



North Island forestry priorities identified in new report from the Campbell River Business Recovery Task Force

CAMPBELL RIVER, OCTOBER 6, 2020 – The British Columbia Forestry Alliance says thank you to the Campbell River Business Recovery Task Force, which presented a report to the City of Campbell River’s Committee of the Whole this morning ([agenda](#)).

The report "grew out of a concern by many Campbell River business leaders that the COVID-19 pandemic could add significant challenges to businesses and industries, resulting in a serious economic downturn," said the study authors.

The full report can be accessed [here](#).

“We urge all candidates seeking to represent North Island to read this study as soon as possible” said Carl Sweet, spokesperson for the B.C. Forestry Alliance.

The BCFA urged the next Member of the Legislature for North Island to commit to the following priorities, drawn from the Campbell River Business Recovery Task Force report (page 16):

1. Make a concerted effort to learn the economics and benefits of the coastal forestry sector, and make those positions known to their respective cabinets.
2. Greatly improve the consultation with forest industry companies before imposing rule changes that cause uncertainty in the industry.
3. Improve continued managed access to old growth timber.
4. Support continued current level of log exports.
5. Do a better job of balancing the interests between environmental and industry priorities. The urban perspective, although voter rich territory, does not consider the role of industry in economics of the Province. This perspective is sharply shaped by special interest groups, and industry needs government to balance their narrative.
6. Adjust their priorities in terms of policies and regulation to acknowledge the leadership role that forestry will need to play for the country as a whole to recover to a healthy economy.

Residents of the North Island constituency will soon have a chance to ask candidates where they stand on forestry issues:

- Tuesday, Oct. 13: [Campbell River & District Chamber of Commerce All-Candidates Debate, 7 pm.](#)
- Wednesday, Oc. 14: [Mt. Waddington Provincial All-Candidates Meeting, 7 pm.](#)

"We encourage forestry people to register, show up, take notes and participate, because we need to make sure that our next MLA knows the importance of the Campbell River Business Recovery Task Force recommendations," said Sweet.

On Thursday, Oct. 8, Courtenay-Comox residents can attend the [Comox Valley Chamber of Commerce Virtual All Candidates Meeting, 7:30 pm.](#)

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