



July 29, 2024

Chair and Directors
Cariboo Regional District
180 North 3rd Avenue, Suite D
Williams Lake, BC, V2G 2A4
Sent Via Email: mwagner@cariboord.ca

RE: ForestryWorksforBC

Dear Chair Wagner and Cariboo Directors,

We are writing to local governments across British Columbia to introduce the ForestryWorksforBC campaign, a new grassroots initiative to raise awareness about the critical role forestry plays in the well-being of rural and urban communities.

ForestryWorksforBC is a group of forest-based organizations and companies, representing more than 1,000 businesses engaged in all aspects of British Columbia's forestry sector. We are proud to stand up for tens of thousands of workers and their families who are concerned about the future of forestry in British Columbia. This campaign includes the voices of regular British Columbians who have sent letters to provincial leaders sharing their personal stories, as well as a range of other organizations and companies that have played a part in building British Columbia's forest sector. We believe that a better and brighter future in this province needs a strong forest sector.

Forestry matters in every corner of BC. From hospitals to schools, roads, and communities, forestry has been the foundation of all that we hold dear in this province. Forestry is a renewable sector – and it has been a thriving sector while harvesting just a fraction of one percent of the forest land base each year. But the future of forestry in BC is uncertain.

Harvest levels have dropped by 42% since 2018 and half of BC's mills have been lost in the last two decades. Today, harvest levels have fallen to less than 60% of the sustainable allowable annual cut (AAC) set by the province's chief forester.

When access to the AAC is unreliable, harvest levels drop, government revenues for critical services decline, and the impact reaches every British Columbian. Here are a few quotes from voices across the province:

- *“I don't see a future in my industry in BC... It kills me to leave this province as my family all live here. My wife is a nurse... her hospital is severely understaffed and will cry to see another hole to fill.”*
- *“As businesses disappear, so do the jobs and many small communities have nothing to replace them with. The communities themselves become unstable.”*

- *“I am 24 years old... I used to think this was a career I could cherish but I can no longer see myself pursuing a lifelong career in forestry.”*
- *“Our province is losing some of its most productive workers, successful contractors, and essential investment dollars every day.”*

Through the ForestryWorksforBC campaign, people are rallying their voices to let our provincial leaders know these impacts are too much and that, without reliable and timely access to the AAC, we have a lot more to lose than mills.

The momentum is growing in communities. [Mayor Kermit Dahl of Campbell River](#) raised concerns in a public letter to the minister for forests; the [Kamloops council](#) has recognized a critical need to support forestry through a forestry-focused resolution submitted the Union of BC Municipalities convention this fall; and Lheidli T'enneh [Chief Dollen Logan and George Lampreau, chief of the Simpcw First Nation](#) near Barriere were joined by the mayors of McBride, Prince George, and Valemount to voice their concern over the crisis in the forest sector.

We ask that you include a discussion of this important topic on your next board agenda and consider joining other communities in sending a letter to provincial representatives to let them know that ForestryWorks for your community too. You can see a template letter on our website at <https://forestryworksforbc.ca/send-the-message/>

We invite you to review the attached documents and visit our website to learn more.

Sincerely,



Bob Brash, Executive Director
Truck Loggers Association



John Nester, President
North West Loggers Association



Christine Lavoie, President
Forest Nursery Association of B.C.



John Betts, Executive Director
Western Forestry Contractors' Association



Todd Chamberlain, General Manager
Interior Logging Association

ForestryWorksforBC

Forestry Works for BC



Forestry matters in every corner of BC. From hospitals, schools and roads and communities; forestry has been the foundation of all that we hold dear in this province.

A Stronger BC Needs a Stronger Forest Sector

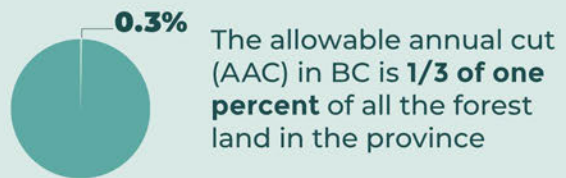
- Help with people's everyday costs
- Deliver more homes for people, faster
- Strengthen health and mental health care
- Deliver services people rely on
- Support a stronger, cleaner economy
- Build infrastructure for the future

Get Involved

It is not trees versus jobs; its quality of life and an allowable annual cut we can all count on. It's time BC's leaders commit to **both** because **ForestryWorksforBC**.

