovation in forestry
BCWS South	Fraser Basin Council https://www.fraserbasin.bc.ca/	David Marshall Executive Director dmarshall@fraserbasin.ca 604-488-5350	Provincial Non-Government Organization.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Supporting Community Wildfire Roundtables in Southern BC
TRE Coast North South	Independent Wood Processors Association of BC https://iwpabc.com/	Brian Menzies Executive Director brianmenzies@iwpabc.com 250-213-5397	A self-funded, province-wide organization with a membership of independently owned companies.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Access to competitively awarded Crown Timber through BCTS auctions. Softwood Lumber Agreement and the exemption of member firms from US lumber duties
TRE South	Interior Logging Association https://interiorlogging.org/	Todd Chamberlain General Manager 250-503-2199 todd@interiorlogging.org	ILA represents independent loggers' interests throughout the interior.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sustainability of logging contractors Safe logging practices Contractor Sustainability review
South TRE	Interior Lumber Manufacturers Association http://www.ilma.com/	Ken Kalesnikoff kenk@kalesnikoff.com Direct Line: 250-399-4211 Ext. 227 Main Office: 250-399-4211 Paul Rasmussen President Personal Information Paul.Rasmussen@ilma.com	The ILMA is the voice of independent and innovative lumber manufacturers in the southern interior of British Columbia.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Right log to the right mill, securing access to appropriate species and grade of logs Integrated Investment Planning (carbon initiatives, FES and FFT)

		250-608-1077		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contractor sustainability review • Forest Sector Competitiveness Agenda • Softwood Lumber and exemption of their products from duties
TRE North IROD	Northwest Loggers Association https://Northwestloggers.net/	John Nester Personal Information	Along with the traditional contractors, log haulers and associated industries, the NWLA has welcomed licensees, small sawmillers, log brokers & silviculture companies, and many First Nation Band Corporations. NWLA provides a strong united voice when talking to regulatory bodies, government officials and politicians.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sustainability of logging contractors • Safe logging practices • Contractor Sustainability Review • Skills training
Coast IROD	Private Forest Landowners Association https://pfla.bc.ca/	Megan Hanacek CEO megan.hanacek@pfla.bc.ca 250-642-4300	The Private Forest Landowners Association is a non-profit organization dedicated to the responsible stewardship of B.C.'s private forest lands. Passionate about sustainable forest practices, PFLA members strive to balance environmental values, community interests and economic realities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BC Assessment land category that allows for managed forest land • Consultation as it regards to the Private Managed Forest Land Act (PMFL Act)
TRE Regions	Public and Private Workers of Canada (PPWC) https://ppwc.ca/	Kelly Johnson President nationalpresident@ppwc.ca O: 604-731-1909 C:Personal Information	The Public and Private Workers of Canada (PPWC), formerly the Pulp, Paper and Woodworkers of Canada, currently represents thousands of workers across the province of British Columbia. The PPWC is a progressive and democratic union committed to	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Transfer of forest Tenure Agreements • Forest Revitalization • Contractor sustainability • Mill Closures • Support for forestry workers

			workers' rights, social justice, equality and environmental sustainability.	
TRE Coast South IROD	Truck Loggers Association https://www.tla.ca/	Bob Brash Executive Director 604-684-4291 bob@tla.ca C 778.386-7759	Coastal and interior lobby group for logging contractors and small licensees.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Forest policy • Contractor viability • Fibre certainty • Old growth policy
TRE	Unifor https://www.unifor.org/	Gavin McGarrigle Western Regional Director GAVIN.MCGARRIGLE@UNIFOR.ORG O: 604-516-8002 C: 778-668-6455	Unifor is Canada's largest private sector union, with more than 315,000 members across the country, working in every major sector of the Canadian economy.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Transfer of forest Tenure Agreements • Forest Revitalization • Contractor sustainability • Mill Closures • Support for Forestry Workers
TRE	United Steel Workers https://usw.ca/	Scott Lunny Director, District 3 - Western Canada slunny@usw.ca O: 250-213-5397 C: 604-329-5308 Jeff Bromley USW Wood Council Chair jbromley@usw.ca Office Director Personal Information Cell (250) 426-9870	The USW is the largest private sector union in North America with more than 225,000 members in Canada and more than 850,000 members continent-wide. The USW is Canada's most diverse union, representing men and women working in every sector of the economy.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Transfer of forest Tenure Agreements • Forest Revitalization • Contractor sustainability • Mill Closures
BCWS TRE	Western Forestry Contractors of BC https://wfca.ca/	John Betts Executive Director hotpulp@gmail.com admin@wsca.ca 250-229-4380 604-736-8660	Represents forestry contracting businesses operating in Western Canada.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BCWS works with this group a lot on contracting and training standards.

MINISTER OF FORESTS LEGISLATION	
Column 1 ACT	Column 2 DETAILS
Athlii Gwaii Legacy Trust (Winding Up)	
Forest	The Act except the following: (a) as it relates to (i) the collection of public money, as defined in section 1 of the <i>Financial Administration Act</i> , other than a fine, or (ii) the administration of deposits and securities payable; (b) sections 142.93, 142.931 and 164.01.
Forest and Range Practices	The Act except the following: (a) as it relates to (i) the collection of public money, as defined in section 1 of the <i>Financial Administration Act</i> , other than a fine, or (ii) the administration of deposits and securities payable; (b) sections 56, 57, 118 (2) (d), Part 8.1 and sections 148 and 150.2; (c) section 58 as that provision relates to recreation resources and the management of public recreation use on Crown land; (d) sections 141 and 143 as those provisions relate to the portfolio of the Minister of Water, Land and Resource Stewardship; (e) sections 142, 146 and 147 as those provisions relate to the portfolio of the Minister of Environment and Climate Change Strategy; (f) section 166 as that provision relates to the portfolio of the Attorney General.
Forest Practices Code of British Columbia	The Act except as it relates to (a) the collection of public money, as defined in section 1 of the <i>Financial Administration Act</i> , other than a fine, or (b) the administration of deposits and securities payable.
Forest Stand Management Fund	The Act except as it relates to (a) the collection of public money, as defined in section 1 of the <i>Financial Administration Act</i> , other than a fine, or (b) the administration of deposits and securities payable.
Forestry Revitalization	
Forestry Service Providers Protection	
Great Bear Rainforest (Forest Management)	
Heritage Conservation	

Ministry of Agriculture and Food	Section 3 as that provision relates to the portfolio of the Minister of Forests in relation to the treatment of the Spongy Moth.
Ministry of Environment	Sections 4 (2) (b), (d), (f) and (g) and 6.1 as those provisions relate to the portfolio of the Minister of Forests.
Ministry of Forests and Range	The Act except the following: (a) as it relates to (i) the collection of public money, as defined in section 1 of the <i>Financial Administration Act</i> , other than a fine, or (ii) the administration of deposits and securities payable; (b) sections 4 (c), 5, 6 (a) and 6.1 as those provisions relate to the portfolio of the Minister of Water, Land and Resource Stewardship; (c) section 4 (d) (ii) and (e) as those provisions relate to the portfolio of the Minister of Agriculture and Food.
Natural Resource Compliance	
Plant Protection	Provisions of the Act as they relate to the treatment of the Spongy Moth.
Private Managed Forest Land	
Protected Areas Forests Compensation	
Range	The Act except as it relates to (a) the collection of public money, as defined in section 1 of the <i>Financial Administration Act</i> , other than a fine, or (b) the administration of deposits and securities payable.
Special Accounts Appropriation and Control	Section 5.
Tugboat Worker Lien	
Weed Control	
Wildfire	The Act except as it relates to (a) the collection of public money, as defined in section 1 of the <i>Financial Administration Act</i> , other than a fine, or (b) the administration of deposits and securities payable.
Wood First	
Woodworker Lien	
Zero Net Deforestation	

Ministry of Forests
Deputy Minister's Office and Associate Deputy Minister's Office

Program Area Description and Responsibility:

The Executive Operations Group within the Deputy Minister's Office supports the Deputy Minister, Executive and the Ministry through day-to-day management and coordination of corporate issues and projects. The Executive Operation Group provides oversight of Ministry document and information flow, including: Information Briefing Notes, Decision Briefing Notes, Cabinet and Treasury Board submissions, Estimates material, briefing materials for large events such as FNLG and UBCM, and MLA information requests. **The Correspondence Services Section Team** provides oversight of the executive correspondence services for the Ministry including management of the CLIFF correspondence tracking system and eApprovals. This team works with subject matter experts in a variety of different business areas within the Ministry to draft quality responses to a high volume of incoming correspondence in a timely manner. **The Freedom of Information and Records Management Team** is responsible for the coordination and response of *Freedom of Information and Privacy Protection Act* requests and oversight of the corporate records management systems.

The Strategic Priorities Group is a subset of the Deputy Minister's Office delivering three corporate business service functions:

The Legislation team supports the ministry by planning and coordinating the ministry's legislative agenda, providing expert advice and guidance on legislation, regulations and orders, managing regulatory reforms, coordinating appointments to agencies and boards, and maintaining the ministry's delegation matrix. The team manages, maintains and evolves the ministry's legislative framework that consists of 28 statutes and related regulations. The team is service-oriented and works collaboratively across the ministry with policy and subject matter experts, legal counsel and other stakeholders – including other ministries, to translate policy objectives into legislative instruments that address Ministry and government-wide priorities.

The Litigation and Legal Support team provides legal support and training to Delegated and Statutory Decision Makers (DDMs and SDMs) and advising Ministry staff on statutory interpretation; contracts; consultation requirements; reviewing DDM/SDM written decisions to ensure they are legally sound and other legal issues. The team develops and delivers complex training projects on administrative law specific to DDMs, SDMs, and Natural Resource Officers that is responsive to current litigation trends. The team also manages all of the Ministry's litigation and reviews incoming pleadings, revises draft Ministry pleadings, instructs Ministry of Attorney General and outside contracted counsel, and ensures the Ministry meets its document disclosure obligations.

The Corporate Planning and Performance team manages the Ministry's legislated corporate planning and reporting requirements, including annual service plans and reports, as well as the development of a risk register, and risk maturity self-assessment as required by core policy. The team develops and leads the Ministry's business planning process to assist decision-makers with prioritizing activities, allocating staff and budget resources, and identifying risks to achieve priorities identified within the minister's mandate letter, the ministry service plan, and other sources

of strategic direction. The team also supports corporate and the Regional Operations performance management frameworks, including associated reporting on performance measures.

The Internal Communications and Online Content team manages the internal and external web presence for the Ministry (the internet and intranet). They operate inter-divisionally to ensure web information is accurate, complete, current and functional. They develop and publish executive messaging throughout the year, such as all-staff video calls and email messaging.

Chief Negotiator intends to increase alignment of the forestry negotiation strategy between the Ministry of Forests and Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation with focus on increasing capacity in reconciliation negotiations and policy development for forestry. This is implemented through an interagency approach which includes guidance on FOR CN and MIRR CN alignment, integrated negotiations in FOR, MIRR and WLRS, and through the Forestry/Stewardship Negotiations Steering committee. The FOR CN sits in the FOR Associate Deputy Minister's office, but reports to both the FOR Associate Deputy Minister, and the MIRR Assistant Deputy Minister of Regional Operations and Negotiations.

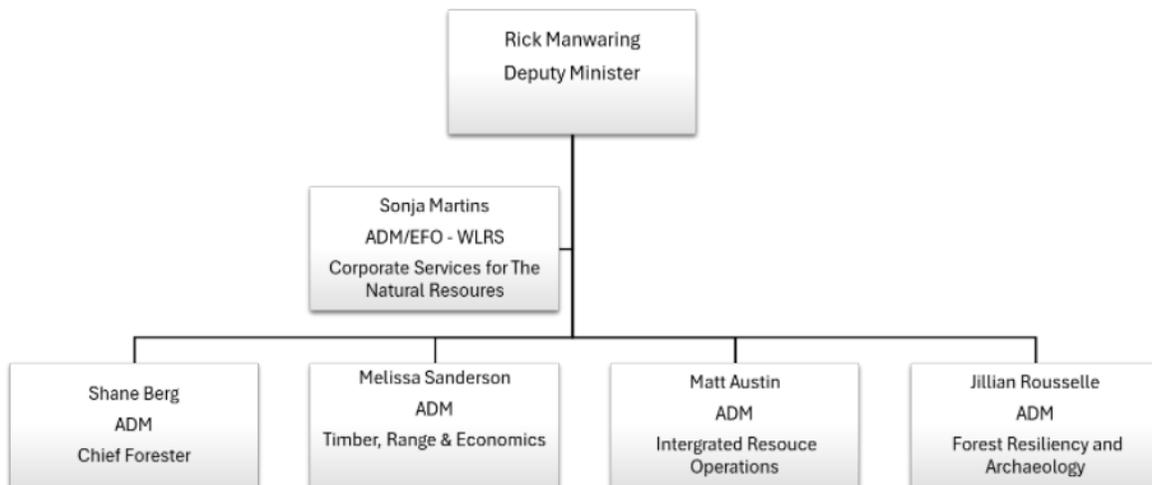
Budget:

The Deputy Ministers Office has a current budget of \$6.536M

Full Time Equivalent (FTEs): 48

Related Legislation:

The Deputy Minister's Office is not the natural manager of any direct piece of legislation or regulation. However, the Legislation Branch within Strategic Priorities Group is directly responsible for adapting policy change into the policy framework, either by legislative or regulatory amendment, or by an Order. Therefore, they are heavily involved in legislation.



Associate Deputy Minister's Office Overview

The Executive Director's Operations Office assists the Associate Deputy Minister in developing, planning, directing, and implementing executive-level strategies and performance plans across Regional Operations Divisions and Business Areas. The Executive Director's Office is responsible for the overall delivery of the Associate Deputy Minister's Office operations carried out across the Province, working collaboratively with leadership teams comprising eight Regional Operations Divisions. There are three distinct program areas under the ED, Operations: Forestry Digital Services, Operations Program and Operations Business Effectiveness. The ED's Office provides leadership and support to various executive and strategic level committees and working groups, including the Operations Executive Leadership Team, Joint Operations Leadership Team. The ED is a member of the Ministry's Executive Committee and Strategic Executive Committee.

Forestry Digital Services (FDS) Program is responsible for the transformation of the aging forestry suite of applications into new digital products and services that will better serve and align with the strategic mandates of the Ministry. Multi-disciplinary teams are leading the systems development using an agile approach that focuses on human-centred design principles to deliver new digital products and services based on the needs of proponents, Indigenous Peoples, Natural Resource Ministries staff, product users, and other stakeholders. FDS has an established governance structure set under the IT Investment Executive Steering Committee and Working Group.

The Critical Incident Stress Management (CISM) Program is an organized, comprehensive, and thoughtful approach that deals with preventing, reducing, and controlling harmful stress symptoms resulting from a Critical Incident. This program is part of the Ministry of Forests, the Ministry of Agriculture and Food and the Ministry of Water, Lands and Natural Resource Stewardship's commitment to supporting ministry employee's health and well being. The Associate Deputy Minister's Office leads the program, along with a group of approximately 30 peer-volunteers who provide support for personnel across the province. CISM team members are a cross-section of Ministry employees who are well respected and trusted among their peers, mature and sensitive to others, able to keep confidences, and committed to the program.

Operations Performance Framework and Reporting is responsible for overseeing the performance management framework for regional operations, ensuring accountability and reporting mechanisms are in place to continually enhance service delivery to the public. Collaborating closely with operations leadership, including BCWS, the team systematically measures, reports, and enhances various operational performance indicators. The team works closely with the Corporate Planning and Performance team in the Deputy Minister's office.

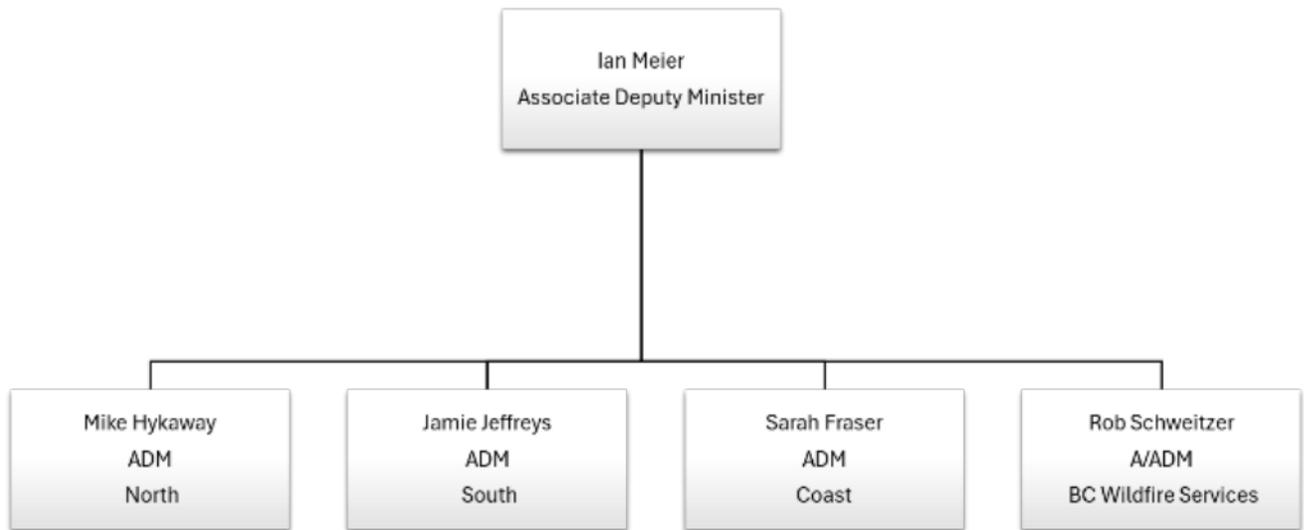
Associate DMO Business Operations oversees ADMO budget and contract management, cross-ministry collaboration amongst Executive Coordinators, budget, HR and hiring support for the Indigenous Relations Branch (IRB), and secretariat backing of the Operational Executive Leadership Team (OELT). The Business Operations of the Assoc. DMO holds oversight for Ministry-wide initiatives, including the Voluntary Apparel Program, Naming Conventions Uniformity and Operations Structure Consistency.

Indigenous Relations Branch provides leadership in the Ministry to advance reconciliation in forestry and forest stewardship, including lands, wildlife and water. IRB is for delivering systems, tools and advice that enable quality and streamlined consultation supporting the Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation in agreement negotiation, treaty and reconciliation initiatives, and developing appropriate policy and legislation.

Budget: \$4.098M

Full Time Equivalent (FTEs): 32

Organizational Chart:



**Ministry of Forests
Timber, Range and Economics**

Program Area Description and Responsibility:

Timber, Range and Economics (TRE) Division is committed to advancing broad provincial objectives and ministry priorities through six key business areas: Timber Pricing, Economics and Trade, Compensation and Business Analysis, Range, Forest Sector Transformation, and BC Timber Sales Provincial Operations. TRE provides strategic leadership around growing the value-added wood manufacturing sector in BC, supporting B.C.'s interests related to the long-standing Canada-United States softwood lumber dispute, and maximizing jobs for every tree harvested.

Timber Pricing Branch is responsible for the development of timber pricing-related policies and procedures that serve to assert the financial interests of the government and encourage a vigorous and competitive forest industry. Accountabilities include billing for stumpage and waste, cruising, scaling, stumpage policy, waste assessment and forest revenue forecasting.

Economics and Trade Branch supports B.C.'s interests related to the long-standing Canada-United States softwood lumber dispute. It works extensively with many other branches and ministries, the federal government, other provinces, and legal counsel to ensure B.C.'s interests are accurately and strongly represented in any negotiations or litigation. Financial and economic analysis relating to B.C.'s forest policy is provided along with monitoring and reporting on forest sector markets, impact analysis of ministry initiatives, and stakeholder relations. The branch also manages the province's log export permitting process and policies as well as those relating to the Manufactured Forest Products Regulation.

Compensation and Business Analysis Branch is responsible for compensation claims arising out of government policy, land-use decisions, First Nations treaty settlements, and competition assessments in support of transactions under Section 54 of the *Forest Act*. The branch also works on fibre access support, business, investment, and resource economic analysis in support of sector competitiveness, investment, and forest policy decision making.

Range Branch has four program areas: Policy, Legislation and Tenure Administration; Rangeland Stewardship and Practices; Ecosystem Restoration; and Invasive Plant Management. The branch provides policy leadership and encourages maximum productivity by managing, protecting and conserving the government's range resources for the immediate and long-term benefits of British Columbians. They plan the use of range resources in consultation and cooperation with other ministries, agencies of government and with the private sector to encourage a vigorous, efficient and world competitive ranching sector in B.C.

BC Timber Sales (BCTS) supports the timber Market Pricing System (MPS). BCTS operates under a self-funding special account within the *Forest Act* that defines the activities on which it can earn revenues and expend funds. The goal of BCTS is to provide credible representative price and cost benchmark data for the MPS through auctions of timber harvested from public land. The objectives are to 1) sell the full BCTS apportionment over the business cycle, consistent with safe practices, reconciliation with Indigenous peoples, and sustainable forest management, 2) generate direct net revenue and indirect revenue for the province over the business cycle, and 3) pursue continuous

improvement within BCTS, across government, and with third party partners and customers. BCTS also supports, the value-add sector by providing some volume through restricted bidding pools.

Forest Sector Transformation Branch is accountable for providing strategic leadership around the transformation of the forest sector, with a focus on growing the value -added wood manufacturing sector in BC, transitioning the forestry sector from high-volume to high-value production, and maximizing jobs for the trees we harvest.

Budget: \$13,925,000

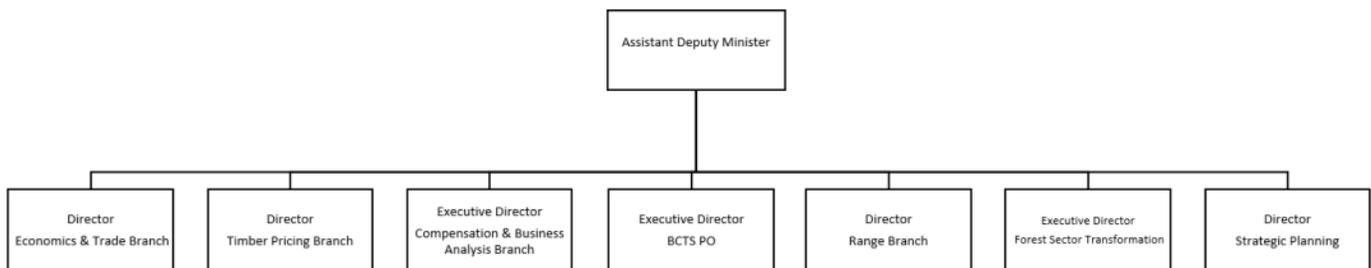
*BCTS Provincial Operations is not included in the TRE working budget. BCTS operates under a self-funding special account within the Forest Act that defines the activities on which it can earn revenue and expend funds.

