



**BC Forestry Alliance – Media Release  
November 3, 2021**

### **Premier Horgan Has Turned His Back on BC Forest Workers...**

Today, Premier Horgan and his government turned his back on the forest workers and forestry-dependent communities of this province in favour of what appears to be special interest organizations on the future of BC's old growth forests. The Province has announced intentions to defer timber harvesting of 2.6 million hectares of old growth forests, requesting that First Nations indicate within the next 30 days whether or not they support the deferrals.

Should all these deferrals come to fruition, there will be widespread closures of harvesting contractor businesses, sawmills and pulp mills across the province, not to mention reductions to the supporting supplier businesses who provide services in our communities.

Carl Sweet, Director of the BC Forestry Alliance laments "It is clear forest workers no longer matter, despite past assurances that the importance of our sector was recognized by the Premier and his Minister. Now our industry faces devastating changes that will leave thousands of people uncertain of their future and will force many to make tough choices to leave their communities they have built together, in search of ways to make ends meet."

The Province has relied on the advice of an Old Growth Technical Advisory Panel to identify at-risk old growth forests. Three of the appointed panelists, who previously published an independent estimate on the amount of large old growth forests in BC was recently proven wildly inaccurate. How can British Columbians have any confidence in this process, especially those people that are about to lose their jobs? Is that fair?

Director Sweet states "We acknowledge changes are necessary in old growth forest management, but we question who is driving this process, especially when it is certain that peoples and community's livelihoods will end should all these deferrals come to reality?"

This announcement is very disappointing when we know 75% of old growth forests in the province will never be harvested!"

"I ask the Premier to give regard to the roots of his NDP party and put people first when it comes to BC's forest sector. When will this Premier give our voice equal consideration to that of the likes of the Sierra Club?"

FOR INTERVIEWS PLEASE CONTACT:

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