



Forestry consultation process must be inclusive of workers and communities

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Amid renewed cries for rapid changes to forestry policy, the BCFA asserts its support for a public consultation process that is thorough, grounded in scientific and economic information, and inclusive of workers and the communities that depend on forestry in BC.

The BC Forestry Alliance is a grassroots organization founded by forestry workers. We are stewards and advocates of the working forests that our families, friends, businesses, and communities have always relied on for our daily work and livelihoods.

Forestry is a foundational sector that contributes nearly \$13 billion to B.C.'s GDP, generates \$4 billion in revenues to all levels of government, and supports over 100,000 jobs throughout BC.

Annually, less than one per cent of the area designated for timber harvesting is sustainably harvested. Old growth comprises only about one-quarter of that one per cent but supports 38,000 jobs and contributes \$3.5 billion to B.C.'s GDP. B.C. is also a leader in conservation with approximately 95 million hectares of land in parks, protected areas or some other form of protection.

BCFA Director Carl Sweet notes the "importance of working together to get this review right and ensure it is an evidenced-based and balanced. The process must be inclusive of workers and their forestry dependent communities."

Sweet states "the BCFA is ready to work with the forest minister, First Nations, and stakeholders towards a renewed and modernized forest policy."

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