Full Time Equivalents (FTEs): 202

Related Legislation:

- Forest Act
- Forest Revenue Audit Regulation
- Log Salvage Regulation for the Vancouver Log Salvage District
- Manufactured Forest Products Regulation
- Minimum Stumpage Regulation
- Scaling Regulation
- Special Forest Products Regulation
- Timber Definition Regulation
- Timber Marking and Transportation Regulation
- Forest & Range Practices Act (FRPA)
- Private Managed Forest Land Act
- Range Act
- Ministry of Forest and Range Act
- Weed Control Act

Organizational Chart:



ADM Responsible: Shane Berg

Core Business/Program Area Description/Critical Business Processes:

The Office of the Chief Forester (OCF) provides provincial leadership for forest stewardship – caring for BC’s forests from seed to product. The Chief Forester, and two Deputy Chief Foresters, are the statutory decision makers that set allowable annual cuts and establish forest landscape plans throughout the Province of British Columbia. The OCF is comprised of seven key business areas:

Provincial Old Growth Strategy team provides strategic leadership for the Ministry of Forests, and the Ministries of Water, Lands & Resource Stewardship and Jobs, Economic Development and Innovation, on the implementation of the New Future for Old Forests report.

Forest Carbon and Climate Services Branch leads the ministry’s response to climate change and provides strategic leadership across government’s natural resource sector on climate change science, policy, and programs. The branch leads the development of a carbon management regime within BC’s forests.

Forest Investment and Reporting Branch ensures coordinated delivery and reporting of forest investments, including: reforestation, fertilization, fibre utilization, and road rehabilitation. The branch also provides oversight and coordination for integrated investment planning around the province.

Forest Analysis and Inventory Branch collects and maintains the forest cover inventory for the province, and provides a wide array of data, information, analysis, and analytical expertise to support government policy development and decision making. The branch also provides forest resource information and analysis support to other ministries, federal government, and external stakeholders.

Forest Improvement and Research Management Branch manages BC’s forest genetic resources to enhance forest value, resilience, and genetic conservation, ensuring that BC’s forest tree seed supply and storage is safe. The branch develops provincial policy to ensure that the provincial tree seed is used appropriately. The branch also manages and coordinates the ministry’s natural resources research program to deliver high-quality research and scientific analysis to inform sound resource management policy and decisions.

Forest Science, Planning and Practices Branch is responsible for B.C.’s forest management framework, including silviculture research and practices, forest health research and practices, and ecology. The branch is also accountable for continuous improvement of the legal and policy framework for silviculture and forest stewardship under the *Forest and Range Practices Act*, including monitoring through the Forest and Range Evaluation Program, and the introduction of the new Forest Landscape Planning regime.

Innovation, Bioeconomy and Indigenous Opportunities Branch leads broad forest sector innovation and transformation, focusing on developing BC’s bioeconomy. The bioeconomy represents value-added, forest-derived bioproducts that generate new employment, businesses, and improve fibre utilization. Many of these bioproducts support a circular and low-carbon economy by using residuals and providing an alternative to fossil inputs. The branch also works closely with Indigenous communities across the province to identify and pursue bioeconomy projects.

Ministry of Forests
Office of the Chief Forester

Budget: 120,802,000 total (66,010,740 of which is Base)

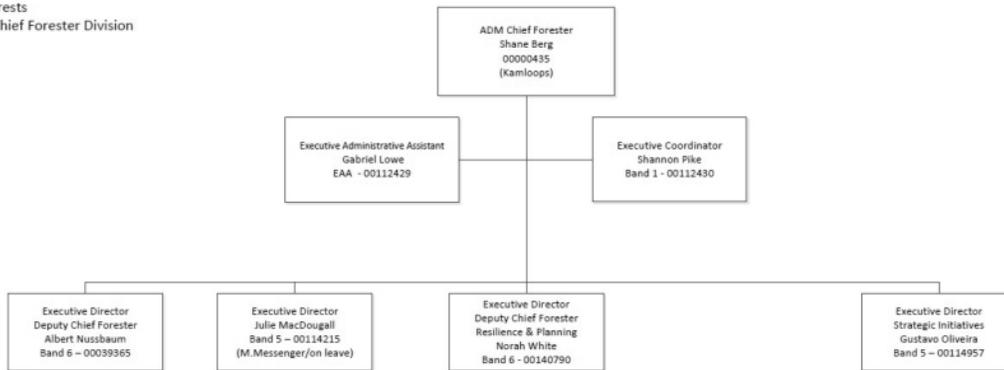
Full Time Equivalents (FTEs): 297

Related Legislation:

- *Forest and Range Practices Act*
- *Forest Act*
- Chief Forester's Standard for Seed Use

Organizational Chart:

Ministry of Forests
Office of the Chief Forester Division
Victoria
July 2024



**Ministry of Forests
Integrated Resource Operations**

ADM Responsible: Matt Austin

Overview of Core Business / Program Area:

Compliance and Enforcement Branch enforces the legislation that safeguards and regulates British Columbia's cultural and natural resources through inspections and enforcement actions ranging from warnings to violation tickets to administrative penalties to prosecution with a particular focus on investigations. The branch enforces several pieces of legislation related to forests, land, water, wildfire, heritage sites, and resource roads.

Forest Tenures Branch has three main functions. Forest Land Acquisitions provides exclusive, centralized provincial administration of Ministry of Forests property and right-of-way acquisition, forest land acquisition, and property management including lease negotiation and administration. The Data Operations Team combines people, processes, and business applications that enable dependable, consistent, and high-quality forest tenures data. The supported business applications manage legal and financial risks to enable statutory decision makers to make informed, accurate, and durable tenure decisions. Timber Tenures leads policy development on forest tenures legislation, provincial tenure administrative policies, and tenure agreement templates. Timber Tenures is the primary office for the Tree Farm Licence Program which includes replacements and amendments. Tenure transfer decisions for the minister are led by Timber Tenures. Other programs include the Community Forest Agreements, woodlot Licences, First Nations Woodland Licences, private managed forest land, and the Forest Service Providers Protection Fund.

Engineering Branch provides a safe resource road network that balances public, community, First Nations, commercial, and industrial use with consideration of available resources and minimizing impacts to the environment. The branch provides strategic leadership and professional and technical oversight of the provincial Engineering Program (branch and district staff and resources), works collaboratively with land managers, and develops and implements engineering standards and practices for use by internal and external stakeholders.

Resource Worker Safety Program has a strong focus on safety with two main goals: 1) to be safety leaders for our employees, clients/public and, 2) to maintain our SAFE certification. We conduct our business in a manner that proactively prevents incidents and injuries for ourselves and others. Engagement, participation and dialogue between all concerned parties is key to preventing worker injury.

Budget:

\$59,431,500, Government Financial Information

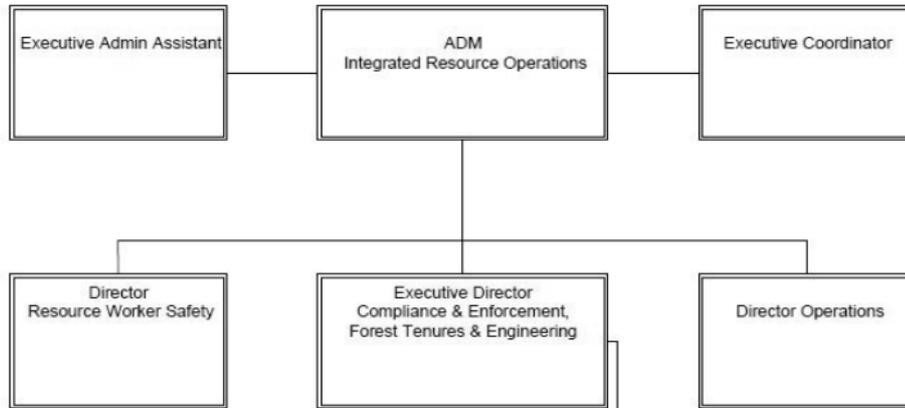
Full Time Equivalents (FTEs): 234

Related Legislation:

- Forest Act
- Forest and Range Practices Act
- Environmental Management Act
- Heritage Conservation Act
- Land Act
- Private Managed Forest Land Act
- Wildfire Act

- Wildlife Act
- Water Sustainability Act
- Water Protection Act
- Fisheries Act

Organizational Chart:



Ministry of Forests
Forest Resiliency and Archaeology Division

ADM Responsible: Jillian Rouselle

Core Business/Program Area Description/Critical Business Processes:

Forest Resiliency and Archaeology (FRA) Division was established in December 2023, in part, as an outcome of a rebalancing of the Ministry of Forests (FOR) portfolio with the Ministry of Water, Lands and Resource Stewardship (WLRS) announced on October 18th, 2023, and to provide increased focus on initiatives that are integral to the Ministry of Forests' strategic direction. Responsibilities within FRA include oversight of policy and guidance and coordination to deliver Forest Landscape Planning and old growth deferrals, leading the reform of the *Heritage Conservation Act* (HCA), and operational delivery of the Archaeology Branch – the lead administrator of the HCA.

The Forest Landscape Planning Branch plays a critical role in developing and implementing Forest Landscape Plans (FLPs) across the Province in accordance with the new legal framework established through Bill 23, *Forest Statutes Amendment Act* (2021) and related regulations. It coordinates centralized funding and resources and oversees the creation of policies, guidance, and best practices for the provincial FLP program, working with internal partner agencies (Office of the Chief Forester, FOR Regional Operations, BC Wildfire Service, WLRS) and external partners to ensure the successful planning and execution of effective forest management strategies. In partnership with First Nations governments and in collaboration with forest and range tenure holders, FLPs provide a collaborative, holistic approach to forest management planning in B.C. that can address challenges and opportunities facing the Province, advancing reconciliation and providing greater certainty for the forest sector. FLPs address values such as climate change adaptation and mitigation, old growth management, species-at-risk and wildlife habitat, wildfire risk reduction and wildfire resiliency management, recreation, cultural values, and watershed health. There are currently 13 FLP projects underway in B.C. in collaboration with First Nations and two more being scoped for initiation

FRA also provides oversight, including policy, reporting, and monitoring of old growth deferrals, given the Province's commitment to defer 2.6M ha of Old Growth Forest in 2021 and implement recommendations from the Old Growth Strategic Review. In collaboration with the Office of the Chief Forester, the FRA team develops data and communication products, provides oversight of information sharing within and external to the Province, and develops policy to address the transitional nature of voluntary deferrals to long-term management decisions.

Working with First Nations, the Archaeology Branch encourages and facilitates the protection, conservation, and public appreciation of British Columbia's unique heritage resources in accordance with the HCA. The Branch intakes new sites and maintains a Provincial Heritage Register of over 62,000 currently known, legally protected heritage sites and administers approximately 1,000 statutory decisions annually to authorize archaeological studies for, and alterations of, archaeological sites on private and public lands for all development sectors. The Branch also leads and supports strategic negotiations with First Nations, including implementing the first shared decision-making agreement with First Nations under the HCA, and develops policy and guidance to support compliance with the HCA.

The Division is also responsible for leading the Heritage Conservation Act Transformation Project (HCATP), which aims to reform the HCA to align with the U.N. Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous

Peoples, in accordance with Action 4.35 of the Declaration Act Action Plan, and to better meet the needs of all people in B.C. This work is being led by the Joint Working Group on First Nations Heritage Conservation, which includes members appointed by the First Nations Leadership Council and the Provincial government. Introduction of proposed legislation is targeted for fall 2025.

Budget:

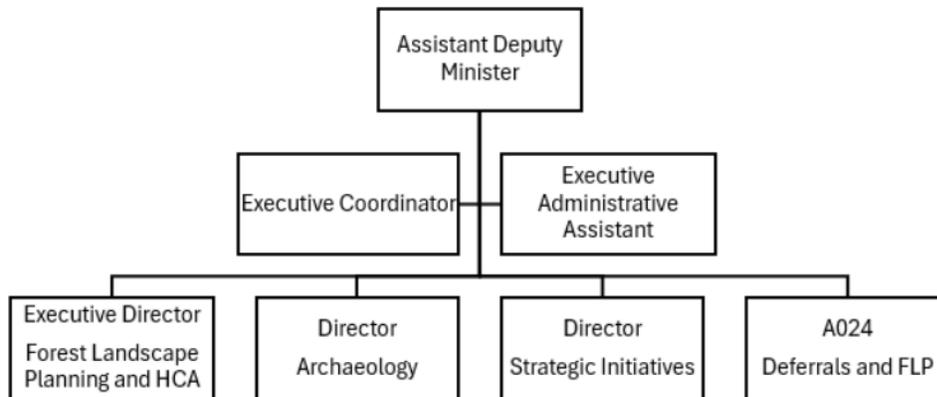
\$5.649M Total 2024/25 Working Budget
Government Financial Information

Full Time Equivalent (FTEs): 56

Related Legislation:

- *Heritage Conservation Act*
- Bill 23, *Forest Statutes Amendment Act* (2021)

Organizational Chart: (ADM direct reports only)



COAST AREA REGIONAL OPERATIONS

ADM Responsible: Sarah Fraser

Overview of Core Business / Program Area: Coast Area Regional Operations

The Coast Area is distinctly divided into **two natural resource regions** – the South Coast and the West Coast. These two regions are further sub-divided into **seven natural resource districts** – Chilliwack, Sea-to-Sky, Sunshine Coast, Campbell River, Haida Gwaii, North Island-Central Coast, and South Island.

Encompassing the **traditional territories of 113 First Nations**, Indigenous relations and shared decision-making is a major commitment for the Coast Area as it continues to move forward on the path to lasting and meaningful reconciliation and co-management of the land base. Home to the Great Bear Rainforest, an internationally recognized conservation and sustainable economic model of forest management and environmental stewardship led in partnership between the Province of British Columbia and First Nations.

It also includes Haida Gwaii, Vancouver Island, the coastal areas of mainland British Columbia, the Lower Mainland east to Hope and north along the Sea-to-Sky. In total, the Coast Area covers more than 21 million hectares. Large geographic areas are accessible by **tens of thousands of kilometres of resource and forest service roads**, another primary responsibility for regional operations. Many coastal communities rely on this network of resource roads for access, while others are only accessible by air or sea.

Coast Area staff are heavily involved with **Forest Landscape Planning (FLP) operations** to establish clear outcomes for the management of forest resource values within defined areas. The Sunshine Coast Forest Landscape Planning Pilot and the Tree Farm Licence (TFL) 37 Forest Landscape Planning Pilot are both well advanced along with FLP planning projects in Vancouver Island's West Central and East Central areas. An additional project has been approved for TFL 44 in the Port Alberni area (South Island).

Facing the difficult challenges created by climate change, Coast Area staff play a critical role in managing the land base for wildfire risk reduction (with BC Wildfire Service funding), rehabilitation, and recovery. Hotter and drier summers, combined with persistent drought conditions, have led to an increased number and more complex **wildfire management** issues.

The Coast Area also includes **three BC Timber Sales (BCTS) regional business areas** – the Chinook, Seaward/Alta, and Strait of Georgia. BCTS manages about 20 per cent of the provincial allowable annual cut to provide opportunities for sustainable development and auction of Crown timber.

Regional staff provide support for **Timber Supply Reviews** along with investment and reporting on forest management to the Office of the Chief Forester. The Coast has **10 Timber Supply Areas** with a combined allowable annual cut (AAC) of 6.8 million cubic metres and **17 Tree Farm Licences** with a total AAC of 7.2 million cubic metres.

Finally, Coast Area Regional Operations has primary accountabilities for the delivery of silviculture projects (tree planting, surveying, stand-tending activities such as thinning, fertilizing, pruning, etc.) as well as issuance and administration of forest tenures, including issuing forest and range authorizations and consultation. Rounding out the list of responsibilities are stewardship monitoring, Forest and Range Evaluation Program management and range monitoring; scaling, waste and revenue management; and stakeholder engagement.

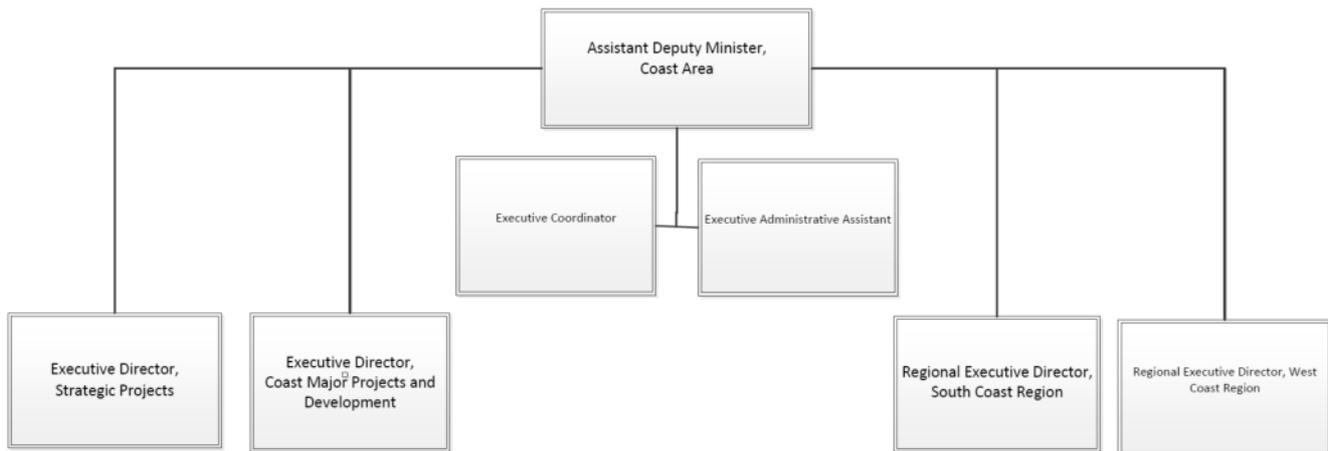
Budget: \$23.396 million

Full Time Equivalents (FTEs): 354

The Coast Area Regional Operations Division has primary accountabilities for:

- Forest tenure issuance and administration
- Forest Landscape Planning
- Cutting permit and road permit issuance and administration
- Indigenous consultation
- Revenue management
- Emergency Management BC and BC Wildfire Service (BCWS) support
- Wildfire Risk Reduction (funding from BCWS)
- Wildfire rehabilitation and recovery
- Resource stewardship (resource value monitoring and assessment)
- BC Timber Sales regional timber sale
- Investment and reporting on forest management to the Office of the Chief Forester and timber sales reviews for region
- Strategic initiatives and forest landscape planning
- Silviculture project delivery
- Resource roads and infrastructure including access and land management issues

Organizational Chart:



SOUTH AREA REGIONAL OPERATIONS

ADM Responsible: Jamie Jeffreys

Overview of Core Business / Program Area: South Area Regional Operations

The South Area is distinctly divided into **three natural resource regions** – the Cariboo, Kootenay-Boundary, and Thompson-Okanagan. These three regions are further sub-divided into **eight natural resource districts** – 100 Mile House, Cariboo-Chilcotin, Quesnel, Rocky Mountain, Selkirk, Cascades, Okanagan-Shuswap, and Thompson Rivers.

With **87 First Nations bands and tribal councils**, First Nations relations and shared decision-making is a major commitment for the South Area as it continues to move forward on the path to lasting and meaningful reconciliation and co-management of the land base.

The South Area covers several mountain ranges, large parts of the Fraser River and Columbia River watersheds, and about 25 million hectares. This large geographic area is accessed by **tens of thousands of kilometres of resource and forest service roads**, another primary regional operation for the South Area.

South Area staff are heavily involved with **Forest Landscape Planning (FLP) operations** to establish clear outcomes for the management of forest resource values within defined areas. The Quesnel TSA Forest Landscape Planning Pilot has been initiated along with FLP planning projects in the Williams Lake and 100 Mile House areas.

Facing the difficult challenges created by climate change, South Area staff play a critical role in managing the land base for wildfire risk reduction (with BC Wildfire Service funding), rehabilitation, and recovery. Steady population growth in the South Area has expanded the urban-woodland interface, leading to an increased number of more complex **wildfire management** issues.

The South Area also includes **four BC Timber Sales (BCTS) regional business areas** – the Cariboo-Chilcotin, Kamloops, Kootenay, and Okanagan-Columbia. BCTS manages about 20 per cent of the provincial allowable annual cut to provide opportunities for sustainable development and auction of Crown timber.

Regional staff also provide support for **Timber Supply Reviews** along with investment and reporting on forest management to the Office of the Chief Forester. The South has **15 Timber Supply Areas** with a combined allowable annual cut of nearly 16.7 million cubic metres and **12 Tree Farm Licences** with a total AAC of 2.1 million cubic metres.

Finally, South Area Regional Operations has primary accountabilities for the delivery of silviculture projects (tree planting, surveying, stand-tending activities such as thinning, fertilizing, pruning, etc.) as well as forest and range authorizations and consultation. Rounding out the list of responsibilities are stewardship monitoring, Forest and Range Evaluation Program management and range monitoring; scaling, waste and revenue management; and stakeholder engagement.

