



BCFA congratulates elected MLAs and pledges to work collaboratively with them on forestry issues going forward

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The election results are (mostly) in and BC has a new majority NDP government.

The BCFA congratulates the newly elected MLAs and thanks all the candidates for putting their names forward.

BCFA would specifically like to congratulate MLAs in key forestry ridings on Vancouver Island such as North Island’s Michelle Babchuk.

“We would like to congratulate Michelle on winning the riding and offer our support to work collaboratively with her going forward on important forestry issues” offered BCFA Director Carl Sweet.

“Michelle has a good grasp on forestry issues and supported the working forest legislation during the campaign” continued Director Sweet.

“BCFA would also offer to work collaboratively with the other Island MLAs where forestry is an important sector such as Courtenay-Comox and Mid Island-Pacific Rim. We congratulate Josie Osborne and her election and Ronna Rae Leonard on her re-election.”

The election also offers an opportunity to reinforce the importance and support the forestry sector has. Our recent poll has findings that show the majority of British Columbians support forestry.

According to Fairview Strategy research, in response to the question ‘Overall, based on what you know or have heard, do you support or oppose logging in BC forests?’

- 53% of British Columbians support forestry while only 26% oppose
- nearly one-in-five (18%) were neutral to logging with the remainder (3%) having no opinion.
- support was highest on northern Vancouver Island (54%) and in the interior/north (63%)
- a majority of BC NDP (51%) voters support logging.
- only BC Green supporters oppose forestry with 47% of their voters in opposition to forestry

“The key message from the new poll is that it shows twice as many British Columbians support forestry than oppose it”, says BCFA Director Carl Sweet. Sweet also noted the support crosses

party lines with both major political party supporters over 50% in support of forestry” continued Sweet.

The poll reinforces the recently released 2019 Regional Supply Chain Study by the BC Council of Forest Industries. That Report estimates BC forest sector companies purchased \$7 billion in goods and services in the province last year, supporting 9,900 BC-based suppliers in 340 communities and 120 First Nations and affiliated organizations.

“Between the COFI Supply Chain economic information and this new opinion poll, the results just reinforce what we already know – forestry is a key activity supporting literally thousands of BC families across the entire Province,” said Carl Sweet, co-founder and a Director of the B.C. Forestry Alliance (BCFA), based in Campbell River.

*Fairview Strategy performed the research. Results are based on an online survey conducted from August 27 – September 2, 2020 among a sample of 1074 BC residents aged 18+. The margin of error—which measures sample variability—is +/- 3.2 percentage points, 19 times out of 20. Discrepancies between totals are due to rounding.

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