- **Send a message to government** — by mail or on our website
- **Follow us on social media** and share the campaign with your community
- **Ask your MLA and MLA candidates how they'll help ensure** that forestry provides for BC into the future

The Future of BC Forestry is Uncertain



...**but**...government-issued cutting permits have slowed



...**and now**...harvest levels are less than 60% of the sustainable AAC.

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WORKS FOR BC

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  #ForestryWorksForBC



Take action!
Send your MLA
letter today!

Who We Are

We are a group of forest-based organizations and companies, representing more than 1,000 businesses engaged in all aspects of British Columbia's forestry sector. We are proud to stand up for tens of thousands of workers and their families who are concerned about the future of forestry in British Columbia.



This campaign includes the voices of regular British Columbians who have sent letters to provincial leaders sharing their personal stories, as well as a range of organizations and companies that have all played a part in building British Columbia's forest sector and are committed to a better future for our province.

\$7 Billion of local goods and services purchased



Supporting 9,900 businesses in over **340** communities and **120** Indigenous Nations and organizations*

\$6.6 Billion



in annual government revenues that support essential public services and infrastructure.



\$15.8 Billion

Investment in BC's future by the forest sector in operations and upgrades across communities between 2013-2022.

Forestry Supports Employment

The sector provides about nearly 50k direct jobs and supports even more.

Forestry supports 51,000+ additional jobs through supporting local business.

48,725 Direct Jobs **100,000**

All combined, forestry supports **over 100,000** BC jobs

The Forestry Sector Supports **\$9 Billion** More than in wages, salary, and benefits.

*Source: 2019 Regional Supply Chain Study- COFI.org

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Take action!
Send your MLA
letter today!

New Initiative Calls on British Columbians to Stand Up For Forestry

VANCOUVER, British Columbia, June 3, 2024 – A new grassroots initiative is encouraging British Columbians to be better informed on B.C.'s forest sector and take action through various activities including [online letters](#) and informing local governments to raise the importance of forestry to British Columbians.

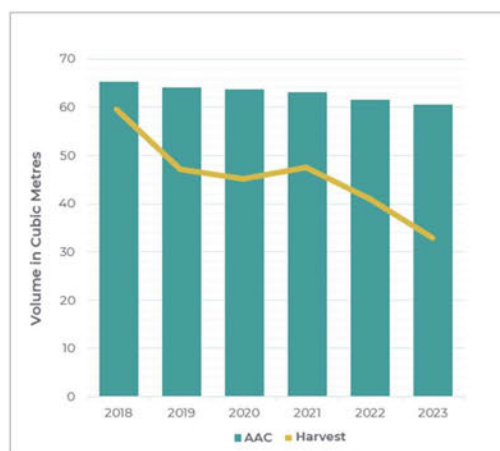
Across the province, small, medium and large forest companies, family-owned enterprises and local businesses have joined forces through ForestryWorksForBC, a new grassroots initiative to address the sectors' uncertain future and its impact on British Columbians and communities that rely on the revenues from forestry to support critical services like roads, schools, and health care.

“Forestry matters in every corner of B.C., from hospitals, schools and roads and communities; forest jobs and forest revenues have been the foundation of all that we hold dear in this province,” said Bob Brash, executive director of the Truck Loggers Association. “Ensuring reliable and timely access to the allowable annual cut (AAC) means we can build affordable, climate-friendly homes for British Columbians; and we can keep people in their homes and communities with good paying jobs.”

In the last 20 years nearly half of all B.C. sawmills have closed. Some of this is the result of natural forces like wildfire and mountain pine beetle but increasing policy changes and escalating complexity have created instability and reduced cutting permits and investment. Today harvest levels are less than 60 per of the AAC set by the Province's chief forester.

Dean Garofano, president and chief operating officer at Delta Forestry Group, has been conducting crew talks across the company and hanging posters around the mill to build momentum for the campaign. “Our workers see the lack of logs coming in, and they are concerned about the future not just for themselves but the communities they call home,” said Garofano. “This initiative gives everyone who cares about forestry and the future of this province a voice – when BC's forest sector does well, we all do better.”

A Rapid Decline in Harvest Levels



Source: BC AAC and Harvest Levels 2018-2023 – COFI.org

For More Information:

Visit: www.forestryworksforbc.ca

Email: hello@forestryworksforbc.ca