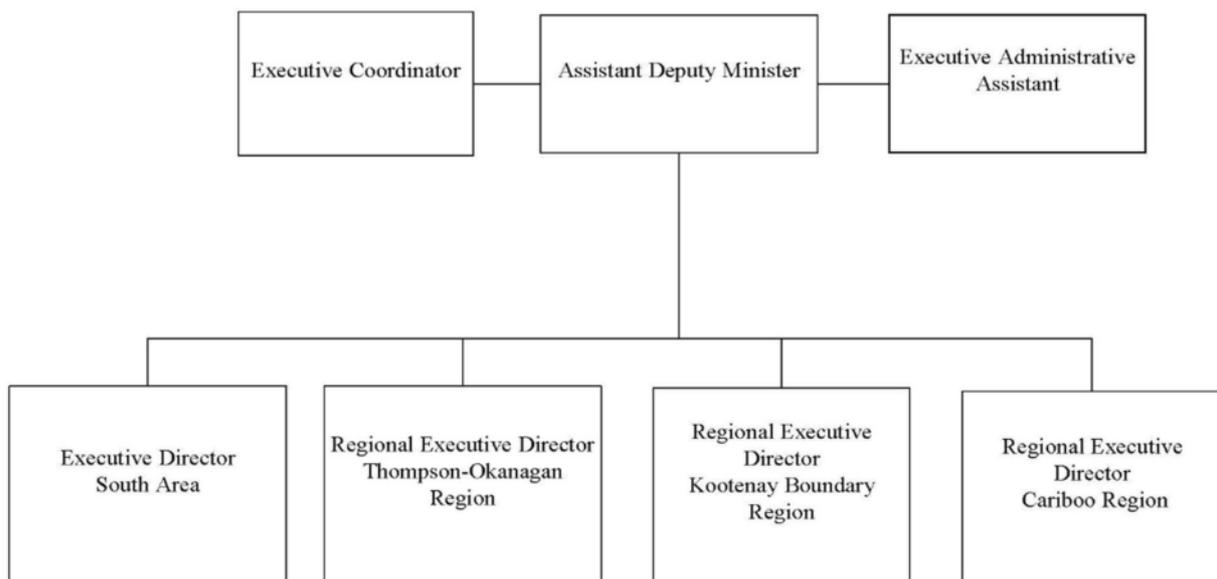
Budget: \$42.153 million

Full Time Equivalents (FTEs): 650

The South Area Regional Operations Division has primary accountabilities for:

- Indigenous consultation
- Revenue management
- Emergency Management BC and BC Wildfire Service (BCWS) support
- Wildfire Risk Reduction (funding from BCWS)
- Wildfire rehabilitation and recovery
- Resource stewardship (resource value monitoring and assessment)
- BC Timber Sales regional timber sale
- Investment and reporting on forest management to the Office of the Chief Forester and timber sales reviews for region
- Strategic initiatives and forest landscape planning
- Silviculture project delivery
- Resource roads and infrastructure including access and land management issues

Organizational Chart:



NORTH AREA REGIONAL OPERATIONS

ADM Responsible: Mike Hykaway

Overview of Core Business / Program Area: North Area Regional Operations

The North Area is divided into **three natural resource regions** – the Northeast, Omineca, and Skeena. These regions are further sub-divided into **eight natural resource districts** – Fort Nelson, Peace, Mackenzie, Stuart-Nechako, Prince George, Coast Mountains, Nadina, and Skeena-Stikine.

With a total of **63 First Nations** in the three regions, First Nations relations and shared decision-making is a major commitment for the North Area as it continues to move forward on the path to lasting and meaningful reconciliation and co-management of the land base.

The North Area spans 59.6 million hectares which is more than half of the province. This large geographic area is accessed by **thousands of kilometres of resource and forest service roads**, which is another primary responsibility for the North Area.

North Area staff are heavily involved with **Forest Landscape Planning (FLP) operations** to establish clear outcomes for the management of forest resource values within defined areas. The Lakes Resiliency Project has been initiated as one of four provincial pilots along with an FLP planning project in the Bulkley-Morice area.

Facing the difficult challenges created by climate change, North Area staff play a critical role in managing the land base for wildfire risk reduction (with BC Wildfire Service funding), rehabilitation, and recovery. Hotter and drier summers, combined with persistent drought conditions, have led to an increased number and more complex **wildfire management** issues.

The North Area also includes **five BC Timber Sales (BCTS) regional business areas** – the Babine, Peace-Laird, Prince George, Skeena, and Stuart-Nechako. BCTS manages about 20 per cent of the provincial allowable annual cut to provide opportunities for sustainable development and auction of Crown timber.

Regional staff also provide support for **Timber Supply Reviews** along with investment and reporting on forest management to the Office of the Chief Forester. The North has **13 Timber Supply Areas** with a combined allowable annual cut (AAC) of just over 22 million cubic metres and **five Tree Farm Licences** with a total AAC of 1.9 million cubic metres.

Finally, North Area Regional Operations has primary accountabilities for the delivery of silviculture projects (tree planting, surveying, stand-tending activities such as thinning, fertilizing, pruning, etc.) as well as forest and range authorizations and consultation. There are a large number of Range tenures in the North Area, primarily in the Northeast, with a very active Range industry in that region. Rounding out the list of responsibilities are: stewardship monitoring, Forest and Range Evaluation Program management and range monitoring; scaling, waste and revenue management; and stakeholder engagement.

Budget:

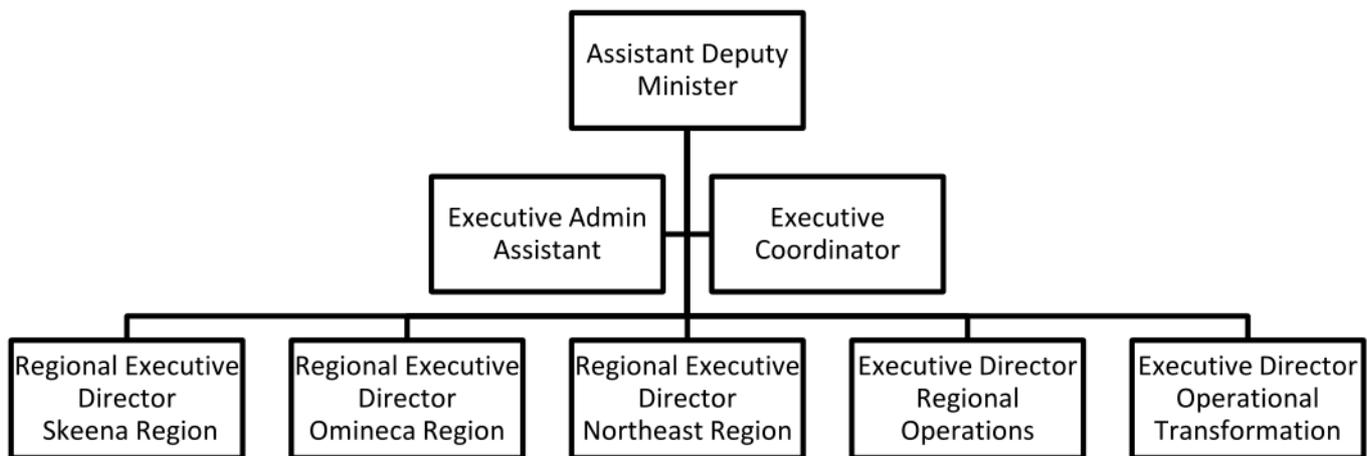
Total 2024/25 Working Budget - \$31.089M

Full Time Equivalents (FTEs): 468

The North Area Regional Operations Division has primary accountabilities for:

- Indigenous consultation
- Forestry and Range Authorizations
- Revenue management
- Emergency Management BC and BC Wildfire Service (BCWS) support
- Wildfire Risk Reduction (funding from BCWS)
- Wildfire rehabilitation and recovery
- Resource stewardship (resource value monitoring and assessment)
- BC Timber Sales - regional timber sales
- Investment and reporting on forest management to the Office of the Chief Forester and timber sales reviews for region
- Strategic initiatives and forest landscape planning
- Silviculture project delivery
- Regional Range program and range monitoring
- Resource roads and infrastructure including access and land management issues

Organizational Chart:



**Ministry of Forests
BC Wildfire Service**

ADM Responsible: Rob Schweitzer – Acting ADM

Overview of Core Business / Program Area:

The BC Wildfire Service (BCWS) delivers wildfire management and natural hazard preparedness and response services on behalf of the Government of British Columbia to protect life and values at risk, and to encourage sustainable, healthy, and resilient ecosystems.

To meet its mandate, BCWS:

- provides for the safety of its workers and the public,
- delivers effective, innovative, and cost-efficient wildfire management services,
- provides emergency response support and services, and
- ensures strong and collaborative relationships with stakeholders, partners, and clients.

BCWS has provincial coordination through BCWS Headquarters offices located in Kamloops and Victoria. The organization delivers wildfire management and emergency response focused on preparedness, prevention, response, and recovery services through six fire centres strategically positioned across the province (the Northwest, Prince George, Coastal, Cariboo, Kamloops, and Southeast Fire Centres). Each fire centre is further divided into zones including tactically located fire bases from which fire fighters are dispatched.

BCWS responds to wildfires on Crown land and supports wildfire response on public and private lands through service and cost-sharing agreements. The organization also supports national and international wildfire response through various agreements and supports the province's response to other natural hazards.

Budget: BCWS has two voted budget appropriations:

- \$40.661M – FOR Ministry Operations (Fire Preparedness)
- \$232.736M – Fire Management (FM)
 - Under the Wildfire Act, S.65, BCWS has the statutory authority to overspend the FM voted appropriation for the activities relating to the wildfire suppression and response, wildfire prevention and rehabilitation

Number of Employees: 2,420

Related Legislation:

Primary:

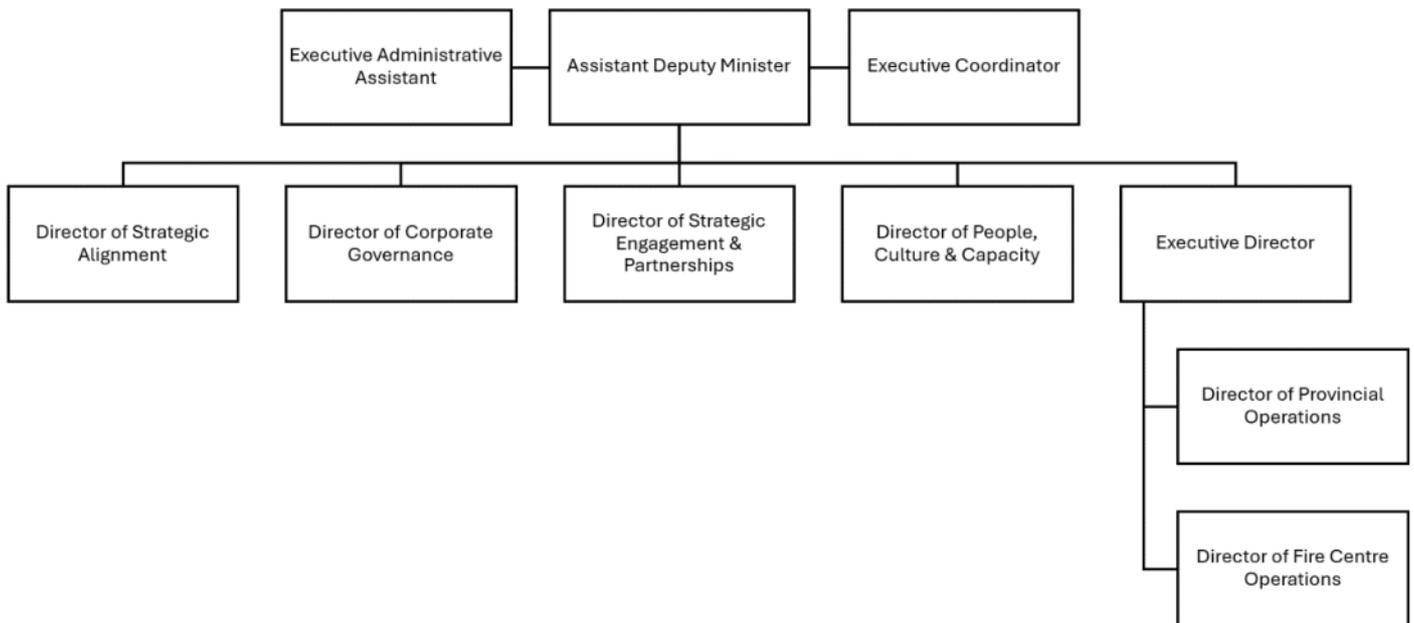
- Wildfire Act
- Wildfire Regulation

Other related legislation:

- Forest and Range Practices Act
- Parks Act
- Environmental Management Act

- Hydro and Power Authority Act
- Forest Act
- Special Accounts Appropriation and Control Act
- Annual Rent Regulation
- *Emergency and Disaster Management Act*
- *Emergency and Disaster Management Regulation*
- *Emergency Program Management Regulation*
- Compensation and Disaster Financial Assistance Regulation
- Local Authority Emergency Management Regulation

Organizational Chart:



CORPORATE SERVICES FOR THE NATURAL RESOURCES MINISTRIES

ADM Responsible: Sonja Martins (FOR and WLRS) and Ranbir Parmar (AF, EMLI, ENV and MIRR)

Overview of Core Business / Program Area:

Corporate Services for the Natural Resource Ministries (CSNR) is a corporate services organization providing services for approximately 8,000 employees in the natural resource ministries* in over 100 locations throughout the province.

CSNR Services:

Facilities, Fleet & Corporate Security

- Facilities – workspace accommodation, project and issue management
- Fleet and Assets – planning, analysis, reporting, maintenance and procurement (for AF, ENV, FOR and WLRS)
- Risk and Corporate Security – planning, response and recovery assistance for business disruptions and physical security issues

Financial Services

- Budgeting, forecasting and financial analysis/reporting and support; expenditure, revenue management and recovery processing and reporting
- Financial planning and reporting
- Financial operations
- Accounting
- Financial systems and data entry
- Financial policy, compliance and procurement

Human Resources

- Recruitment resources and hiring support services, onboarding and classification and exclusion support services
- Equity, Diversity and Inclusion programs and resources
- Learning and development / Leadership development
- Corporate initiatives including Work Environment Survey reports and resources
- Health and workplace wellness
- Workforce planning including analytics

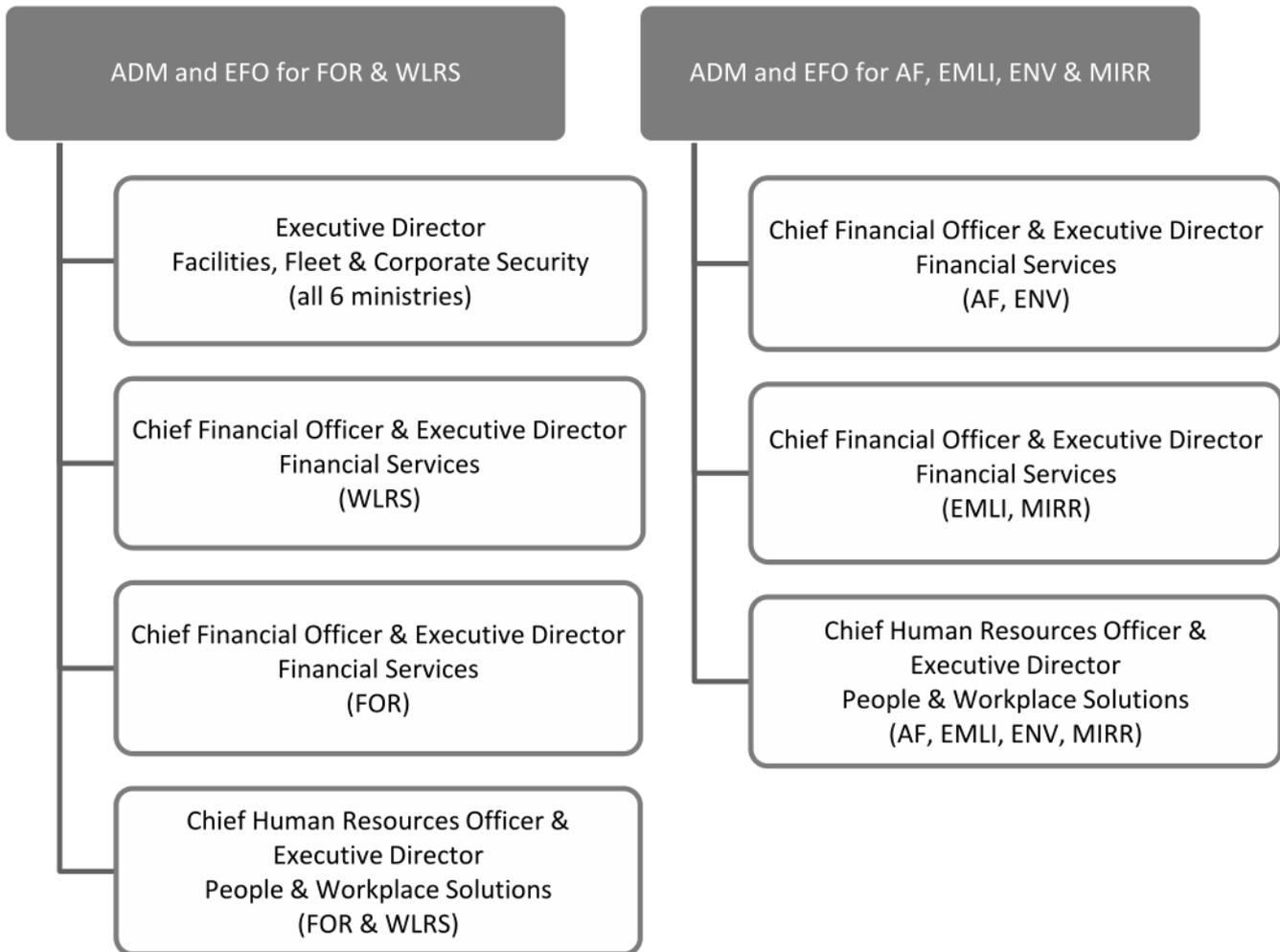
Budget: \$34.500M

Full Time Equivalentents (FTEs): 366

Related Legislation: N/A

**Agriculture and Food (AF), Energy, Mines and Low Carbon Innovation (EMLI), Environment and Climate Change Strategy (ENV), Forests (FOR), Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation (MIRR) and Water, Land and Resource Stewardship (WLRS).*

Organizational Chart:



MAJOR CORPORATE ISSUE NOTE

Ministry/Ministries:

- Ministry of Forests (FOR)

Issue:

- Fibre Supply (Carrier Sekani First Nations Pathway Forward 2.0 Agreement with significant impacts for forestry (Omineca Region specific))

Background:

Intergovernmental Communications

Fibre flow within the context of CSFN Negotiations: In 2019, the Province of British Columbia (the Province) and seven Carrier Sekani First Nations (CSFN) entered into Pathways Forward Agreement 2.0 (Pathways), a five-year agreement that ended March 31, 2023. Pathways enables step-wise development of a Comprehensive Reconciliation Agreement based on the principles of partnership.

Declining timber supply from elevated mountain pine beetle salvage harvesting, large scale wildfires, and landbase constraints from balancing First Nations stewardship interests and economic interests in operating on their replaceable forest licences granted in 2022, is contributing to mill closures and rising unemployment in the region.

Intergovernmental Communications

Fibre Supply in CSFN territory: In November 2018 a non legally binding MOU was signed by the Province, including BC Timber Sales (BCTS), CSFN, and licensees, committing the parties to implement

immediate measures to address cumulative effects on valued ecosystem components linked to the exercise of Aboriginal Rights, Title and Interests. The immediate measures included implementation of actions to conserve moose habitat, promote biodiversity and protect fish and water through increased riparian retention. One of the immediate measures was a 24-month forecast of planned or permitted forestry development intended to be engaged and consulted upon. In 2021, licensees proposed 5 years of planned volume including a deferral plan for BMAs that maintained 93% integrity of Biodiversity Management Areas (BMAs). Intergovernmental Communications

In 2022, the province requested voluntary avoidance of BMAs from the major licensees operating in CSFN territory. Deferral of BMAs was intended to provide a short-term opportunity for the Province and CSFN to complete an Agreement In Principle that would enable Resource Management Planning and continued negotiation regarding comprehensive reconciliation of forestry interests. This deferral also met the Province's interests for conservation of old growth forests while working toward provincial priorities for forest landscape planning.

- In June 2022, CSFN and major licensees started a spatial harvest planning process that was intended to be a collaborative approach to forestry development in CSFN territory. In the absence of a definitive process, spatial harvest planning extended 18 months and was reduced to consent seeking for previously approved cutting permits.
- Intergovernmental Communications

- The Province also committed to CSFN that BCTS would cease offering timber sale licences (TSLs) that overlapped BMAs. As a result, 38 of 39 TSLs with investment (approximately 2.4 million m³) in Stuart Nechako Business Area were deferred.
- Advice/Recommendations; Intergovernmental Communications

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Advice/Recommendations ; Business Information ; Intergovernmental Communications

- Intergovernmental Communications

Next Steps:

In relation to Fibre Supply in the CSFN territory:

- Advice/Recommendations

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- Advice/Recommendations; Intergovernmental Communications

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- Communication will be required with forest licence holders on the next steps.

MAJOR CORPORATE ISSUE NOTE

Ministry/Ministries: Forests (FOR)

Issue: *From review to action* (Old Growth Action Plan) Implementation

Background:

Response to the Old Growth Strategic Review

- In 2020, the Old Growth Strategic Review (OGSR) report, *A New Future for Old Forests*, was released and all 14 recommendations made by the independent panel were adopted.
 - The Province and First Nations across B.C. have worked in partnership since 2021 to defer logging of old growth as a temporary measure to prevent biodiversity loss while work continues on a new, long-term approach to forest management that prioritizes ecosystem health and community resiliency.
 - On May 21, 2024, *From review to action* (Old Growth Action Plan) was released after being developed in collaboration with First Nations and through engagement with stakeholders.
 - The Action Plan reports on the progress government has made towards the OGSR recommendations and establishes further actions that government will be taking to complete implementation.
 - The Action Plan sets out more than 30 cross-ministry actions toward achieving the vision for a strong sector based on healthy ecosystems, organized under three overarching goals:
 - Goal one: Expand the system of stable and inclusive land governance
 - Goal two: Stewardship for healthy ecosystems
 - Goal three: Support the changing system
 - Carrying out the actions generates numerous projects and initiatives that span provincial ministries, the natural resource sector and both First Nation and non-First Nation communities alike.
 - Advice/Recommendations
-
- For the interim, overall implementation is being monitored and coordinated by the Office of the Chief Forester in the Ministry of Forests.

- The pace and sufficiency of Action Plan delivery depends on resources allocated to it. The Action Plan does not make any indications of resources required.

Old Growth Deferrals Update

- As of February 2024, coordination between First Nations and forest licensees has resulted in close to 2.44 million hectares of old growth being permanently protected or temporarily deferred since November 2021. This is on top of the nearly 3.7 million hectares that was already protected.
 - 1.23 million hectares is “at-risk” old growth identified by the Old Growth Technical Advisory Panel; and
 - An additional ~1.21 million hectares were identified by First Nations.
- Updated numbers are expected imminently and are expected to indicate a slight decrease from 2.44 million hectares due to improvements in harvest tracking procedure and older harvest now being received by government.
- *From Review to Action* highlighted that while conversations on temporary deferrals are continuing, focus is shifting to what should happen with priority old-growth areas over the long term.
- Transitioning from short-term, temporary deferrals to long-term stewardship planning requires locally-led decision making. Commitments in *From Review to Action*, such as accelerating collaborative local planning processes (e.g., LUPs and FLPs) will support this transition.

