



A message for the new B.C. Forests Minister

CAMPBELL RIVER, NOVEMBER 23, 2020 Combatting increased distrust and the loss of economic opportunity should be at the top of the list for the new British Columbia Forest Minister to be named later this week.

“Workers and their families continue to be under attack from organized campaigns that ignore scientific findings and mislead the public about the status of forest management,” said Carl Sweet, spokesperson for the B.C. Forestry Alliance.

“Whether it is loggers, millworkers, forest professionals, or the many small and medium sized businesses supporting the forestry industry, we want to send a message to Premier John Horgan and his incoming cabinet,” said Sweet.

“The message is: protect our livelihoods and we will be here to take part in the collective enterprise of rebuilding from the pandemic.”

He noted that the recent Old Growth Review Panel showed the importance of working together to improve local public dialogue with clarity, science-based information and transparency. Sweet stated that the BCFA is ready to work with the new forest minister to implement official designation for a working forest that will create needed certainty for workers and businesses trying to make plans.

“The insecurity and conflict caused by sudden changes in forest policy and public opinion are very destabilizing for the health and happiness of workers and their families and we are asking Premier Horgan to be there for us through the coming four years,” said Sweet.

“There is no right time for sudden changes in direction that dismantle careers, break apart families and trigger significant economic restructuring. COVID-19 could not possibly be a worse time.”

FOR INTERVIEWS PLEASE CONTACT:

Carl Sweet 250-830-7829

bcforestryalliance@gmail.com