



BCFA Calls for Nanaimo Council motion to be set aside as counterproductive and not inclusive of workers and communities

CAMPBELL RIVER, MARCH 29, 2021

The BCFA finds Nanaimo City Councillor Ben Geselbracht's old growth management-oriented motion tabled for today's council meeting to be counterproductive in the current forestry policy debate.

The BCFA continues to assert 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. However, Councillor Geselbracht's motion works against this approach.

Council should be better informed on the overall old growth issue and focus on a thorough, inclusive public consultation process. The BCFA and its Nanaimo supporters call on Council to set aside this Motion until the full fact set can be reviewed.

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. Many of our supporters work and live in Nanaimo.

Forestry is still particularly important in Nanaimo. On Vancouver Island, Nanaimo is home to the most forestry suppliers, with 420 local businesses providing goods and services to the forest industry generating \$191 million dollars in economic activity. Halting old growth harvesting as suggested would have an immediate negative effect on all these companies and the economy and tax revenues of the City of Nanaimo.

BCFA Director Mike Rorick notes it is "important for council to carefully and rationally consider all points of view on such an important topic to the City of Nanaimo and the people who reside in it that depend upon forestry for their living."

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