Considerations:

- Continued government-wide support and leadership is fundamental to ensuring this remains as a cross-ministry initiative and there is a consistent and coordinated approach to reconciliation, biodiversity and economic policies across the NRS. Options for ongoing implementation will be presented to government at the earliest convenience under the new mandate.
- As currently committed in the Action Plan, many existing actions will require work with First Nations at various levels, including the Government-to-Government level.
- The Biodiversity and Ecosystem Health Framework is a central part of the response to the Old Growth Strategic Review and has the potential to significantly influence the implementation of the actions in the plan. The draft Framework continues to undergo discussion within government, with resource industries and others. A stable draft of the Framework was delayed and is not anticipated until 2025.
- An internal monitoring and reporting system has been established to monitor progress towards each action, identify risks and inform decision-making at the initiative-level.
- Ministries have continued to make progress on all actions since the Action Plan was released. Several actions are already considered complete or ongoing. Many are underway, and others are new initiatives and are still in the planning phase.

- Advice/Recommendations
- A performance management framework is being developed to meet the short and long-term reporting commitments identified in the Action Plan including developing performance measures in partnership with First Nations and regular public reporting.
- Advice/Recommendations
- As actions are advanced, a Socio-Economic and Environmental Assessment approach will need to be developed to ensure impacts to values such as employment and jobs, revenues, ecosystems, and climate are considered.

Next Steps:

- Advice/Recommendations

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MAJOR CORPORATE ISSUE NOTE

Ministry/Ministries:

- Ministry of Forests

Issue:

- The BC Wildfire Service delivers wildfire management and natural hazard preparedness and response services on behalf of the Government of British Columbia, as a division within the Ministry of Forests.

Background:

- The BC Wildfire Service (BCWS) has a mandate of leadership and expertise in wildland fire prevention, land base recovery, mitigation and response in BC, responding to an average of 2,000 wildfires annually in a jurisdiction spanning over 94 million hectares.
- BCWS has approximately 2,200 firefighters and support staff in place for the 2024 fire season. Approximately 250 firefighters were recruited and trained in the Spring of 2024 to replace vacancies which regularly occurs annually due to a turnover in staff who are post-secondary school students.
- The BCWS organize personnel into a number of crew configurations to respond to wildfire as follows:
 - 550 personnel are trained as *Initial Attack* (IA) firefighters, who operate in four-person teams and are usually the first to respond to a reported fire. These crews are based throughout the province and are highly mobile resources.
 - BCWS has 30 *Unit Crews* comprised of 22 firefighters each, who provide sustained action on larger wildfire incidents. These crews are based throughout the province.
 - Depending on terrain, wildfire response may draw on specialized Rapattack or Parattack crews, who also operate in four-person teams.
 - Rapattack firefighters rappel out of helicopters adjacent to hard to access wildfires throughout the province. BCWS has 10 Rapattack crews that are based out of Salmon Arm and utilized provincially.
 - Parattack crews, or 'smoke jumpers' parachute out of fixed-wing aircraft to reach remote wildfires in the northeast and northwest region. Currently, there are 60 certified Parattack firefighters based in the Prince George Fire Centre (44 in Fort St. John Fire and 16 in Mackenzie).
- BCWS relies on the Incident Command System for emergency response coordination and has a robust certification matrix to ensure personnel are trained and qualified to undertake operational roles in emergencies.
- One of the approaches BCWS relies upon is the utilization of *Incident Management Teams* (IMT) which is a response team consisting of 16-18 personnel built to lead complex incidents through an ICS structure. BCWS has 5 IMTs with approximately 90 members.
- Larger wildfires, or those difficult access, may draw on fixed-wing aircraft to assist ground crews by dropping fire retardant, foam, and water to increase containment. Rotary wing aircraft

(helicopters) may be used to drop water on “hot spots”, transport personnel, and provide an aerial view to plan suppression tactics.

- All aircraft are contracted seasonally by BCWS and are prepositioned at bases around the province. The BCWS aviation fleet consists of:
 - Eight airtanker groups, which consist of one or more airtankers and a birddog aircraft that is used to direct air traffic communications and develop an air support strategy. This includes:
 - 10 – heavy land based retardant airtankers
 - 10 – light amphibious retardant/suppressant airtankers
- BCWS imports or exports personnel, aircraft, and equipment to manage resource needs at times of heightened fire activity through mutual agreements in place with the Northwest Compact (Washington, Oregon, Idaho, Montana, Alaska, the Yukon, the Northwest Territories, Alberta, and Saskatchewan), as well as with the Canadian Interagency Forest Fire Centre (CIFFC) for the sharing of resources with all other provinces and territories in Canada.
- During times of heightened wildfire activity, contract firefighting crews, fallers, danger tree assessors, first aid attendants, helicopters and heavy equipment may be utilized. This gives local BC contractors employment opportunities as a supplement to BCWS firefighters, helping with wildfire response.
- With wildfire experience and training in the Incident command system, BCWS has also been requested to support other emergencies in B.C. A few examples of this include: the atmospheric river event in 2021, local flood response across BC and the Chilcotin River landslide in 2024.
- In the spring of 2024, the Premier’s Expert Task Force on Emergencies released 21 recommendations. Many of which were implemented by the BCWS during the fire season with more longer term objectives to be actioned for the 2025 season.

PSA Noted HR Challenges

- Advice/Recommendations: Government Financial Information

Implications / Considerations / Opportunities:

- In the last decade BCWS has significantly increased its personnel and equipment capacity to respond to wildfires. Even with additional resources, in the evolving landscape that has experienced significant drought and other extreme weather events (wind and lightning) BCWS relies on strong resource sharing partnerships. This includes not only other wildfire agency partnerships, i.e. Canadian, provincial, territorial and western United States, but also community, first nation, industry and local governments.
- Advice/Recommendations

Advice/Recommendations

- Continued partnership growth with Industry, the private sector and Local/First Nation governments is paramount to successful response.
- Advice/Recommendations

Decision(s) Required / Next Steps:

- BCWS will continue to provide regular briefings to the Minister throughout the wildfire season. In time of heightened wildfire activity, the Minister may be asked to respond to media requests and/or visit impacted communities.
- Advice/Recommendations
-

MINISTRY TRANSITION NOTE

Ministry/Ministries:

- Forests

Issue:

- BC Timber Sales (BCTS) Program

Background:

- BCTS is an autonomous program within the Ministry of Forests with financial and operational independence. It operates under a self funding Special Account and must generate sufficient revenue to fund its operations.
- BCTS continues to play a critical role in the forest sector and the economies of rural communities by managing and providing open-market access to about 20% of the provincial timber supply.
- Each year on average BCTS continues to put over \$170M directly into communities through tendering of over 700 service contracts.
- On average, over the next three (3) years, BCTS activities will directly support over 650 well-paying jobs and another 4,900 indirect jobs in B.C.
- Since inception in 2003, BCTS has:
 - ✓ sold over 220 million cubic metres of timber into the forest economy through competitive auctions;
 - ✓ grown over 1.2 billion trees to support future forests; and,
 - ✓ earned over \$2.0 billion in net revenue for the province, the majority of which supported other government priorities such as education, health, parks and recreation.
- BCTS is held publicly accountable for performance through the publication of its quarterly and annual reports. Cabinet Confidences
Cabinet Confidences
- BCTS publishes quarterly and annual public performance reports. The 2023/24 Annual Performance Report will be available in August 2024.
- 2024/25 will be the first year of the next 5-year BCTS business cycle.
- In 2020/21 prior to the Old Growth (OG) decision BCTS sold 11.7 M m³. The target auction volume (rationalized apportionment or operationally available volume) sold was 11.3M m³, which was an over-performance. The year previous BCTS sold 10.1M m³ of their 11.8M m³ operationally available volume.
- BCTS sold 95% of full apportionment over the 2014/15 to 2018/19 5-year business cycle; and sold 57% of full apportionment over the 2019/20 to 2023/24 5-year business cycle

Implications / Considerations / Opportunities:

- Advice/Recommendations; Government Financial Information
-
-

2023/24 Performance Summary:

Key Performance Measure	Target	Actuals	Variance
Timber Volume Sold	Government Financial Information		
Timber Volume Developed			
Net Revenue			

2024/25 Performance Target Summary:

Key Performance Measure	Target/Budget
Target Timber Volume Sold ¹	Advice/Recommendations; Government Financial Information
Updated Projection of Timber Volume Sold (Updated July 31)	
Timber Volume Developed ²	
Net Revenue	

- BC Timber Sales acknowledges both considerable interest and values of old growth forests.
- Consistent with BCTS' overarching principle of sustainable forest management, BCTS staff undertake a variety of actions to manage, recruit, and conserve old growth forests and values across its operating areas.
- Advice/Recommendations
 - BCTS has worked collaboratively with its Ministry counterparts to implement all recommendations of the Old Growth Strategic Review, including harvest deferrals within old growth ecosystems considered to be at very high risk.
 - Intergovernmental Communications

Decision(s) Required / Next Steps:

- In response to these challenges, BCTS is taking proactive measures, including managing deferrals, preparing for potential write-offs, and pursuing new development opportunities. This work is being carried out in close collaboration with First Nations, the Timber Sales Advisory Committee, and Timber Sale License holders to address the complexities of old growth deferrals and to support ongoing harvesting activities.

¹ The government's old growth strategy paused timber sales in identified areas adversely impacting volume sold production for several years.

² Development delays due to the government's old growth strategy combined with, reconciliation activities, and managing wildlife are adversely impacting production.

MINISTRY TRANSITION NOTE

Ministry/Ministries:

- Ministry of Forests

Issue:

- June 2021, B.C. Supreme Court ruled that the Province infringed on Blueberry River First Nation's (BRFN's) Treaty rights from the extent and magnitude of cumulative natural resource disturbance within their claim area in Northeast BC. The subsequently negotiated and signed (January 2023) BRFN Implementation Agreement (BRFN IA) and parallel Treaty 8 Consensus Agreement (T8CA), with the other seven Treaty 8 First Nations, restrict, reduce, and create significant shifts in natural resource development practices to "heal the land and the people" and manage for cumulative impacts that support reconciliation and the meaningful practice of Treaty 8 rights.
- As a result of the court case and subsequent Agreements, there has been a significant reduction to the available forestry fibre supply within the Peace District. Industry rationalization (i.e., direct mill curtailments, closures, and loss of direct and indirect jobs in the surrounding rural communities) is underway.
- The Northeast range sector has also been impacted, albeit to a lesser extent.
- Advice/Recommendations; Intergovernmental Communications

- Advice/Recommendations

- Advice/Recommendations

- Advice/Recommendations; Intergovernmental Communications

Background:

- While the diversity of ecosystems and an abundance of natural resources in the region supports Northeast communities as well as a wide variety of natural resource-based industries (such as guide outfitting, trapping, agriculture, tourism, oil and gas, forestry, mining, wind energy, and hydroelectric power generation) the bulk of activities are in petroleum & natural gas

development and forestry.

- The *Yahey* decision and subsequent Agreements resulted in significant and ongoing Provincial accountabilities to establish new land protections and management objectives, revenue sharing, tenure opportunities, and natural resource sector planning.
- The BRFN IA commitments include:
 - Timber harvesting restrictions
 - Ecosystem-based Management targets
 - Cumulative effects management through land protections and land use planning
 - Petroleum & natural gas planning to institute protections and to guide disturbance limitations and new rules for development
 - Wildlife management and regulatory review, including predator control, moose, caribou, grizzly bear management
 - New permitting processes for natural resource applications
 - Significant funding for Restoration work within the Claim Area
 - Atmospheric Benefit commitments
 - New fiscal framework for Revenue Sharing
- The T8 CA is a parallel agreement signed with the remaining seven Treaty 8 Nations. It includes:
 - Advancing proposed protected areas and enhanced management zones as part of an Interim Zoning Strategy
 - Initiating watershed-level land use plans
 - Advancing shared decision-making through watershed and landscape plans
 - Advancing increased Restoration work
 - Issuing legal Orders to statutory decision-makers for considering cumulative impacts
- The BRFN IA resulted in two Court petitions (October 2023) for judicial review from two other Treaty 8 First Nations (Halfway River and Doig River) claiming the Province failed to adequately consult and accommodate their respective Nation's rights prior to signing the BRFN IA.
 - In July 2024 a Settlement Agreement (SA) was reached with Halfway River (HRFN) that:
 - aims to seek decision-making parity between HRFN and the BRFN IA over a spatially defined area within HRFN's core territory that overlaps BRFN's Claim Area; and,
 - includes a Side Letter (SL) signed by Deputy Ministers that commits BC to seek a future mandate to negotiate a new government-to-government agreement with HRFN to address broader natural resource sector policy issues.
 - Advice/Recommendations; Intergovernmental Communications

- Advice/Recommendations; Intergovernmental Communications

Implications / Considerations / Opportunities:

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Advice/Recommendations ; Intergovernmental Communications

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Advice/Recommendations ; Cabinet Confidences ; Intergovernmental Communications

MINISTRY TRANSITION NOTE

Ministry:

- Forests

Issue:

- FESBC 101 – continued wildfire mitigation and fibre recovery objectives

Background:

- The Forest Enhancement Society of BC (FESBC) was formed in 2016 under the *Societies Act*.
- The purposes of FESBC are:
 - To advance environmental and resource stewardship of British Columbia's forests by:
 - preventing and mitigating the impact of wildfires;
 - improving damaged or low value forests;
 - improving habitat for wildlife;
 - supporting the use of fibre from damaged and low value forests; and
 - treating forests to improve the management of greenhouse gases.
 - To advocate for the environmental and resource stewardship of British Columbia's forests.
 - To do all such other things as are incidental and ancillary to the attainment of the foregoing purposes and the exercise of the powers of the Society.
- FESBC has received \$313M from government to fund projects to advance and advocate for the environmental and resource stewardship of British Columbia's forests, of which \$311M has been allocated to support funding of 371 projects through British Columbia.
- The recently published FESBC 2023/24 Annual Service Plan Report identifies key results contributing to the organization's goals:
 - Prevent and mitigate the impact of wildfires through investments in
 - reduced wildfire risk on approximately 6,300 ha of forest adjacent to communities and high-value infrastructure
 - utilized 6,400 m³ of fibre that would have normally been burnt
 - enabled proponents to plan and implement wildfire risk reduction treatments surrounding 42 communities
 - Increase utilization of low-value forest residuals
 - Utilized over 1,650,000 m³ of wood that would have otherwise been burned
 - Improve Habitat for Wildlife
 - Co-funded 26 projects with Habitat Conservation Trust Foundation aimed at enhancing the habitat of threatened or at-risk species
- Beginning FY25, FESBC receives \$20M/year funding which will focus on delivering projects to conduct wildfire prevention planning and fuel management treatments near higher-risk

communities and critical infrastructure, and support projects to increase fibre utilization, helping to improve fibre supply to pulp mills and for energy production.

- Current FESBC board members:
 - Chair: Dave Peterson
 - Treasurer: Trish Dohan
 - Secretary: Ken Day
 - Directors: Mike P. Kelly, John Massier, Ian Meier (current FOR associate deputy minister), Sarah Fraser (current FOR assistant deputy minister)

Considerations:

- FESBC is currently operating under the FESBC 2023/24 – 2025/26 Service Plan.
- As directed in its Mandate Letter, FESBC will seek to prioritize project investments that contribute to B.C.'s goals of economic recovery and support strong, resilient rural communities.
- For 2024/25, in addition to the \$20 million new stable funding, FESBC will also complete \$30 million of projects initiated in 2023 from funding provided by government from prior fiscal years.

Decision(s) Required / Next Steps:

- Not Applicable

MINISTRY TRANSITION NOTE

Ministry/Ministries:

- Ministry of Forests.

Issue:

- Overview of the Timber Tenure System as foundational knowledge to understand the broader forest sector – FSTY 101.

Background:

- Forest Tenures Branch has prepared a slide presentation, and it is available if required at:
Security Concern
- Under the *Forest Act* (the “Act”), the government can issue various forms of long and short-term tenure agreements (licences) for Crown timber. The licensees can be forest companies, communities, individuals, or First Nations. The Act delineates rights to forest resources, gives certainty to licensees, and awards distinct types of tenure.
- There are two key types of tenure: volume-based and area-based.
 - Volume-based tenures grant licensees the right to harvest a defined amount of timber (the annual allowable cut or “AAC”) within a specified timber supply area (TSA), allowing several licensees to operate in the same management unit.
 - Replaceable forest licences (RFLs): AAC = 27,784,575 m³; and
 - Non-replaceable forest licences (NRFLs): AAC = 8,715,443 m³.
 - Area-based tenures grant licensees exclusive rights to harvest timber within a specified geographic area.
 - 34 tree farm licences (TFLs): AAC = 11,245,892 m³;
 - 25 First Nations woodland licences (FNWLs): AAC = 1,407,999 m³;
 - 61 community forest agreements (CFAs): AAC = 2,180,103 m³; and
 - 840 woodlot licences (WLs): AAC = 1,455,988 m³.
- Tenure is either replaceable or non-replaceable.
 - Replaceable tenures have terms ranging from 20-25 years, providing licensees with the long-term security to invest in business planning, forest management, and manufacturing. Examples include RFLs, TFLs, FNWLs, CFAs and WLs.
 - Non-replaceable tenures have a fixed term to achieve specific goals. Examples include NRFLs, B.C. Timber Sales’ timber sale licences (TSLs) and forestry licences to cut (FLTCs).

Features of Volume-Based Tenures		
Forest licence	Issues the right to harvest an AAC in specified TSA or TFL area.	Up to 20 years. May be replaceable every 5-10 years, or in some cases are non-replaceable.
TSL (B.C. Timber Sales)	Issued only by B.C. Timber Sales via competitive auction. Provides the right to harvest in a specified area.	Up to 4 years, non-replaceable.
FLTC	Issues the right to harvest and/or remove timber from specified areas. Types vary by purpose, i.e.: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • fibre utilization; • research; • forest health; and • small commercial purposes. 	Up to 5 years, non-replaceable.

Features of Area-Based Tenures			
TFL	Term is up to 25 years, replaceable every 5-10 years.		Option for a private land component with all area-based tenures.
FNWL	Term may be up to 99 years, replaceable every 5-10 years.	Allowance for non-timber forest products.	
CFA			
WL	Term is 20 years, replaceable every 10 years.		

- Tenure administration requires managing tenure applications for competitive bid and direct award, First Nations consultation and public engagement, awarding, transfer, subdivision, consolidation, cut control, security deposit and compliance and enforcement.
- The coast and interior operations share the same tenure framework, but regional ecology, tree species and economies present different challenges.
- Forest tenure agreements may be transferred:
 - Licensees can dispose of an interest in a tenure agreement in whole or in part through a subdivision.
 - Requires review and approval by the minister under Part 4 of the Act, also guided by the requirements under the Disposition and Change of Control Regulation.
 - Two types of disposition:
 - Transfer – minister’s review and approval requested before it can happen.
 - Corporate change of control – minister’s review conducted after it happens.
 - Two considerations required under the Act since 2019.
 - Marketing of fibre in B.C; and
 - Public interest.
 - Statutory decision requires consultation with those First Nations that may be affected by the decision.
- Coast tenure management – coast areas have higher value timber but are in very rugged remote terrain with some of the highest harvesting costs in the world. Currently, industry is transitioning from the old-growth harvest to second-growth harvest.
 - Major coastal tree species are western hemlock, balsam fir, western red cedar, yellow cedar, Douglas-fir and red alder.
- Interior tenure management – the largest mountain pine beetle infestation in North America peaked in 2005 and caused a significant decline in the interior timber supply. In addition, wildfires have impacted the AAC. The 10-year average of wildfire burned area is approximately 4.7 million hectares a year.
 - Lodgepole pine and spruce are B.C.’s most common interior tree species.
- Since 2001, the government has spent significant public dollars mitigating the impacts of insects, fires, droughts and floods through:
 - Community capacity building;
 - Workforce development;
 - Community and economic development; and
 - Business sector development.

