

Modernizing **Forest Policy** in British Columbia

*Tackling today's challenges while
preparing for tomorrow's opportunities*



Why we need to **modernize** old policy



The Challenge

- Our forests are foundational to our economy and a way of life for British Columbians.
- Forestry faces serious challenges that threaten our forests and the future of many communities.
- **B.C.'s forestry policy framework, put in place nearly two decades ago, is inadequate to address today's challenges.**
- Future generations deserve to enjoy our forests and benefit from them. Now is the time to collectively make choices to improve forestry.

Our Goals

1. Increase our emphasis on **sustainability** and **stewardship** of our fibre supply
2. Take meaningful action on **reconciliation** with Indigenous peoples
3. Increase inclusivity for **communities** interested in the forest sector and forest management, from tenure to local manufacturing
4. Continue to be **competitive** on the global stage, keeping in mind those who invest in B.C. and provide good-paying jobs
5. Ensuring British Columbians receive **fair return** on their assets

Forestry today is **complex**



- Timber supply is decreasing because of wildfires, beetle salvage, and withdrawals from the timber-harvesting land base
- Sawmill overcapacity remains, while value-added and secondary manufacturing have not grown significantly
- Modernizing mills to stay competitive has led to a pattern of job losses in rural communities
- Concentrated forest tenure holdings limit the province's ability to achieve its objectives
- The value of tenure is very high (4-7x more expensive than 2003)
- The Declaration Act requires us to advance policy change with Indigenous peoples. This means *consultation* and *cooperation*.



Government campaigned for a necessary transition in the forest sector

Our plan is based on what we've heard



- BC's government has been asking what forest management and the future of the sector should look like since 2017. We have talked to:
 - Indigenous governing bodies
 - Local government
 - Industry
 - Labour
 - Interest groups including ENGOs
 - General public
- On:
 - [Coast Forest Sector Revitalization](#)
 - [Interior Forest Sector Renewal](#)
 - [Forest and Range Practices Act](#) Improvement Initiative
 - [Old Growth Strategic Review](#)

Laying the Foundation **for Change**



Our guiding principles



1. Increasing
participation
in the forest sector



2. Enhancing
stewardship
and sustainability



3. Strengthening
the social contract

Increase and diversify **participation**



Goals: Increasing Forest Sector Participation

- Increased Indigenous participation
- BC Timber Sales timber allocation needs to support market pricing, and value-added manufacturing
- Increased community participation

Increase and diversify **participation**



Policy intention #1 – **Create more opportunity re-distribute forest tenure**

- Enhance legal mechanisms to allow tenure to be redistributed for harvesting
- Diversify ownership and involvement

Policy intention #2 – **Provide clarity on compensation**

- Establish a clear framework for applying compensation for lost harvesting rights
- Systematic and equitable approach in compensation calculations

Increase and diversify **participation**



Policy intention #3 – **Create flexibility when forest licences need to be reduced**

- Introduce a more flexible (not proportionate) approach to how licences are reduced if the timber supply is being reduced (e.g. from a tenure taking)

Policy intention #4 – **Further define timber tenure transfer requirements (Bill 22)**

- Address tenure concentration and public-interest considerations when transfers or control changes happen

Increase and diversify **participation**



Policy intention #5 – **Enhance revenue oversight for log exports**

- Add the ability to audit and assess fee-in-lieu of manufacture payments when logs are exported out of province

Policy intention #6 – **Evolve BC Timber Sales (BCTS) policy on maximum timber sales restrictions**

- Consider an alternate approach to allow for more sale opportunities at smaller volumes to smaller or value-added manufacturers

Managing public land **together**



Goals: Enhancing stewardship and sustainability

- Public land must be managed sustainably, and this includes our old growth forests
- Improve the use of fibre sustainably, responsibly, and transparent

Managing public land together



Policy intention #7 – Commit to implementing further deferrals of old growth forests

- Continue to engage with Indigenous leaders, labour, industry and environmental groups to further identify potential additional deferral areas



Managing public land together



Policy intention #8 – **Continue to improve FRPA**

- Move forward with changes to the *Forest and Range Practices Act (FRPA)* to better incorporate forest values and ensure Indigenous peoples are involved at the start of the process
- Better link forest management with fire management

Managing public land together



Policy intention #9 – **Bring back the use of prescribed and cultural fire**

- Work collaboratively with Indigenous partners and stakeholders to re-integrate prescribed and cultural fire in forest management.

Policy intention #10 – **More flexibility in how the Minister allocates timber**

- Look to improve the ‘apportionment’ process so decisions can be made in a timely way while considering harvest sustainability, as well as the interests of local Indigenous peoples and other stakeholders

Managing public land together



Policy intention #11 – **Modernize rules for tracking and administering timber harvest**

- Review how ‘cut control’ is designed and implemented

Policy intention #12 – **Improve accountability in tenure management**

- Consider the tools available to decision makers to ensure these strategies are employed in the public interest

Managing public land together



Policy intention #13 – **Strengthen government discretion for decisions involving harvesting and road construction**

- Explore options to provide more discretion in authorization decisions based on important forest values

Policy intention #14 – **Strengthen government's ability to ensure silviculture and innovation investments are realized**

- Consider limits on timber harvest until provincial silviculture investments have optimized harvest opportunity

Supporting our communities, **long term**



Goals: Strengthening the social contract

- Ensure the growth of good jobs and long-term opportunities remain a priority
- Transition from high-volume to high-value
- Ensure all communities have an opportunity to benefit from their local forests
- Encourage diversification in higher value manufacturing

Supporting our communities, **long term**



Policy intention #15 – **Modernize forest tenure replacement requirements**

- Revisit the criteria and expectations for tenure replacement
- Look for holders of replaceable tenures to find creative ways to partner and grow the industry

Policy intention #16 – **Increase fibre access for higher value domestic manufacturers**

- Work with value-added sector reps to understand how the Province can support competitive value-added businesses
- Advance a process to minimize the burning of slash piles
- Develop a timber sales program with a focus on the value-added sector

Supporting our communities, **long term**



Policy intention #17 – **Promote the use of wood and mass timber**

- Improve our legislative framework to ensure wood, mass timber and emerging biomass-based materials are more clearly a priority in public buildings

Policy intention #18 – **Revise area-based forest tenure-specific pricing policy**

- Harmonize the rate structures, consistent with our market-based pricing system, while being mindful that smaller tenure ownership is impacted by economies of scale

Supporting our communities, **long term**



Policy intention #19 – **Strengthen compliance and enforcement**

- Reinforce our ability to address issues around poor practices and behaviour, including public reporting of infractions and reviewing existing fine and penalty amounts

Policy intention #20 – **Protect good jobs**

- Complete the Contractor Sustainability Review with amendments to the Timber Harvesting Contract and Subcontract Regulation
- Support the Ministry of Labour in advancing their Industrial Inquiry Commission

Modernizing Forest Policy: First year at a glance

*In consultation and cooperation
with Indigenous peoples and
governing bodies*



Thank You - Questions