Implications / Considerations / Opportunities:

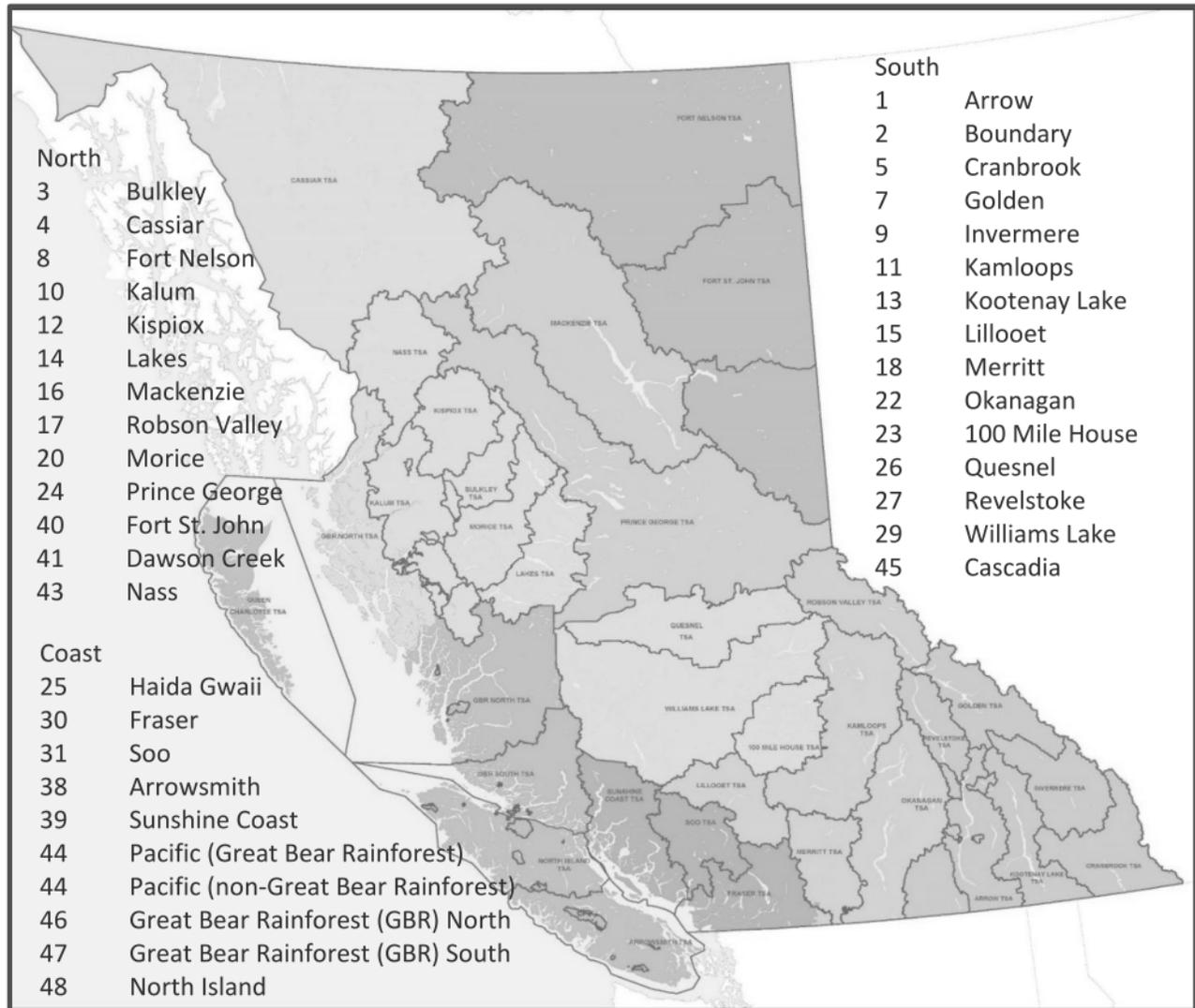
- The Timber Tenure System has evolved over time, while most decisions are delegated, apportionment and tenure transfer’s greater than 100,000 m³/year are ministerial decisions.
- Advice/Recommendations

Advice/Recommendations

- Advice/Recommendations; Intergovernmental Communications

Decision(s) Required / Next Steps:

- Advice/Recommendations



MINISTRY TRANSITION NOTE

Ministry: Ministry of Forests (FOR)

Issue: Tree planting agreements between BC's Ministry of Forests and the Government of Canada under the 2 Billion Trees Program

Background:

- In 2022, the Government of Canada committed to planting two billion trees through the 2 Billion Trees (2BT) program, allocating \$3.2B over 10 years to recipients to assist in tree planting projects.
- The 2BT program has provided a notional allocation of \$358M over ten years to British Columbia.
- Eligible tree planting projects on Crown land can receive up to 50% of matching funding.
- In 2022-23, FOR signed a multi-year agreement-in-principle with Canada under the 2BT program.
- A two-year contribution agreement with Canada was signed in March 2023, which resulted in over 37M trees and approximately \$40M recovered from Canada over the two years
 - 2022-23: about 9M trees and \$18M recovered
 - 2023-24: about 29M trees and \$21M recovered
- In March 2024, an extension to 2024/25 of the two-year contribution agreement with Canada has been signed which will result in 27M trees planted and \$27M recovered.
- Funding of 2BT projects will focus on:
 - Activities that result in tree planting, and not other silviculture activities, such as spacing.
 - Selection of tree planting projects involving long-term maintenance of trees with a priority on sites that involve little or no clearing of vegetation to reduce emissions.
 - Reforesting areas that have "species at risk" identified and where there is an ability to restore critical habitat.
 - Projects that enhance or maintain biodiversity, including, planting of conifer and deciduous trees.
 - Sites where reforestation will result in a greenhouse gas benefit.
 - Areas without a legal obligation to reforest.
 - Reforesting with tree seedlings that are ecologically appropriate to the site.
 - Restoration through planting of riparian areas and increasing the resilience and efficacy of protected areas.

Implications / Considerations / Opportunities:

- Growing and planting 27M trees will create an estimated 400 jobs in the province including many rural jobs. This includes 300 direct tree planting and nursery jobs with the remaining jobs

in supporting industries (e.g., sowing and surveys).

- There will be employment opportunities in the medium term for planting, seed production and monitoring to ensure the planted trees are growing successfully.
- A robust reforestation program can continue with funding support through 2BT to FY31.
- Reforestation contributing to habitat restoration is recoverable at a higher rate than traditional tree planting under current agreements (60% contribution from Natural Resource Canada (NRCan) vs 50%).

Next Steps:

- FOR intends to enter into a new multi-year contribution agreement with NRCan to plant more trees beginning next fiscal year.
- FOR is collaborating with the Ministry of Water, Lands and Resource Stewardship to coordinate future contribution agreements supporting reforestation for habitat restoration with work set to begin this fiscal year.

MINISTRY TRANSITION NOTE – FORESTRY REVENUE SHARING

Ministry/Ministries:

- Ministry of Forests (FOR)
- Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation (IRR)

Issue:

- BC shares a portion of forestry revenues with First Nations through the Forest Consultation and Revenue Sharing Agreement (FCRSA) Program.
- FCRSAs are designed to: (i) accommodate potential impacts of forestry decisions on Aboriginal rights, and (ii) establish consultation frameworks to support statutory decision-making.
- Since 2010, BC has transferred over \$740M in forestry revenue to First Nations through the FCRSA Program. As of October 2, there are 124 active FCRSAs with 140 First Nations across BC.
- In April 2022, BC committed to co-develop a new forestry revenue sharing model consistent with the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples as a next step towards a New Fiscal Framework (NFF) with Indigenous Peoples. As an interim step, BC doubled existing FCRSA Program rates, moving from 3-5% to 8-10% of gross district revenues, and increased BC Timber Sales (BCTS) shares to 11-13%.
- The FCRSA revenue-sharing model is retroactive, and the rate increase coincided with record-high lumber markets during the COVID-19 pandemic. As a result, FY2024/25 will be the highest revenue sharing year on record with \$189M projected to flow to First Nations through the FCRSA program.
- Advice/Recommendations; Government Financial Information; Intergovernmental Communications

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Background:

- **Program Management:** Accountability for the FCRSA program is shared by FOR and IRR. IRR negotiates FCRSA content and manages funding and payments. FOR is responsible for completing annual revenue-sharing calculations. In September 2024, Deputy Ministers directed staff to move to joint FOR/IRR Minister sign off of all new FCRSAs and renewals (currently only

the minister of IRR signs FCRSAs).

- **FCRSA Calculation:** The FCRSA revenue-sharing model includes:
 - (i) a share of stumpage, waste, and annual rent from Natural Resource Districts (NRDs) overlapping a First Nation's territory,
 - (ii) a stumpage rebate for specific direct award tenures from the *Forest Revitalization Act, 2003* tenure redistribution,
 - (iii) a \$35K minimum payment as a 'floor' in cases where there is little stumpage generated in NRDs overlapping a First Nation's territory, and
 - (iv) a per capita transition formula for First Nations that saw a decrease in revenue sharing when the model switched from using a per capita to a activity-based formula in 2010.
- Payments are based on gross district revenue and pro-rated by the percentage of Timber Harvesting Land Base (THLB) within a First Nation's FCRSA boundary. In areas with overlapping THLB claims, revenue is split between the Nations asserting interests.
- Payments are scaled according to the type of reconciliation agreement in place between BC and the First Nations government, ranging from no agreement (8%) to a Reconciliation Agreement (10%).
- **Agreement Uptake and Feedback:** Out of 184 eligible First Nations for the FCRSA program, 128 have signed agreements.
 - Intergovernmental Communications

 - In November 2022, BC released a discussion paper to guide the development of a new fiscal framework and forestry revenue sharing model. Over 50 First Nations participated in government-to-government discussions, and feedback was collected from more than 90 First Nations.
 - The "What We Heard Report," released in April 2023, summarizes the insights and perspectives gathered during this process.

Implications / Considerations / Opportunities:

- The NFF co-development process has brought to the forefront the complexity of this work, in terms of the unique interests and values of each First Nation and the interrelationship of revenue sharing with critical questions of shared decision-making and co-management of land and resources.
- Advice/Recommendations

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Advice/Recommendations

Decision(s) Required / Next Steps:

- Advice/Recommendations

MINISTRY TRANSITION NOTE

Ministry/Ministries:

- Shared mandate between Ministry of Forests (FOR) and Ministry of Water, Lands and Resource Stewardship (WLRS).

Issue:

- The Great Bear Rainforest (GBR) project is an ongoing corporate priority with joint responsibilities and commitments set by FOR and WLRS.

Background:

- The Province's GBR commitments contain bilateral agreements with 26 First Nations including cross-agency commitments with Coastal First Nations (CFN) and Nanwakolas Council. These agreements commit the Province to the implementation of Ecosystem Based Management (EBM) in the GBR, aiming to achieve high-levels of ecological integrity (conservation) and human well-being (economic opportunity/social wellbeing).
- Implementation of the GBR is a complex, long-term commitment guided by the principles of continuous improvement. The GBR Land Use Order (LUO) requires government to monitor the implementation of EBM by way of periodic reviews.
- The mandate for GBR periodic reviews comes from G2G agreements with CFN, Nanwakolas Council, and the FOR-Deputy Minister's 2016 Commitment Letter to licensees and environmental groups. A review occurred in 2021 and future reviews are scheduled for 2026, and every ten years after to assess implementation and recommend improvements to objectives and forest management policies.
- The 2021 GBR LUO review, led by FOR, CFN and Nanwakolas Council (G2G EBM Forum), concluded with amendments to the GBR LUO in 2023. Licensees were represented by Coast Forest Conservation Initiative (Interfor, BCTS, Western Forest Products and Mosaic) and environmental non-governmental organizations (ENGO) by Rainforest Solutions Project (Sierra Club, Greenpeace and Stand.Earth). The next periodic review is set for 2026 and will include WLRS as co-lead.

Implications / Considerations / Opportunities:

- The GBR initiative directly supports the FOR Service Plan's commitments on advancing reconciliation agreements and world-renowned stewardship.
- Since 2023, FOR has been rolling out key GBR implementation tasks including:
 - Training on the updated GBR LUO to support industry implementation of EBM practices;
 - Working with First Nations, Industry and environmental organizations to develop an environmental monitoring program that will ensure our collective commitments are met;
 - Completing the remaining old growth reserve network in the GBR through Landscape Reserve Designs (LRD), an important land-based planning process that determines how

our ecological protection and harvesting targets will be met on the ground.

- The GBR is the government's North and South-Central Coast Strategic Forest Strategy. Implementation is guided by *Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act*, the *Great Bear Rainforest (Forest Management) Act*, First Nations agreements and protocols, and the GBR LUOs. It also includes the partnerships with ENGOs and the forest sector in the periodic review and implementation processes.

Decision(s) Required / Next Steps:

- Advice/Recommendations

MINISTRY TRANSITION NOTE – HCA TRANSFORMATION PROJECT (HCATP)

Ministry/Ministries:

- Forests (FOR) – lead role
- Tourism, Arts, Culture and Support (TACS) – supporting role
- While not identified as having accountability under Declaration Act Action Plan item 4.35, BC Energy Regulator has authorities under the *Heritage Conservation Act* (HCA) through Specified Enactments under the *Energy Resource Activities Act* - supporting role

Issue:

- For many years, First Nations and stakeholders (industry, private landowners, professional archaeologists, etc.) have raised challenges with the HCA and its administration.
- Some administrative amendments were made to the HCA in 2019 but significant changes have not been made to the legislation since 1996.
- First Nations continue to call for increased protection of culturally important sites and implementation of the UN Declaration.
- Advice/Recommendations; Intergovernmental Communications

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- Advice/Recommendations; Cabinet Confidences

Background:

- The HCA Transformation Project (HCATP) is led by the Joint Working Group on First Nations Heritage Conservation (JWG), which includes members appointed by the First Nations Leadership Council (FNLC) and the Provincial government.
- In November 2021, FOR received a mandate to undertake Phase 1 of the HCATP – broad engagement with First Nations and stakeholders on the HCA and its administration to inform priorities for change. This work was undertaken in Summer and Fall of 2022.
- In July 2023, FOR received Cabinet approval to advance to Phase 2 of the HCATP to develop, refine and undertake an analysis of potential near-term transformation opportunities to inform a co-developed Request for Decision (RFD) and shortly sequenced Request for Legislation in Fall 2023. Engagement with First Nations and stakeholders on proposed policy changes took place in Fall 2023.
- In Fall 2023, a decision was made jointly with FNLC to pause the project and not proceed with advancing a suite of near-term amendments to the HCA this mandate, instead working towards the development of a more comprehensive package for future legislative sessions.
- Advice/Recommendations; Intergovernmental Communications

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Withheld pursuant to/removed as

Advice/Recommendations ; Interests of an Indigenous People ; Intergovernmental Communications

MINISTRY TRANSITION NOTE

Ministry/Ministries:

- Ministry of Forests, Office of the Chief Forester.

Issue:

- High profile allowable annual cut decisions recently released or planned for release in the near term.

Background:

- Allowable annual cut (AAC) is the rate of timber harvesting that can occur within a defined area referred to as a timber management unit, as determined by the chief forester. AAC is a volume of timber, in cubic metres, per year.
- AAC determinations are independent, professional decisions made by the chief forester through section 8 of the *Forest Act*. AAC determinations are based on information compiled from technical forestry reports, First Nations consultations, and public comments, and consider the government's social and economic objectives.
- The chief forester must determine the AAC in each of the province's 37 timber supply areas and 34 tree farm licences at least once every 10 years.
- Advice/Recommendations

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Implications / Considerations / Opportunities:

- Mackenzie TSA
 - On May 4, 2023, the AAC for the Mackenzie TSA was reduced by 47 percent to 2.39 million cubic metres, of which a maximum of 1.17 million cubic metres may be harvested in the southwest (SW) partition zone.
 - The SW partition zone is the area west of Williston Reservoir and south of Omineca Provincial Park and Omineca Arm.
 - The reduction in AAC is due to losses from forest health issues, wildfire, ungulate winter range, wildlife habitat areas, caribou, old growth, and land base exclusions for the creation of a new First Nations Woodland Licence.
 - The apportionment decision was completed on August 9, 2024.

- Kootenay Lake TSA

- On June 4, 2024, the AAC for the Kootenay Lake TSA was reduced by 13 percent to 550,000 cubic metres.
- The new AAC includes two partitions: a maximum of 25,300 cubic metres (4.6 percent) of the AAC can be harvested from old forest stands, and a maximum of 524,700 cubic metres (95.4 percent) can be harvested from forest stands that are not old.
- The partitions were implemented to ensure sustainable harvest levels for both old and not-old growth stands while long-term strategies for old-growth forests are developed.
- In August 2022, the Kootenay-Boundary Region received unanimous support from First Nations to defer the harvest of at-risk old growth forest in over 50,000 hectares of the TSA.
- Advice/Recommendations; Intergovernmental Communications

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- North Island TSA

- On June 26, 2024, the AAC for the North Island TSA was reduced by 12 percent to 1,096,000 cubic metres.
- In the determination, the chief forester specified four AAC partitions. A maximum of 9,000 cubic metres of red alder can be harvested annually in the TSA. To address old-forest deferral areas until a long-term management approach is implemented, and to ensure harvesting is sustainable, the chief forester specified that a maximum of 543,500 cubic metres of coniferous timber may be harvested from stands older than 140 years, and a maximum of 543,500 cubic metres of coniferous timber may be harvested from stands 140 years and younger.
- A maximum of 450,000 cubic metres of all species can be harvested annually from the Sayward Timber Supply Block (TSB) located in the southeastern portion of the TSA.
- The North Island TSA overlaps the traditional territory of 26 First Nations, all of whom were consulted during the timber supply review (TSR) process. All the input received was considered by the chief forester in the determination.
- The determination was also made in a manner consistent with the Nanwakolas-Province Shared Decision-Making Protocol.
- Advice/Recommendations; Intergovernmental Communications

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- TFL 46
 - On May 21, 2024, the AAC for Tree Farm Licence (TFL) 46 was reduced by 5.5 percent to 360,000 cubic metres.
 - TFL 46, which is held by Teal Cedar Products Ltd., is located mainly on the West Coast of Vancouver Island and includes the Fairy Creek watershed.
 - To address old growth deferral areas until a long-term management approach is finalized and to ensure harvesting is sustainable, the chief forester specified the following AAC partitions: a maximum of 180,000 cubic metres (50 percent) of the AAC can be harvested from old forest stands that are older than 250 years, and a maximum of 180,000 cubic metres (50 percent) of the AAC can be harvested from younger stands that are 250 years old or less.
 - Currently, there is no harvesting occurring within supported deferral areas within TFL 46.
 - When making the determination, the chief forester reduced the AAC for TFL 46 by 1.5 percent to account for orders under Part 13 of the Forest Act, which temporarily suspended harvesting in Fairy Creek and the Central Walbran Valley.
 - There was substantial public comment on the timber supply review (TSR), with over 500 submissions received by the ministry and Teal Cedar Products.
 - Concerns expressed by the public have primarily focused on species at risk (marbled murrelet and goshawk) and the protection of old growth. These concerns and input from First Nations were considered by the chief forester in the AAC determination.
 - Advice/Recommendations; Intergovernmental Communications

 - Intergovernmental Communications

- Lakes TSA
 - On November 21, 2019, the AAC for the Lakes TSA was reduced by 41 percent to 970,000 cubic metres.
 - The new AAC included the following partitions: a maximum of 400,000 cubic metres attributable to live conifer volume. A maximum of 20 000 cubic metres per year attributable to live deciduous volume. A maximum of 550 000 cubic metres per year is attributable to dead volume.
 - The new AAC included a significant component of dead and deciduous volume. The dead component is comprised of beetle-killed stands and stands burned by fires that may no longer be economic to harvest. The deciduous partition is intended to mitigate harvest level reductions; however, the market for deciduous is limited.
 - The AAC apportionment was completed in August 2023 and associated Licence reductions occurred in June 2024.

- An FLP that is legally established in the Morice TSA will require an AAC determination to align the AAC with the land use zonation and management practices described in the FLP and to reflect First Nations values and interests documented in the FLP.

Decision(s) Required / Next Steps:

- Advice/Recommendations; Intergovernmental Communications

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MINISTRY TRANSITION NOTE

Ministry/Ministries:

- Ministry of Forests, Integrated Resource Operations Division

Issue:

- The Minister's Office has requested a summary of High-Profile Tenure Agreement Transfers.
- Advice/Recommendations

Background:

- Section 54 of the *Forest Act* requires that prior to the approval of a requested tenure agreement transfer, the Minister must consider the effect of the transfer on the marketing of fibre in B.C., the public interest, and the potential impact to First Nations rights and title.
- If the Minister decides that a disposition is detrimental to the marketing of fibre in B.C. or is not in the public interest, they must not approve the disposition, or they may approve the disposition with conditions to address circumstances that would otherwise result in refusal.
- Under the "Delegation of Minister's Authority under the *Forest Act*" the decision to approve a transfer of an agreement with an allowable annual cut (AAC) of 100,000 m³ or less has been delegated to the Director of Forest Tenures Branch.

Implications / Considerations / Opportunities:

- Intergovernmental Communications
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Decision(s) Required / Next Steps:

- Advice/Recommendations
- Skeena Sawmills went into bankruptcy at the end of 2023. A Receiver was appointed and through a process in the courts the successful bidder for the three tenure agreements held by Skeena was the Kitsumkalum First Nation. The Receiver requested approval of the transfer in April 2024 and consultation with First Nations was initiated.
- Advice/Recommendations; Intergovernmental Communications
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Advice/Recommendations ; Intergovernmental Communications

MINISTRY TRANSITION NOTE

Ministry/Ministries:

- Ministry of Forests.

Issue:

- Log exports and expiry of blanket Orders in Council
- Log exports have historically been a politically sensitive and polarizing topic.
- Log export Blanket Order in Councils (BOICs) will expire on July 31, 2025. Advice/Recommendations

Background:

- Log exports are administered by both the federal and provincial governments. Federal jurisdiction log exports generally account for 50% of all log exports from British Columbia.
- Provincial jurisdiction log exports have seen a reduction of 59% from 2019 to 2023. Last year saw a 10% increase compared to 2022 levels.
- Cedar and cypress logs are not exportable.
- A fee in lieu of manufacturing (FIL) is charged on log exports.
- Log exports are generally more prevalent on the Coast; however, in 2023, log exports were evenly split between the Coast and Interior.
- Most logs proposed for export are made available to domestic manufacturers through the surplus test. Surplus testing gives domestic manufacturers the opportunity to offer to purchase the logs; if a reasonable offer is received, then the logs may not be exported from the province. Offers are reviewed by the Timber Export Advisory Committee, who advises the minister on the fairness of offers, and recommends that the timber be considered surplus or not surplus.
- In certain areas of the province, a portion of the harvest is exempted from this surplus test requirement. Blanket Orders in Council are currently in effect in the Nass, Northwest Coast, Cassiar, Northwest Interior, Haida Gwaii and Soo areas, and they allow for a percentage of the whitewood (non-cedar or cypress) volume to be exported without first undergoing surplus testing, based on an economic exemption as provided for in the *Forest Act*. BOICs also have a nominal fee in lieu of \$1 per cubic metre.

Implications / Considerations / Opportunities:

- Domestic manufacturers can submit an offer on logs proposed for export (surplus test) if they require this fiber to run their facility. The Timber Export Advisory Committee (TEAC) meets monthly to assess current market conditions and reviews any offers made by domestic manufacturers. If an offer is deemed fair, the logs cannot be exported. If an offer is deemed low, then the logs can be exported. The TEAC makes the recommendation, and the Minister (or delegate) makes the final decision on fairness of offers.

- The BOICs are in place for areas where timber cannot be processed economically in the vicinity of the land where it was cut or transported economically to a processing facility located elsewhere in British Columbia. The logic behind the BOICs is that the lower fee in lieu and lack of surplus testing requirements means that mixed stands that would otherwise be uneconomic to harvest (and therefore uneconomic to process) due to the high proportion of less desirable species can be harvested. As a result, some of these stands get exported as logs, but their higher value logs (particularly cedar) get manufactured domestically. Without the low-cost option of exporting the less valuable logs from the stand, some stands would be rendered uneconomic to harvest, depriving the domestic market of the more sought-after volume within the stand.
- Log exports are an important component of keeping timber harvesting profitable, due to the higher log valuation from overseas markets for logs that are typically less economical to manufacture domestically. Some of the Blanket Orders in Council, in particular, have been in place for over 20 years and many remote coastal businesses (often First Nations held companies) have developed based on access to the export market provided by them. A robust harvesting sector is crucial to maintaining timber supply for domestic manufacturing.
- Interior log exports and BOICs are charged a flat rate of \$1 per cubic metre as a fee in lieu of manufacturing (FIL). Coastal log exports are subject to a variable fee in lieu which is a percentage of the Vancouver Log Market value where higher value stands have a higher percentage FIL and lower value stands have a lower percentage FIL. The variable FIL ranges from 10% to a maximum of 35% for coastal licensees. The log FIL policy was implemented to tie the amount of the fee to the economics of the stand.
- Some licensees have been asking the provincial government to make changes to the BOICs in order to improve the economics of harvesting in BOIC areas by changing aspects of the calculation that determines the volume allowed to be exported without a surplus test to allow more flexibility and increased export of volume under some of the BOICs.

Decision(s) Required / Next Steps:

- The Blanket Order in Councils (BOICs) will be expiring July 31, 2025. Advice/Recommendations; Advice/Recommendations; Intergovernmental Communications

MINISTRY TRANSITION NOTE

Ministry/Ministries:

- Ministry of Forests

Issue:

- Government committed to temporarily deferring 2.6 million hectares of old growth forests to provide space for local decision-making on the management of old growth forests via mechanisms such as Forest Landscape Planning and Modernized Land Use Planning.
- The public has demonstrated significant interest in the achievement of this commitment and more broadly, the protection of old growth forests from harvest.
- The Province has substantively achieved the commitment to defer 2.6 million hectares of old growth by permanently protecting or temporarily deferring close to 2.44 million hectares since November 2021.
- As such, the focus is transitioning from adding further deferral areas to pathways towards and decisions on long-term management plans for these areas.

Background:

- In 2019, the Government of British Columbia appointed an independent, two-person panel as part of an Old Growth Strategic Review to engage the public in a conversation about old growth.
- In September 2020, the panel's report, *A New Future for Old Forests*, was released and government publicly committed to implementing all 14 recommendations.
 - Recommendation 6 of *A New Future for Old Forests* was "until a new strategy is implemented, defer development in old forests where ecosystems are at very high and near-term risk of irreversible biodiversity loss."
- In June 2021, to support the implementation of recommendation 6, the Province established a Technical Advisory Panel (TAP) for the purpose of providing maps, analysis, and detailed status of old growth ecosystems in British Columbia and to provide recommendations on priority areas for implementation of deferrals.
- In November 2021, the TAP released their maps highlighting areas they assessed to be high priority for deferral. Using this mapping and data, the Province made a commitment to defer 2.6 million hectares of old growth in B.C.
- The TAP process did not include consultation with First Nations in the identification of old growth areas. In alignment with the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, the recommendations of the TAP were shared with First Nations Rights and Title holders in

November 2021 for further discussion on how to proceed in their respective territories with the areas recommended by the TAP for deferral.

- The Province has heard a variety of responses from First Nations about deferrals. Some First Nations supported the deferrals identified by TAP, some preferred to identify alternate areas for deferral based on their local knowledge, and others responded that they felt old growth was already sustainably managed and further deferrals were not required.
- As of February 2024, coordination between First Nations and forest licensees has resulted in close to 2.44 million hectares of old growth being permanently protected (305,000 hectares) or temporarily deferred (2.13 million hectares) since November 2021.
 - 1.23 million hectares is “priority at-risk” old growth identified by the TAP; and
 - An additional 1.21 million hectares were identified by First Nations.
- The Province has substantively achieved the commitment to defer 2.6 million hectares of old growth.
- Deferrals are a temporary measure to create space for discussion on holistic, long-term management approaches for old growth forests.
- They will remain in place until the forest management approach being informed by the Old Growth Strategic Review is implemented and local discussions on long-term management of old growth values are concluded through initiatives such as Land Use Plans (LUP) and Forest Landscape Plans (FLP).
- Deferrals can be implemented in three ways:
 - by companies agreeing to voluntarily pause harvest;
 - by an Order in Council (OIC) and associated minister’s order under Part 13 of the *Forest Act* to pause previously issued permits and prevent new permits from being issued or
 - as directed as in the case of the provincial government providing direction to BC Timber Sales to voluntarily defer.
- Voluntary deferrals account for approximately 90% of temporary old growth deferrals and are currently operating effectively over more than 2 million hectares.
- There are currently two Part 13 orders in effect to defer harvesting in areas with old growth:
 - Old Growth Designated Area No. 1 (expires September 30, 2026) was established in 2020 in response to recommendation 6 of the *A New Future for Old Forests*.
 - Fairy Creek Watershed Designated Area No. 1 (expires February 1, 2025) was established after a request from Pacheedaht First Nation Business Information; Intergovernmental Communications
- Part 13 OICs have a maximum duration of 10 years, a Minister’s order is tied directly to the Part 13 OIC. A statutory entitlement to compensation begins after the fourth year and is payable when the order expires or is rescinded.
- In May 2024, the Province released *From Review to Action*, which highlighted that while conversations on temporary deferrals are continuing, focus is shifting to what should happen with priority old-growth areas over the long term.

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Advice/Recommendations ; Government Financial Information ; Intergovernmental Communications

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Advice/Recommendations ; Cabinet Confidences ; Government Financial Information ; Intergovernmental
Communications

MINISTRY TRANSITION NOTE

Ministry/Ministries:

- Forests

Issue:

- Premier's Expert Task Force on Emergencies recommendations and status

Background:

- The 2023 wildfire season was the most impactful even documented in BC's history. Persistent multi-year drought and an early start to the season contributed to fire activity across the province, with wildfires burning more than 2.84M hectares across BC, ten times the ten-year average (which includes previous record-breaking seasons in 2017, 2018 and 2021) and more than twenty times the area harvested annually by the forest industry. Over 200 evacuation orders impacted tens of thousands of residents. The estimated cost of wildfire suppression was more than \$1.08B.
- In September 2023 the Premier announced the formation of an expert task force on emergencies to provide recommendations to the Province on wildfire and emergency management, with a focus on improvements that could be implemented before and during the 2024 season across nine specific deliverable areas:
 1. Enhance BC wildfire predictive services current technology including the use of artificial intelligence and other technologies;
 2. Planning for incorporation of local volunteer resources for wildfire response;
 3. Improve integration of rural and municipal fire departments into the BC Wildfire Service response in the wildland urban interface;
 4. Review and update the wildfire emergency response strategy for BC;
 5. Strengthen community participation in all disciplines of FireSmart;
 6. Identify effective expansion opportunities in wildfire prevention programs;
 7. Enhance the Evacuee Registration Assistance (ERA) tool to provide fully digital support for evacuees;
 8. Modernize and enhance community delivery of Emergency Support Services, including post-wildfire support; and
 9. Identify opportunities to assist First Nations and local authorities to improve evacuation order and alert awareness and compliance.
- The task force consisted of experts from First Nations leadership, local authorities, and external experts, and included senior executives from the Premier's Office, Ministry of Forests and Ministry of Emergency Management and Climate Readiness. The task force was active between October 2023 and March 2024, carried out targeted engagements with over 60 partners and stakeholders, and concluded its work in April 2024 with the release of 31 recommendations.

Implications / Considerations / Opportunities:

- Rather than a comprehensive review to carry out broad public engagement and identify opportunities for transformative change, the expert task force's terms of reference focused on providing real-time, action-oriented recommendations for continuous improvement within defined deliverable areas.
- Six deliverable areas focused on wildfire management fell within the responsibility of the Ministry of Forests. Two deliverable areas focused on evacuee support fell to the Ministry of Emergency Management and Climate Readiness. One deliverable area focused on evacuation order and alert communications was a shared responsibility of the two ministries.
- Rather than awaiting the completion of a final report, ministries began implementing emerging task force advice in real-time throughout the task force process. Delivery teams were established within the ministries for each deliverable area, and these teams engaged iteratively with the task force to provide briefings, receive feedback and translate emerging task force advice into immediate action plans.
- The Ministry of Forests made numerous improvements to various initiatives and programs before the 2024 season, including shifting its crew recruitment model; expanding opportunities for Indigenous initial attack crews; making strategic investments in industry-leading fire behaviour modelling platforms; and formalizing a partnership with Thompson Rivers University to establish a wildfire training and research centre. Longer-term actions to implement task force recommendations are ongoing. A May 2024 report-back to the task force on the status of implementation is attached.
- The task force acknowledged that emergency management is no longer occasional and episodic but year-round and cyclical and requires a committed and collaborative continuous learning and improvement model to identify opportunities for improvement from each event and season. The task force's summary of recommendations provide guidance that will continue to shape ongoing development, evolution and refinement of ministry programs and initiatives.

Decision(s) Required / Next Steps:

- No decisions required.

MINISTRY TRANSITION NOTE

Ministry/Ministries:

- Ministry of Forests, Office of the Chief Forester.

Issue:

- Provincial Fibre Supply and Declining Allowable Annual Cut Levels.

Background:

- The provincial timber supply has been declining over the last 17 years.
- During the peak of the Mountain Pine Beetle (MPB) outbreak in 2007, the total allowable annual cut (AAC) for all Crown tenures was 85 million cubic metres.
- Advice/Recommendations
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- Although a drop in harvest levels was anticipated, given the end of MPB salvage harvesting, additional pressures from wildfires, species at risk habitat protection, and old-growth deferrals have deepened the decline.
- In addition to timber from Crown land, harvests from privately managed forest land in B.C. average about 6.5 million cubic metres per year.

Implications / Considerations / Opportunities:

- Advice/Recommendations
-
- Intergovernmental Communications

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Advice/Recommendations ; Intergovernmental Communications

MINISTRY TRANSITION NOTE

Ministry/Ministries: FORESTS

Issue:

- Implementation of Haida Aboriginal Title Agreement: Implications for the BC economic interest on Haida Gwaii and the precedent of negotiation of title implementation in BC.

Background:

- Over the last two decades, the Province and Council of the Haida Nation (CHN), have worked collaboratively to resolve outstanding Crown/Aboriginal Title interests and achieve consensus on natural resource management approaches on Haida Gwaii. Key highlights for forestry include a consensus on a land use plan resulting in a 55% decrease in the AAC (since 2009) and implementing the first joint decision-making procedures (prior to DRIPA) on key strategic forestry decisions.
- Foundational to this approach is the 2009 Kunst'aa Guu – Kunst'aayah Reconciliation Protocol (KKRP), which was followed by a suite of government to government (G2G) agreements, commitments and provincial legislation.
- In 2021, CHN, British Columbia and Canada entered into the GayGahlda • Kwah.hlahl.dáyaa “Changing Tide” Framework for Reconciliation. As part of “Changing Tide”, the parties agreed to pursue a “Recognition Agreement” and enabling legislation to legalize the Haida Nation as the holder of title and rights, affirm the CHN as the Indigenous Governing Body of the Haida Nation, and take steps to reconcile laws and jurisdictions through ongoing negotiations between the BC and the CHN.
- Negotiations under Changing Tide continued through 2022 and in 2023, BC enacted The *Haida Nation Recognition Act*, recognizing CHN as a government, with all associated rights and responsibilities. Intergovernmental Communications
Intergovernmental Communications
- In April 2024, CHN and BC concluded negotiations on the Gaayhllxid • Gíihlagalgang “Rising Tide” Haida Title Lands Agreement (HTLA). Subsequently, the province of BC passed supporting legislation, and the CHN affirmed the agreement through its House of Assembly.
- The HTLA and associated legislation took effect on July 5, 2024, and has begun a transition period of 3-5 years, during which provincial and Haida Nation jurisdictions are to be reconciled with an initial focus on protected areas and forestry.
- An outcome of this process will be the transitioning of natural resource tenure administration and decision making, including forestry, to the jurisdiction of CHN.

- During the transition period, BC has agreed that all land and resource management decisions under provincial jurisdiction will be made consistent with provincial laws, the HTLA legislation and Aboriginal title under section 35 of the *Constitution Act, 1982*.

- Forestry on Haida Gwaii is a key economic driver and supports much of the infrastructure on Haida Gwaii (road networks and key services). *Advice/Recommendations*
Advice/Recommendations

- Business Information; Intergovernmental Communications

- The AAC for Haida Gwaii is set by the Haida Gwaii Management Council (HGMC) followed by decisions by the FOR Chief Forester for each management unit that aligns with the overall AAC set by the HGMC. Under the terms of the KKR, the HGMC members are appointed by CHN and BC. The HGMC has authority for a specific set of strategic land use and forestry decisions including amendments to the Land Use Objectives Order (LUOO), which guides forest management in an ecosystem-based management approach, approval of protected area management plans, development of heritage policy for Haida Gwaii and setting the AAC for Haida Gwaii.

- The actual harvest volumes on Haida Gwaii are driven by the markets and the economics of harvesting the dominant timber species, road/transportation access costs to harvest blocks, distance to markets, and the application of the LUOO. Cedar is the leading economic species on Haida Gwaii and is also the species that is the most culturally important to the Haida people. The LUOO has been evolving to find a balance between these interests.

- Changing Tide is the most significant reconciliation precedent at play in BC. A bilateral negotiation approach to implementation of First Nation title jurisdiction has never been attempted, and there is no template.

- *Advice/Recommendations; Interests of an Indigenous People; Intergovernmental Communications*

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Implications / Considerations / Opportunities:

Reconciliation negotiations, on behalf of BC, are led by Chief Negotiators at IRR and FOR, supported by FOR senior regional operations staff. FOR and IRR are working together to set out BC's proposal for a stepwise approach to implementing title in forestry.

After the "Rising Tide" Agreement was signed and brought into force with BC legislation in July 2024, Advice/Recommendations; Interests of an Indigenous People; Intergovernmental Communications ^{CA/R}

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Advice/Recommendations ; Government Financial Information ; Interests of an Indigenous People ;
Intergovernmental Communications

MINISTRY TRANSITION NOTE

Ministry/Ministries:

- Ministry of Forests (Economics and Trade Branch) is the provincial lead working with the Government of Canada, with support from the Ministry of Jobs, Economic Development and Innovation.

Issue:

- Softwood Lumber Dispute Overview
- Exports of softwood lumber from Canada to the United States (U.S.) are subject to countervailing and antidumping duties. These duties have recently increased from around 8% to over 14% for most producers and are expected to increase to historically high levels in August 2025.

Background:

- The softwood lumber dispute was initiated on November 25, 2016, when the U.S. alleged that Canadian lumber exports were unfairly subsidized and that Canadian companies were selling their lumber into the U.S. at below market prices (“dumping”). The subsequent investigation resulted in the imposition of both anti-dumping and countervailing duties (to offset alleged subsidies) on Canadian lumber.
- Ever since the original investigation, Canadian softwood lumber duties are subject to a series of annual administrative reviews, in which the U.S. Department of Commerce (U.S. DOC) evaluates any new alleged subsidies and re-evaluate how they have calculated anti-dumping and countervailing duties.
- With the recently completed fifth administrative review, most companies are currently paying combined duties of 14.54%, with Tolko facing combined duty rates of 17.41%, Canfor 16.58%, and West Fraser 12.17%.
- As of May 2024, duties collected by the U.S. on lumber shipments from BC are estimated to be CAD \$4.530 billion (\$9.362 billion estimated for all of Canada). Cash deposits are held in trust until the completion of all challenges.
- Canada has challenged the first four Administrative Review final determinations through the Canada – U.S. – Mexico Agreement (CUSMA). In September 2023, Canada also requested that the U.S. Court of International Trade (CIT) review the fourth Administrative Review final AD decision, due to significant delays as well as the hope of faster return of some cash deposits if the CIT decides in Canada’s favour. Canada is certain to challenge the fifth administrative review decisions, although the choice of venue(s) will be a matter of discussion between the affected governments and industry.

Implications / Considerations / Opportunities:

- The sixth administrative review is underway and Advice/Recommendations Advice/Recommendations . The preliminary determination will be released in

early 2025, with a final determination expected in August 2025. Canfor's rates Advice/Recommend
Advice/Recommendations; West Fraser's around Advice/Reco and all other exporters (whose rates
are based on an average of the two companies being reviewed) n Advice/Recommendations;
Advice/Re

- In the previous softwood lumber dispute, negotiations to end the dispute were initiated by the U.S. industry abruptly and resolved within months with the 2006 Softwood Lumber Agreement (SLA). While Canada and the U.S. were the two parties to the negotiations, Canada consulted closely with British Columbia and other key provinces as it developed its negotiating positions. Advice/Recommendations; Government Financial Information; Intergovernmental Communications

- Advice/Recommendations; Government Financial Information; Intergovernmental Communications

- A settlement has historically been preferred to trade litigation because of the market stability and certainty it can bring. Intergovernmental Communications

Intergovernmental Communications

Intergovernmental Communications

In the

SLA, BC was subject to an export tax that varied depending on market prices.

- In the past, BC has strongly opposed a quota agreement because quotas distort the market, require government to determine which companies get quota (and how much), and make it difficult to provide for new entrants to the market, since there is no past export volume on which to base quota allocation. Much has changed in the BC forest sector since the 2006 SLA negotiations, including a reduction of Canada's share of the U.S. market, and with the effects of the mountain pine beetle epidemic and wildfires on timber supply, the Canadian market share is not expected to grow in the short term. Advice/Recommendations

Advice/Recommendations

- Both BC industry and Ministry of Forests staff are undertaking analysis to explore possible settlement scenarios. In support of this, Ministry of Forests staff are also undertaking engagement with industry, including value added producers, and with First Nations, to better understand the range of view around negotiated settlement.
- Canada has two outstanding challenges through North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA). The NAFTA CVD panel held its hearing in September 2023 and the panel's decision was perceived as a "win" for the Canadian parties; the panel remanded the U.S. DOC decision back to the agency, which will issue a revised decision in October 2024. The AD panel held its hearing in June 2023 and directed the U.S. DOC to review key aspects of its determination. The U.S. DOC

issued its remand decision in April 2024. The Canadian parties then sought a stay in proceedings to await the outcome of a Federal Circuit case, which is expected to influence how the panel evaluates the revised decision. Although these challenges are yielding important wins for Canada, they could take years to resolve, particularly if the U.S. industry initiates a constitutional challenge of the panel findings.

Decision(s) Required / Next Steps:

- Advice/Recommendations; Intergovernmental Communications
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MINISTRY TRANSITION NOTE

Ministry/Ministries:

- Ministry of Forests

Issue: STABILIZING FIBRE SUPPLY

The forest industry in British Columbia has been experiencing a decline in Annual Allowable Cut (AAC) harvest volumes over the past 15 years. The highs of 2005-2006 where the AAC was 80 million cubic meters at the height of the mountain pine beetle (MPB) salvage have steadily been declining to a low of just under 35 million cubic meters in 2023. Currently 2024 is trending similar to harvest levels in 2023. The Ministry of Forests is focused on working with the forest industry to stabilize the provincial fibre supply through accurate modelling, Forest Landscape Planning (FLP) and partnerships with First Nations.

Background:

Declining harvest levels in the province are primarily the result of four key issues:

1. **Decreasing economic timber volumes:** There is a consistent gap in history between the AAC and the actual harvest level, which has widened in the past several years due to the introduction of land based constraints and AAC's reflecting MPB wood that is no longer economically viable. This challenge has been exacerbated by wildfires across the province. The term 'unused volume' has been used to describe this gap. There have been concerns raised by licensees that government should take action to use and/or reduce this unused volume, however, there is uncertainty about the amount of economically viable stands available for harvest.

Additional factors affecting the economic timber volumes include:

- a. As MPB salvage is ending it is still recognized through partitions in the gross AAC calculations for many management units. This degrading dead timber may not be suitable for lumber but may be suitable for pulp or pellets or energy. Updating AAC's in these areas will more accurately reflect the volume of usable timber available.
 - b. Large portions of the available fibre have a greater density, lesser quality or are in areas that are economically challenging or unviable to operate in (steep slopes, northern Mackenzie TSA, far western portion of the Cariboo).
 - c. Licensees have indicated it is not possible to harvest the AAC given all the restrictions and expectations that have arisen since many AAC determinations have been made. Updating AAC's to reflect the restrictions and expectations will accurately reflect available volume.
2. **Policy, regulatory and land use decisions:** Several decisions have been made over the past five years that have increased the constraints on the land base and have impacted the amount of available areas for harvesting. As a result, license holders are challenged with sourcing areas to develop for harvesting which has reduced the overall fibre supply. These policy and regulatory changes include:
 - a. Implementation of the recommendations from the Old Growth Strategic Review has reduced the amount of available timber as a result of Old Growth Deferral Areas being identified. Environmental non-government organizations continue to push for protection of old growth and primary forests.

- b. The 30 by 30 Tripartite Framework Agreement on Nature Conservation is creating uncertainty around the amount of available timber as a result of additional protected areas being identified and potentially established.
- c. The Biodiversity Ecosystem Framework has the potential to increase constraints on retention of timber and harvest levels if established.
- d. FLPs may identify areas for specific management outcomes. There is the potential for increased impacts to harvest levels but there is also the potential for increased amounts of available volume through clear management strategies for specific areas.
- e. The habitat protection measures for caribou will likely impact areas available for harvest as a result of harvest guidelines within caribou habitat areas.

3. Interests of an Indigenous People; Intergovernmental Communications

4. Market fluctuations, operational costs and industry rationalization – Market swings over the past two years has seen record high lumber prices drop below economically viable levels. In addition, AAC reductions have created more competition for fibre to meet milling demands which has resulted in rationalization of manufacturing facilities across the province. As AAC's stabilize and milling capacity is reduced across the province, fibre supply will stabilize for the needs of the remaining facilities. Other challenges in this area include:

- a. Manufacturing capacity is not in balance with availability of economic fibre creating scarcity in logs. Log prices are divergent from lumber prices in the Interior and will stay as such until manufacturing capacity comes into equilibrium with supply.
- b. Large portions of the current available fibre are in locations where there is limited or no milling capacity (Northwest and Fort Nelson for example). Presently, the price of logs in the open market in the Interior is roughly equivalent to the price of lumber leaving no margin to convert logs to forest products.
- c. Manufacturing capacity exceeds timber supply.
- d. Fluctuating lumber prices make it challenging to operate in a high-cost environment.

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Advice/Recommendations ; Interests of an Indigenous People ; Intergovernmental Communications

Decision(s) Required / Next Steps:

Advice/Recommendations; Interests of an Indigenous People; Intergovernmental Communications

MINISTRY TRANSITION NOTE

Ministry/Ministries: Ministry of Forests

Issue: Economic State of the B.C. Forest Sector – 2023 Overview

The forest sector remains a key contributor to British Columbia's (B.C.) economy, generating \$5.8 billion in gross domestic product (GDP) and supporting 49,230 direct jobs in 2023. It is a significant part of the province's export industry, with \$11.3 billion in forest products exported in 2023, representing 20% of B.C.'s total commodity export value. The sale of trees (stumpage revenue) generated \$694 million for the province in 2023/24. The forest sector has a large presence in the lower mainland, but is also spread over much of the province, playing a critical role in many rural communities.

Background:

- **Economic Contribution:** The forest sector accounted for \$5.8 billion of B.C.'s GDP in 2023, which is a 9.7% reduction from 2022. Of the forest sector GDP:
 - Forestry and logging contributed \$1.56 billion, down 11% from the previous year.
 - Wood product manufacturing generated \$2.48 billion, a decline of 9%.
 - Paper manufacturing accounted for \$940 million, a decrease of 20% compared to 2022.
 - In contrast, support activities for forestry grew by 6.4%, contributing \$804 million.
- **Employment:** Employment in the forest sector was 49,230 in 2023, representing a 6.3% decline from 2022 levels (52,550 jobs). This sector made up approximately 9% of employment in the goods sector and 1.8% of all industry employment in B.C. The sector remains crucial for providing jobs, especially in rural and forest-dependent communities, and the decline raises concerns for regions that rely heavily on this industry.
- **Exports and Trade:** The forest sector is heavily export-oriented, with roughly 70% of manufactured forest products sales (by value) exported internationally. In 2023, \$11.3 billion worth of forest products were exported, representing 20% of B.C.'s total commodity exports. B.C. also exported 6 billion board feet (14.2 million cubic metres) of lumber in 2023.
 - Advice/Recommendations; Government Financial Information; Intergovernmental Communications

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- Advice/Recommendations; Government Financial Information

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- Advice/Recommendations; Government Financial Information; Intergovernmental Communications

Considerations:

Advice/Recommendations; Intergovernmental Communications

Decision(s) Required / Next Steps:

Not Applicable.

MINISTRY TRANSITION NOTE

Ministry/Ministries:

- Ministry of Forests

Issue:

- Market Pricing Stumpage System Overview and Stumpage Revenue

Background:

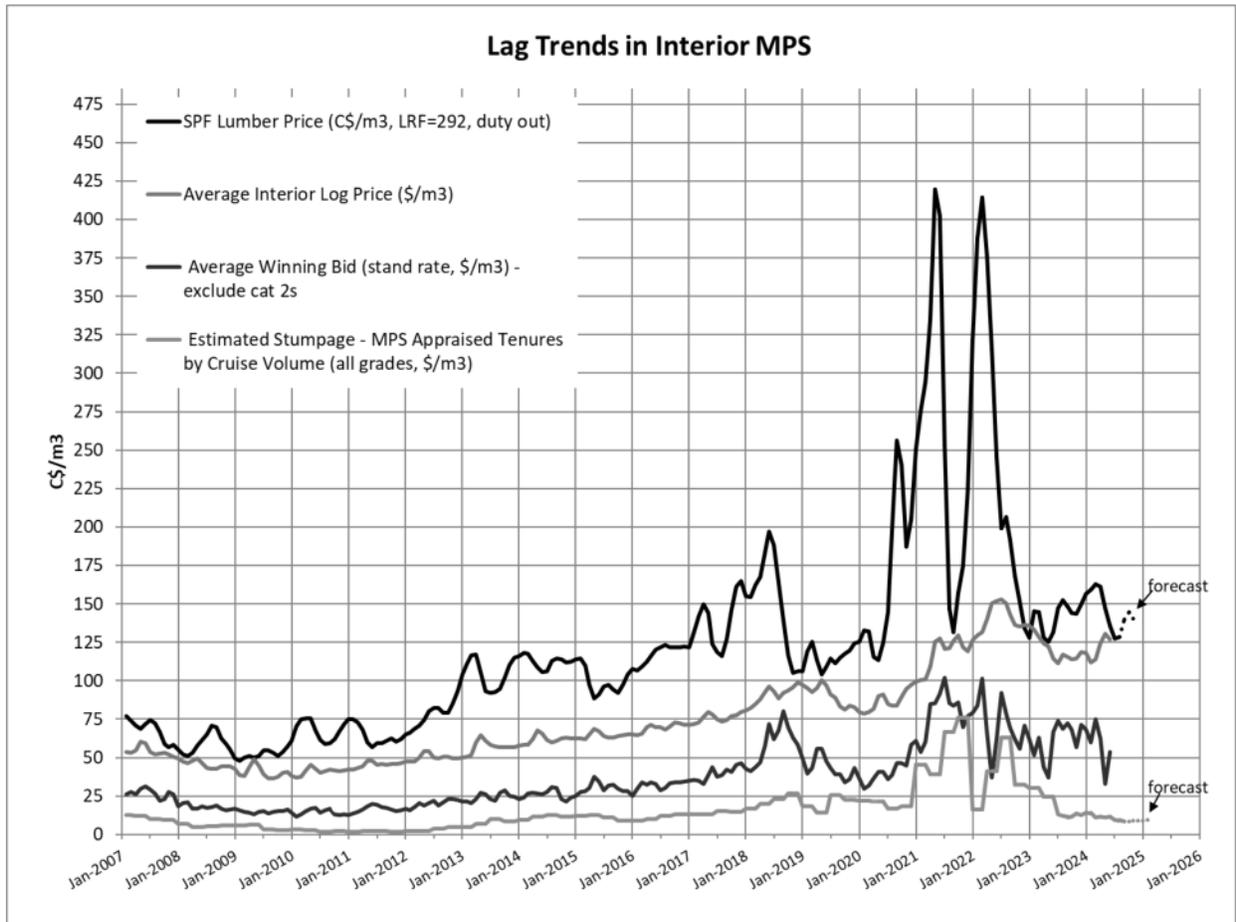
- BC sells trees like a private landowner does.
- Stumpage is designed to get market value for assets sold.
- Timber is generally sold via forest tenures or BC Timber Sales auctions.
 - A tenure is just a contract enabling a harvest right to buy trees of the government.
- Licensees pay government cash (stumpage) and services (obligations) for the trees they buy.
- BC determines stumpage rates based on the market.
- Market value is determined by BC Timber Sales auction data being used in statistical analysis.
 - This is the Market Pricing System (MPS).
 - Roughly 20% of the AAC is auctioned off to price the remaining roughly 80% which is sold via tenures.
- The MPS equation, called the estimated winning bid equation or EWB equation, tries to predict what an independent logger would bid on the stand of trees.
- The equation has variables which represent the quality and quantity of the trees; the costs of harvesting and shipping fibre to market; and the market conditions.
- Stumpage policy is developed through deep consultation with the forest sector via the MPS Committees (one Coast and one Interior).
- The stumpage equation and policy manuals are updated every Jan 1st for the Coast and every July 1st for the Interior.
 - The Minister is the sole authority on stumpage policy as per Section 105 of the Forest Act.
- Stumpage rates are adjusted every month based on updating the market variables with the latest market information, like the price of lumber or the US exchange rate.

Implications / Considerations / Opportunities:

- The stumpage system is a balance between responsiveness and predictability. Historically, since log values and lumber values tracked with each other, and lumber values generally fluctuated within a narrow price range (US\$300/mfbm and \$450/mfbm), prior to 2019, licensees favoured a stumpage system that was more predictable.
- Since 2018, lumber prices have become more volatile, and the scarcity driven log prices have decoupled the price of logs from the price of lumber, licensees currently favour a more responsive stumpage system.
 - The desire for responsiveness is the stumpage “lag” issue which has been addressed.
- Scarcity pricing for logs is being driven by an imbalance of manufacturing capacity and

availability of fibre in the Interior, and on the Coast, scarcity is being driven by the western redcedar and Douglas-fir.

- Lumber prices used in the two stumpage equations factor in US countervailing and anti-dumping duty rates.
 - When duties go up, stumpage goes down, and vis versa.
 - A portion of the duties on deposit with the US, in theory, should go the Province of BC.
- The graph below shows the values of lumber, logs, BC Timber Sales Auctions, and Average Stumpage in the Interior. All values were converted to C\$/m³.



Decision(s) Required / Next Steps:

- Approval for the annual update for the Coast Appraisal Manual, which updates the stumpage equation using the latest auction data, will be requested on December 1st, 2024, to allow for the update to be implemented on January 1st, 2025.

MINISTRY TRANSITION NOTE

Ministry/Ministries:

- Ministry of Forests, BC Wildfire Service

Issue:

- The Thompson Rivers University (TRU) Training, Learning, and Development Center

Background:

BC Wildfire Service (BCWS) has transitioned to a year-round operational model and this expansion of responsibilities requires continuous improvement in wildfire management through training, certification, research, and innovation programs. To address these evolving needs, BCWS has partnered with Thompson Rivers University (TRU) to establish the BC Wildfire Training, Learning and Development Center. This partnership is designed to build crucial capacity for advanced training and certification for BCWS staff in a variety of disciplines vital to the operations in the Incident Command System and for crew safety; expand community training, learning and partnerships; foster world-class wildfire and landscape research and innovation; better learner tracking; and to provide career paths for Wildfire personnel which is expected to increase retention.

Project Highlights:

- **Training and Certification Enhancement:** The project focuses on modernizing the existing training curriculum for BCWS staff to include new certifications, utilizing both online and in-person training platforms, leveraging TRU's expertise and facilities. Through modernized and targeted Incident Command System training, the BCWS will be able to expand the Incident Management Team program as well as all certified positions.
- **Research and Innovation:** This initiative will enhance research coordination, prioritize innovation, and create a central repository for research to inform and improve training. This includes integrating innovative technologies to simulate and understand wildfire behaviors better.

Project Workstreams and Objectives:

- **Facilities & Infrastructure:** Building a state-of-the-art training and education center at TRU (Wildfire Management and Response Training Centre (WMRTC) that supports year-round delivery of training, research, and innovation in wildfire management.
- **Education:** Developing and sustaining career pathways for BC Wildfire Service employees and students in wildfire management. This includes providing stackable credentials and certifications with micro-credentials, certificates, including a Bachelor of Arts degree in Wildfire Studies, and a BSc in Wildfire Management--currently undergoing the approval process.
- **Training & Certification:** Delivering practical, hands-on training and certifications that ensure staff are skilled and ready for operational roles in wildfire management. BCWS and TRU are also partnered to expand the delivery of training to communities through federal funding

commitments, this will include; basic level training, exploring more specialized ICS type positions, and Fire Services.

- **Research & Innovation:** Prioritizing research, integrating emerging technologies, and fostering innovation. This involves collaborating with TRU and other institutions.
- **Governance:** Establishing a governance structure with TRU to ensure clear decision-making, accountability, and effective resource management.
- **Finance:** Effectively managing and allocating financial resources to support the project's goals, including budgeting, financial planning, and securing funding.

Implications / Considerations / Opportunities:

The partnership with TRU offers significant opportunities to enhance BCWS's approach to emergency preparedness and response, fostering a culture of continuous learning and innovation. This positions BCWS and TRU as leaders in emergency management education globally. The program is expected to attract national and international partners and interest and potential partnerships and business.

The program is designed to involve all post-secondary institutions in BC that deliver environmental science, Indigenous land stewardship, forest ecology, human behaviour, community health and other applicable curriculum, as well as research into disciplines related to wildfire and other closely related disciplines.

The success of this initiative relies on continuous financial and policy support from the government. Additionally, the successful implementation of the new degree programs requires approval from both the Academic Institution and the Ministry of Advanced Education.

Decision(s) Required / Next Steps:

- Advice/Recommendations; Cabinet Confidences; Government Financial Information
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MINISTRY TRANSITION NOTE

Value-Added Manufacturing

Ministry/Ministries: Forests

- Supporting: Ministry of Jobs, Economic Development and Innovation (for Manufacturing Jobs Fund; and Office of Mass Timber Implementation).

Issue:

- Transitioning and diversifying B.C.'s forest sector from a reliance on high-volume production to higher-value wood products manufacturing, to ensure workers and communities receive maximum value – jobs, revenue and investment – from the trees harvested in BC.

Background:

- B.C.'s forest sector faces multiple challenges, which are not only impacting the sector, but also threatening the future of many rural communities.
 - Timber supply is decreasing across the province. This has been expected due to Mountain Pine Beetle and has been exacerbated by recent wildfires and land use policy initiatives (for example, Old Growth and associated Old Growth deferrals).
 - Further, cyclical market lumber changes and increasing softwood lumber duties are challenging producers. Sawmills have been curtailed and/or closed over the past several years, and more are likely in the coming year with increased softwood lumber duties.
- Supporting and strengthening B.C.'s value-added manufacturing sector is a means to address some of these challenges, and increase the diversity, competitiveness, and inclusivity of B.C.'s forest sector.
- Moving towards higher-value production is the way to get the most value, including creating more jobs, revenue and investment, for the trees harvested in B.C. This means working to add the most value in every step of B.C.'s forestry value chain, finding new ways to use our fibre, and increasing access to fibre that may not have been used in the past – all important parts of the path forward to a stronger and more sustainable forest sector overall, and growing value-added manufacturing specifically.

Advice/Recommendations

- - Associations representing value-added manufacturers such as the Interior Lumber Manufacturers Association, Value-added Wood Coalition, Independent Wood Processors Association, and BC Wood (the Associations) are advocating on behalf of their members to obtain more fibre for value-added manufacturers. Engagement with the Associations and

interested parties indicated that between 6 to 8 million cubic metres (in both logs and lumber) is needed to stimulate investment in the value-added sector.

- Some action has been undertaken to ensure innovative, secondary manufacturers have access to the fibre and capital they need to invest and grow their operations:
 - **BC Timber Sales (BCTS) Value-added Manufacturing Program (Category 4):**
 - To support value-added manufacturers, BC Timber Sales (BCTS) developed the Value-added Manufacturing Program (Category 4) that was implemented in early 2024. This program provides a dedicated source of fibre to support untenured and minimally tenured manufacturers.
 - The annual apportionment for Category 4 is 10% of BCTS's overall rationalized apportionment, amounting to 707,416 cubic metres this year.
 - Feedback on the program has been positive, although Associations assert that the volume available is far less than their members require.
 - **Manufacturing Jobs Fund:**
 - The BC Manufacturing Jobs Fund (BCMJF) was established in early 2023 to meet objectives in the Old Growth Strategic Review as part of the Forest Worker Community Supports initiatives.
 - The program has a budget of \$180M through fiscal year 2025/2026 to support both transition in the forest sector to higher-value products, as well as to incentivize diversification, innovation, and growth in the broader manufacturing sector. Non-repayable funding of up to \$10 million per capital project is available to eligible for-profit entities, representing up to 20% of capital costs.
 - The program has seen considerable success and continued momentum to support the transition to higher-value wood product manufacturing in B.C. Nearly one-quarter (24%) of all wood product producers in B.C. have applied to the program. To date, \$93M has been committed to 66 forest sector projects that will result in 1,033 jobs created and 2,144 jobs protected. Over \$630M of capital investment is flowing to the forest sector as a result of funded projects.
 - **Mass Timber:**
 - The Ministry is working in partnership with the "Office of Mass Timber Implementation" within the Ministry of Jobs, Economic Development and Innovation, to continue to promote the use of BC Wood products and mass timber globally and domestically.
 - Since 2020, mass timber has been actively promoted as a step in the right direction for transitioning B.C.'s forest sector from high volume to high value production. The Mass Timber Action Plan (released April 2022) presents an industry development vision for moving mass timber from niche to mainstream. It was developed and is being implemented with advice from the Minister's Mass Timber Advisory Committee (established 2021).
 - The Office of Mass Timber Implementation (established June 2020) is mid-stride in implementing the Action Plan and strong results are already being achieved to

accelerate the growth of this sector.

- **Forestry policy changes:**
 - Export restrictions on cedar and cypress were expanded to apply to the entire Province, whereas previously they only applied on the Coast.
 - In recent Forest Act amendments, the Manufactured Forest Products Regulation was updated to enable auditing of fee in lieu (export fees) to enable further domestic manufacturing.
 - In 2021, Bill 28 introduced legislative and regulatory reform that provides a process for acquiring volume from tenure holders and providing for compensation in specific circumstances, such as for First Nations, BC Timber Sales or parks.
 - In 2022, BC significantly increased the forestry revenues shared through the Forest Consultation and Revenue Sharing Agreements (FCRSA) program, raising the share from 3-5% to 8-10%, depending on the reconciliation agreements in place. Additionally, a 3% increase was applied to BCTS revenues, resulting in a total share of 11-13% from timber sales.

- **Value-added Accelerators Initiative:**
 - The Value-Added Accelerators (VAA) were initiated in spring 2023, in partnership by the Ministry of Forests, including BC Timber Sales, the BC Value Added Wood Coalition (BCVAWC), Council of Forest Industries (COFI), and the First Nations Forestry Council (Forestry Council).
 - The purpose of the VAA is to develop a suite of solutions to grow value-added manufacturing, with an early focus on fibre flow.
 - Through 2023, VAA engagement brought together an estimated 600 people across multiple sessions to identify potential solutions to support value-added manufacturing in B.C. This input was used to develop a shared plan with clear actions and accountabilities to support and grow value-added manufacturing in B.C. The plan was launched in fall 2023 and the partners are currently working on the actions, which include continuous improvement processes on policy, engagement sessions with stakeholders, development of communications strategies and tools, exploring wider use of tools like log sorts, and more.
 - First Nation governments and organizations play an essential role in the transition from a high-volume to a high-value forestry sector. Growing First Nations' awareness, willingness, and capacity to partner with value-added manufacturers was a key VAA theme. The Ministry is working with the First Nations Forestry Council to support delivery of two priority deliverables identified through the VAA process:
 - Intergovernmental Communications

 - A Toolkit to support small and medium sized businesses and First Nations looking to engage in partnerships.

Implications / Considerations / Opportunities:

- Advice/Recommendations; Government Financial Information

Decision(s) Required / Next Steps:

- Advice/Recommendations; Cabinet Confidences; Government Financial Information

- Advice/Recommendations

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Advice/Recommendations

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Advice/Recommendations

30-60-90
Ministry of Forests
Submitted for: Nov 01, 2024

Issue	Status/Key Milestones/Next Steps
30 Days	

Advice/Recommendations; Cabinet Confidences; Government Financial Information; Interests of an Indigenous People; Intergovernmental Communications; Legal Information

30-60-90
Ministry of Forests
Submitted for: Nov 01, 2024

Advice/Recommendations; Interests of an Indigenous People; Intergovernmental Communications

60 Days

Advice/Recommendations; Interests of an Indigenous People; Intergovernmental Communications

90 Days

Advice/Recommendations; Interests of an Indigenous People; Intergovernmental Communications

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CROWN AGENCY PROFILE

Name: Forest Enhancement Society of BC (FESBC)

Legislative Authority:

- The FESBC was formed in 2016 under the Society Act.
- FESBC has received \$313M from government to fund projects to advance and advocate for the environmental and resource stewardship of British Columbia's forests.
- As of January 22, 2024, FESBC has allocated \$311 million of provincial investments to support funding of 371 projects that contribute to the province's key goals of environmental sustainability, economic activities, and reconciliation with First Nations.
- With new funding of \$20 million per year, FESBC will focus on delivering projects to conduct wildfire prevention planning and fuel management treatments near higher-risk communities and critical infrastructures.
- The new funding will also support projects to increase fibre utilization, helping to improve fibre supply to pulp mills and for energy production.
- FESBC will continue to collaborate with the BC Wildfire Service in project selection and on-the-ground coordination to optimize government resources on wildfire risk reduction activities.
- For 2024/25, in addition to the \$20 million new stable funding, FESBC will also complete \$30 million of projects initiated in 2023 from funding provided by government from prior fiscal years.

Mandate: The purposes of the Forest Enhancement Society of British Columbia are:

- A. To advance environmental and resource stewardship of British Columbia's forests by:
 - i. preventing and mitigating the impact of wildfires;
 - ii. improving damaged or low value forests;
 - iii. improving habitat for wildlife;
 - iv. supporting the use of fibre from damaged and low value forests; and
 - v. treating forests to improve the management of greenhouse gases.
- B. To advocate for the environmental and resource stewardship of British Columbia's forests.
- C. To do all such other things as are incidental and ancillary to the attainment of the foregoing purposes and the exercise of the powers of the Society
 - **For 2023/24, the following priorities were identified to FESBC in the mandate letter signed by the Minister of Forests:**
 - Identify and fund projects that increase the use of low-value or residual fibre including trees damaged by recent wildfires and waste left on site after logging that would otherwise be burned. This increased utilization will help the forest sector across the province through this period of declining timber supply resulting from the mountain pine beetle epidemic.
 - Support projects that mitigate wildfire risks, leading to better protection of communities, reduced greenhouse gas emissions and improved resiliency of B.C.'s forests to the impacts of climate change

Current Board Members:

- Currently Dave Peterson is the FESBC Board Chair.
- There are two Assistant Deputy Ministers on the FESBC Board, Sarah Fraser and Ian Meier.

- Other Board Members include Board Treasurer Trish Dohan, Secretary Ken Day, Directors John Massier and Mike P. Kelly.

Appointments Required:

No appointments are required.

Issue(s):

In collaboration with its various partners, and together with FOR, areas of focus for FESBC in its 2023/24-2025/26 Service Plan include:

- Preventing and mitigating the impacts of wildfire through funding to support enhanced wildfire risk reduction activities,
- Increasing utilization of low-value residual fibre, and
- Enhancing wildlife populations and their habitat (using funding provided to FESBC in previous years).

FESBC did not fully achieve the 23/24 service plan goals due to the operational impacts of the long wildfire season causing delays to when projects could begin.

As directed in its Mandate Letter, FESBC will seek to prioritize project investments that contribute to B.C.'s goals of economic recovery and support strong, resilient rural communities.

FESBC's five performance measures demonstrate progress and accountability for achieving its goals and objectives. Progress and achievement towards the published goals, objectives and performance measures in the FESBC Service Plan will be reported in the 2023/24 Annual Service Plan Report, anticipated for release with Public Accounts in Summer, 2024.

FESBC staff:

Steve Kozuki, Retiring Executive Director
Jason Fischer, New Executive Director
Brian Watson, Operations Manager
Chris McGourlick, Operations Manager
Travis Emsland, Operations Manager
Tyler Field, Operations Manager
Joyce Clarke, Finance and Administration Manager
Kathy Dupuis, Executive Assistant

CROWN AGENCY PROFILE

Name:

- Forest Practices Board

Legislative Authority:

- *Forest and Range Practices Act, Part 8*

Mandate:

- The Forest Practices Board is an administrative tribunal that conducts independent audits of government and license holders' forest practices on public lands, audits of government enforcement of the *Forest and Range Practices Act* and the *Wildfire Act*, investigations of public complaints, special investigations, appeals of decisions to the Forest Appeals Commission, and reports on the Forest Practices Board's activities, findings, and recommendations.

Current Appointees:

- Keith Atkinson (Chair)
- Gerry Grant
- Natasha Caverley
- Phil Burton
- Rick Monchak
- Gail Wallin

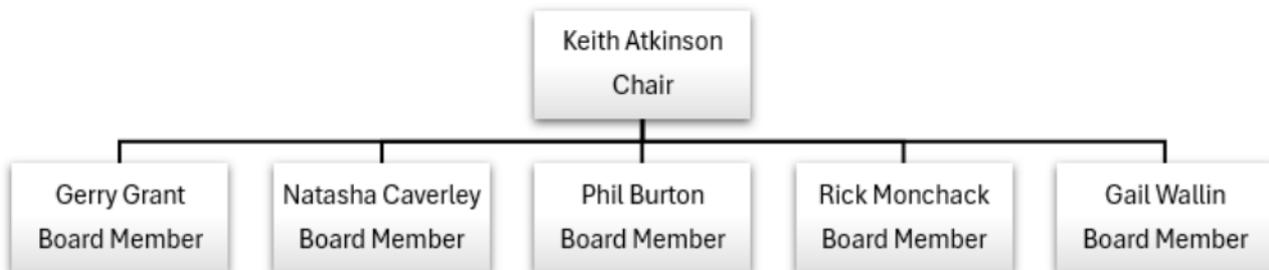
Appointments Required:

- Advice/Recommendations; Personal Information
- Appointments to the Board are made through Orders in Council.

Issue(s):

- Based on discussions with the Crown Agencies and Board Resourcing Office, there are currently no issues.

Organizational Chart:



CROWN AGENCY PROFILE

Name:

- Private Managed Forest Land Council
- Since 2014, it has been known by its working name, the Managed Forest Council

Legislative Authority:

- *Private Managed Forest Land Act, Part 2*

Mandate:

- To administer the Private Managed Forest Land (PMFL) Program and protect key public environmental values on private managed forest land in British Columbia. The Council may make regulations with respect to the objectives in the Act for soil conservation, water quality, fish habitat and reforestation.

Current Appointees:

- Brian Frenkel
- Ione Moira Brown

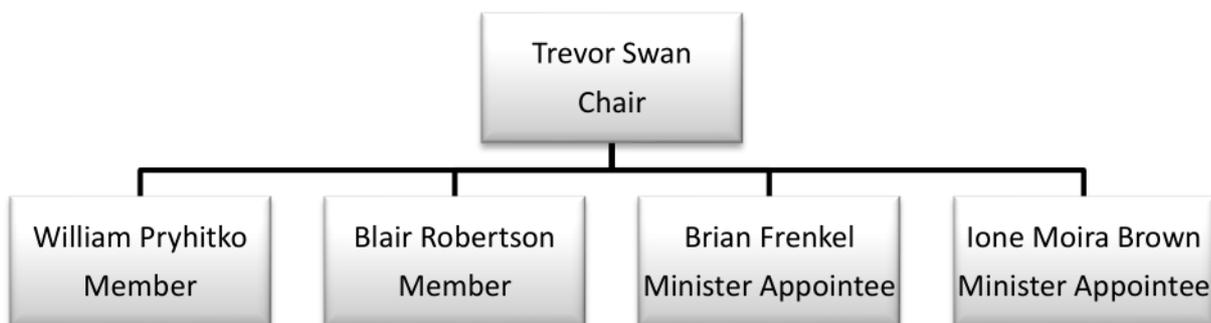
Appointments Required:

- No upcoming appointments within 30, 60, or 90 days.
- Government appointments are made by Ministerial Order.

Issue(s):

- Advice/Recommendations
- A review of the effectiveness of the PMFL Program began May 2019, with the first phase concluding in November 2019. Advice/Recommendations

Organizational Chart:



CROWN AGENCY PROFILE

Name: Timber Export Advisory Committee (TEAC)

Legislative Authority: *Forest Act* section 128 (3) (a), (b) and (c)

Mandate: TEAC is an advisory committee established by the Minister of Forests to provide recommendations to the Minister regarding the export of timber originating from lands within British Columbia that is regulated for manufacture in British Columbia.

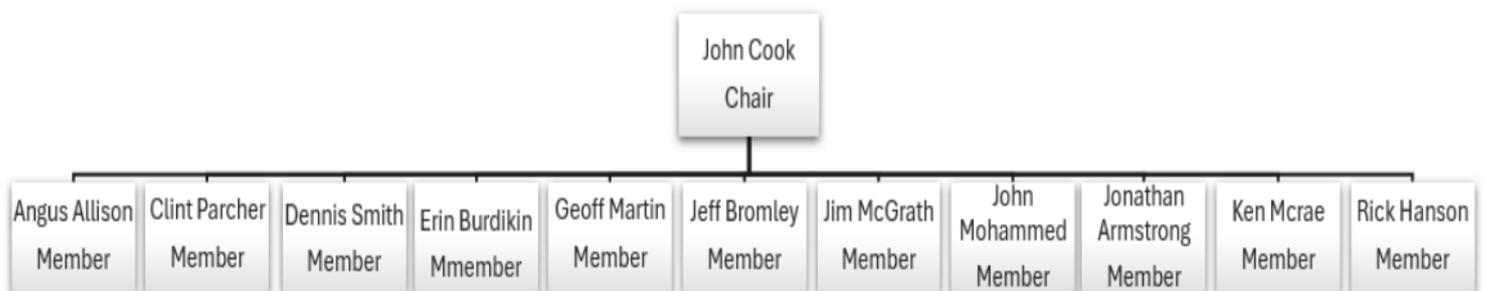
Current Appointees:

- John Cook – Chair
- Angus Allison – Member
- Clint Parcher – Member
- Dennis Smith – Member
- Erin Burdikin – Member
- Geoff Martin – Member
- Jeff Bromley – Member
- Jim McGrath – Member
- John Mohammed – Member
- Jonathan Armstrong – Member
- Ken McRae – Member
- Rick Hanson – Member
- Jennifer Burleigh – Federal Member (non-voting)
- Jessie Regnier – Federal Alternate Member (non-voting)
- Mike Byl – Coordinating Secretary (MOF staff)

Appointments Required: No appointments required within 90 days of November 1, 2024. There will be appointments expiring in March 2025 for the Chair and four members.

Issue(s): None expected.

Organizational Chart: **The same members make up the Federal Timber Export Advisory Committee (FTEAC), which provides recommendations for federal jurisdiction export.*



CROWN AGENCY PROFILE

Name: Wildfire Reduction Equipment Support Trust

Legislative Authority:

- N/A

Mandate:

- The purpose of the Wildfire Reduction Equipment Support Trust (WREST) is to help eligible contractors purchase specified equipment that will be used in B.C. forestry operations to accomplish removal of combustible materials from the forest floor and forest understory, transport such material to a roadside location where it can be accessed, and perform these operations without damaging larger trees and while minimizing ground disturbance.
- The WREST will provide reimbursement for the lesser of 10% of the total cost of specified equipment or \$100,000. The intent is that this reimbursement will encourage contractors to invest in this equipment and put it to use to reduce the risk of wildfire.
- The Trust will only consider funding purchase of approved specialized harvesting equipment designed to cut and remove smaller diameter timber and brush. The Trust will not fund the purchase of feller bunchers or grapple skidders equipment currently used in harvesting of commercial timber.

Initial Funding Source:

- Eric Van Soeren, the Trustee of the Coast Logging Equipment Support Trust (CLEST), determined the mandate of the CLEST had been fulfilled and made the determination that the development of a Trust to support the purchase of specialized equipment designed to reduce fire risk for communities would be an appropriate use of the funds. The funds were transferred from the CLEST to the WREST, and the CLEST was subsequently closed. No additional funds were provided by government.

Current Appointees:

- Eric van Soeren, Trustee
- Melissa Sanderson, Assistant Deputy Minister, Ministry of Forests
- Sarah Fraser, Assistant Deputy Minister, Ministry of Forests
- Peter Jacobson, Executive Director, Ministry of Forests
- Ian Meier, Associate Deputy Minister, Ministry of Forests

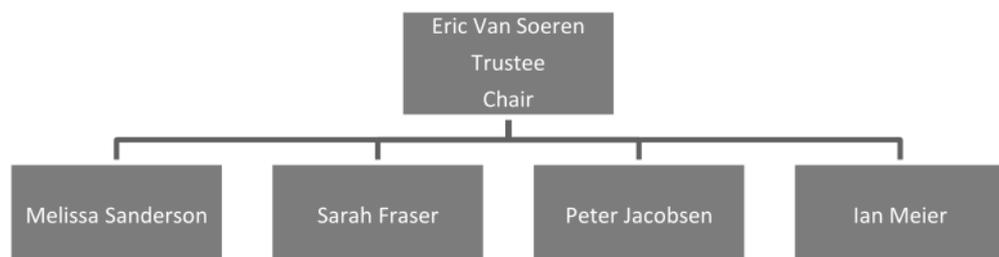
Appointments Required:

- No appointments required

Issue(s):

- N/A

Organizational Chart:



NATURAL RESOURCE MINISTRIES Roles & Responsibilities

Natural Resource Ministries

There are seven (7) BC Public Service's natural resource ministries – Agriculture and Food; Energy and Climate Solutions; Environment and Parks (including the Environmental Assessment Office); Forests; Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation, Mining and Critical Minerals, and Water, Land and Resource Stewardship. All the natural resource ministers are typically represented on the Environment and Land Use Committee.

Each ministry has its own mission and goals, set out in annual Service Plans, and collectively the natural resource ministries regulates and influences activities on 94% of the province's land and water base, and to some extent the coastal marine environments. Natural resource ministries are responsible for administering over 130 provincial statutes that provide for the sustainable management and protection of the Province's natural resources and reconciliation with First Nations.

The ministries making up the Natural Resource Sector have been structured to streamline government processes for critical natural resource industries to better attract global investment, enabling BC to make integrated resource management decisions on the whole of the land and water base, including coastal marine environments. The Natural Resource Sector Estimated Revenue for FY25 is \$3.2 billion and Natural Resource Sector Estimated Expenses for FY25 is \$1.7 billion¹, and its work both directly and indirectly benefits the economic, environmental and social health of the Province. From 2010 to 2022 the overall value of goods exports more than doubled, increasing by 126.7% (+\$36.3 billion) to \$64.9 billion. BC relies on exports to bring new dollars into the province. Natural resources (energy, forestry, and minerals) account for nearly 70% of BC's total goods exports.

Environment and Land Use Committee (ELUC)

ELUC, a legislated committee under the *Environment and Land Use Act*, is mandated to ensure that all aspects of preservation and maintenance of the natural environment are fully considered in the administration of land use and resource development. The Committee is responsible for providing direction to the natural resource ministries that balances economic development and stewardship by setting priorities for the land base, managing land use conflicts and providing strategic advice to Cabinet on policies, programs, operations and legislation that impact the natural resource sector. This advice includes consideration of First Nations, engagements, budgetary implications as well as implementation and communication

¹ Source: [2024 Estimates.pdf \(SECURED\) \(gov.bc.ca\)](#)

strategies. The committee is responsible for reviewing Cabinet submissions, requests for legislation from the natural resource ministries.

Membership: A minimum of 3 members (no maximum) and the majority must be members of the Executive Council, the Committee membership is:

- Honourable Ravi Kahlon (Chair), Minister of Housing and Municipal Affairs
- Honourable Lana Popham (Vice-Chair), Minister of Agriculture and Food
- Honourable Christine Boyle, Minister of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation
- Honourable Jagrup Brar, Minister of Mining and Critical Minerals
- Honourable Tamara Davidson, Minister of Environment and Parks
- Honourable Adrian Dix, Minister of Energy and Climate Solutions
- Honourable Diana Gibson, Minister of Jobs, Economic Development and Innovation
- Honourable Rick Glumac, Minister of State for Trade
- Honourable Kelly Greene, Minister of Emergency Management and Climate Readiness
- Honourable Randene Neill, Minister of Water, Land and Resource Stewardship
- Honourable Ravi Parmar, Ministry of Forests
- MLAs: Sunita Dhir, Jessie Sunner

Deputy Minister Committee for Natural Resources (DMCNR)

The Deputy Minister Committee for Natural Resources is responsible for supporting the Environment and Land Use Committee and for providing it with information and recommendations on policy and operational issues in support of its mandate. This support includes ministries working together to apply resources to highest sector priorities as guided by ELUC, such as sharing and/or collaborating on resources to meet critical government objectives, undertake strategic approaches to sustainably enhance the Natural Resource Ministries' permitting regime, reviewing high-level business plans to ensure that natural resource operations priorities are being met, and improving and gaining support for ELUC submissions.

Membership: Lori Halls (Chair, Water, Land and Resource Stewardship); Alex MacLellan (Environmental Assessment Office); Peter Pokorny (Energy and Climate Solutions); Kevin Jardine (Environment and Parks); Nathaniel Amann-Blake (Mining and Critical Minerals); Fazil Mihlar (Jobs, Economic Development and Innovation); Jessica Wood (Declaration Act Secretariat); Barbara Carmichael (Attorney General); Michelle Carr (BC Energy Regulator); Heather Wood (Transportation and Transit); Rick Manwaring (Forests); Ian Meier (Forests); Silas Brownsey (Tourism, Arts, Culture and Sport); Tom McCarthy (Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation); Michelle Koski (Agriculture and Food); Teresa Dobmeier (Emergency Management and Climate Readiness)

Organizational Structure to Support Natural Resource Sector Integration

October 17, 2024 (updated November 19, 2024)

Environment and Land Use Cabinet Committee

Deputy Ministers
Committee on Natural Resources

Ministry
Agriculture &
Food

Ministry
Energy and
Climate
Solutions

Ministry
Environment
and Parks

Ministry
Forests

Ministry
Indigenous
Relations &
Reconciliation

Ministry
Mining and
Critical Minerals

Ministry
Water, Land
and Resource
Stewardship

- Agricultural Land Commission (ALC)
- BC Farm Industry Review Board (FIRB)

- BC Energy Regulator (BCER)

- Environmental Assessment Office (EAO)

- Forest Enhancement Society of BC (FESBC)

- Declaration Act Secretariat (DAS)



NATURAL RESOURCE MINISTRIES Ministry Overviews

October 17, 2024 (updated November 19, 2024)

Ministry of Agriculture and Food

The Ministry of Agriculture and Food (the Ministry) is responsible for the production, marketing, processing and merchandising of agriculture and seafood products, the implementation and carrying out of advisory, research, promotional, sustainability and adaptation, food safety and plant and animal health programs; and the collection of information and preparation and dissemination of statistics relating to agriculture and seafood, supporting the province's food security and developing a resilient food system and economy. The Ministry is a key contributor to economic development and diversification across the province and is a main contributor to rural economic development and provincewide job creation, particularly for small businesses. The agriculture, seafood and food and beverage sector creates economic and social benefits for Indigenous groups and other underrepresented groups, has the potential to attract provincial investment, and contributes to workforce development and skills training.

Energy and Climate Solutions¹

The responsibilities of this new ministry include:

- British Columbia's electricity, alternative energy and petroleum resource sectors
- Increase and expand electricity and low-carbon energy projects in the province
- Responsible for energy policies to ensure they align with climate goals
- The Climate Action Secretariat
- Oversight of the North Coast Transmission Line
- BC Hydro's Capital Plan

Environment and Parks²

The Ministry of Environment and Parks is mandated to protect and steward the Province's environment; preserving natural spaces and recreation values; and protecting ecosystems; all while advancing meaningful reconciliation with Indigenous Peoples. The ministry is responsible for the protection, management and conservation of British Columbia's water, land, air and living resources. The ministry administers the province's parks and protected areas, and recreation sites and trails; monitors and enforces compliance with environmental laws and regulations; manages discharge to the environment from human activities; and protects B.C.'s biodiversity, ecosystems, native species, and natural habitats in parks and protected areas. It acquires, manages, and analyzes environmental and climate data to provide a robust platform for decision-making across the province, and oversees provincial environmental assessment through the Environmental Assessment Office.

Environmental Assessment Office which falls also under the responsibility of the Minister of Environment and Parks, is a statutory agency that neutrally administers the review of major projects

¹ Information taken from [BC Gov News](#) release November 18, 2024

² Relies on previous description of Environment and Climate Change Strategy

to assess their potential environmental, economic, health, heritage, and social impacts required by the Environmental Assessment Act. The assessment process is also needed to ensure that the issues and concerns of the public, First Nations, interested stakeholders and government agencies are considered and that compliance and enforcement activities are conducted over the life of the project.

Ministry of Mining and Critical Minerals³

The responsibilities of this new ministry include:

- Responsible for advancing the provincial strategy for mining and critical mineral projects.
- Provide oversight and support for 17 new critical minerals projects working toward starting construction in the coming years.
- Responsible for overseeing the ongoing Mineral Tenure Act reform and other regulatory processes and timelines.

Ministry of Forests

The Ministry of Forests (the Ministry) supports resiliency of the province's land-base and economy by providing collaborative management of forest, range and archaeological resources, and leading the Province's wildfire response and mitigation. With a commitment to sustainable natural resource management, the Ministry is enhancing the role of forests and forest products as carbon sinks, managing forests to support healthy ecosystems, and working to ensure greater value for B.C. wood and high-value manufacturing. The Ministry is continually pursuing ways to strengthen partnerships, collaboration, and engagement with Indigenous Peoples, and to collaborate with other government ministries in conducting this work. The Ministry also supports the Minister in his governance responsibilities for the Forest Enhancement Society of British Columbia.

Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation

The Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation (the Ministry or MIRR) guides and helps coordinate the Province of British Columbia's efforts to achieve true and lasting reconciliation with Indigenous Peoples by working in respectful partnerships that recognize inherent rights. The Ministry furthers reconciliation with Indigenous Peoples by collaboratively developing policy and practices, and negotiating and implementing proactive, enduring agreements, partnerships, and treaties based on recognition of rights and a distinctions-based approach. The Ministry's focus is to build lasting relationships with Indigenous Peoples through flexible agreements that can evolve over time and collaborative approaches to policy making.

While reconciliation is a whole-of-government responsibility, the Ministry provides guidance and leadership to other areas of government on establishing and enhancing relationships with Indigenous Peoples. The Ministry also maintains a strong focus on transparency with stakeholders, local governments, and the public, to ensure support for reconciliation in BC.

Declaration Act Secretariat

The mandate of the Declaration Act Secretariat (DAS) is to ensure provincial legislation is consistent with the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and is developed in consultation and cooperation with Indigenous Peoples, as per section 3 of the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act (Declaration Act):

Measures to align laws with Declaration

³ Information taken from [BC Gov News](#) release November 18, 2024

"In consultation and cooperation with the Indigenous peoples in British Columbia, the government must take all measures necessary to ensure the laws of British Columbia are consistent with the Declaration."

DAS serves as a dedicated central agency supporting the province in its legislative efforts to establish true, lasting reconciliation with First Nations and Indigenous Peoples in British Columbia. The Secretariat falls under the responsibility of the Minister of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation but, to create clear lines of accountability to political decision-makers, and to position DAS as an entity with the capacity and influence to be effective in supporting the implementation of the Declaration Act, it is separate and distinct from the Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation (IRR).

Ministry of Water, Land and Resource Stewardship

The Ministry of Water, Land and Resource Stewardship (the Ministry) works with other natural resource sector ministries to achieve British Columbia's goals of reconciliation, economic development, and environmental sustainability. The Ministry is directly responsible for the effective development of water, land and marine use policy and planning as well as biodiversity and ecosystem health, species at risk policy and program management and developing a new vision for water, land and resource management with First Nations. The Ministry is responsible for the administration of water, lands, fish and wildlife while also directing work across natural resource ministries to develop solutions to sector-wide challenges in permitting, policy, data and technology and improving the management of cumulative effects. The Ministry is the lead on flood, drought, landslide, and dams and dikes.



Environment and Land Use Committee

Overview

Environment and Land Use Committee

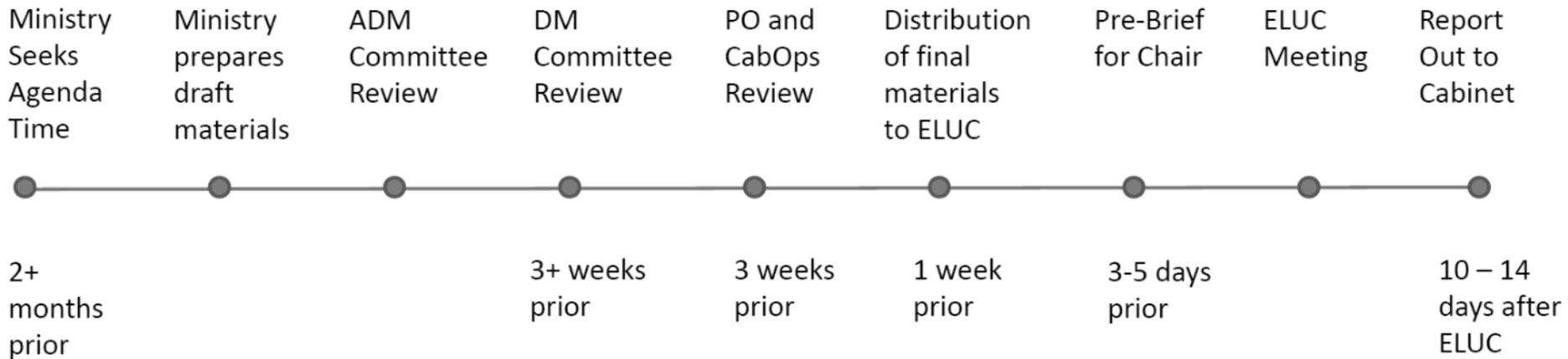
- Established under the *Environment and Land Use Act*
- Ensures all aspects of the preservation and maintenance of the natural environment are fully considered in the administration of land use and resource development.
- Makes recommendations to the Lieutenant Governor in Council on matters relating to the environment and the development and use of land and other natural resources.



Procedures and Powers

- Quorum is three members
- Committee may determine its meeting procedures
- Decisions are usually by consensus
- All deliberations and materials are confidential
- Recommendations are reported to Cabinet by the Chair
- Power to make regulations, subject to Cabinet approval
- Power to conduct inquiries and hold public hearings (used in 1970s)

General Path of Agenda Items



Committee Secretary Duties

In cooperation with the Chair of Deputy Ministers' Committee on Natural Resources and the Deputy Minister of Water, Land and Resource Stewardship:

- Draft meeting agendas and obtain approvals from Premier's Office
- Coordinate logistical support for ELUC meetings
- Review meeting materials and manage distribution
- Brief ELUC Chair (Honourable Ravi Kahlon) in concert with Deputy Minister(s)
- Prepare meeting minutes and speaking notes for Chair