

# Minister's Forest and Range PRACTICES ADVISORY COUNCIL (PAC) ANNUAL REPORT 2008



**Honourable Pat Bell**  
**Minister of Forests and Range**

## Minister's Message

Since becoming Minister in June 2008, I have been pleased with the role the Forest and Range Practices Advisory Council (PAC) has been playing in our overall efforts at sustainable forest and range management.

Over the past five years, PAC has been providing advice to the Minister of Forests and Range and ministry staff on legislation, policies and the implementation of the *Forest and Range Practices Act* (FRPA), and has been instrumental in helping ensure FRPA and its associated regulations and policies remain relevant and effective, while continuing to improve over time.

PAC's formal mandate is to undertake periodic reviews and to provide recommendations to: (i) improve FRPA, including its implementation, and (ii) any other specific matters that the Minister refers to PAC. FRPA helps foster sustainable forest and range management in British Columbia.

PAC provides an important forum for a wide cross-section of forest and range interests in British Columbia to meet and discuss key issues. PAC members include the forest, range and tourism sectors, First Nations and local government, and environmental interest groups.

PAC has been particularly effective in providing recommendations on FRPA legislation, forest worker safety, and addressing damage to the environment from recreational use. PAC continues to provide valuable perspectives on some of the larger, long-term issues facing the ministry, for example, the mountain pine beetle epidemic, agro-forestry and non-timber forest products. PAC's *Strategic Framework* guided its priorities in 2008 and will continue to support its efforts in 2009.

British Columbia is a global leader in sustainable forest and range management. I thank PAC members for their dedicated efforts to help ensure our province's forest and range lands are supported by a solid FRPA framework that continues to contribute to their sustainable management for current and future generations of all British Columbians.

## Message from Forest and Range Practices Advisory Council (PAC) Co-Chairs:

The Forest and Range Practices Advisory Council (PAC) provides advice to the Minister of Forests and Range consistent with its *Strategic Framework* developed in 2007. PAC's focus is to maintain a high-level strategic view of the *Forest and Range Practices Act* (FRPA), including associated regulations and policies, and its implementation with a strong emphasis on how the FRPA framework actually translates into forest and range practices on the ground. PAC plays an oversight role where the effectiveness of FRPA is continually being monitored and advice is provided on implementation issues – particularly if the issues identified are linked to the way FRPA legislation is constructed.

To ensure transparency, the PAC's *Strategic Framework* (including terms of reference), annual reports, key issues discussed at specific PAC meetings, and recommendations provided to the Minister along with the Minister's response can be found on the Internet at [www.for.gov.bc.ca/code/pac.htm](http://www.for.gov.bc.ca/code/pac.htm).

It is important that PAC members remain current and informed regarding other related initiatives given their influence on FRPA implementation. Many PAC members are involved in various other policy initiatives, some of which relate to how forest and range practices are being implemented. PAC members communicate with a number of organizations and individuals with shared interests in our natural resources to broaden their understanding around FRPA implementation issues. PAC is particularly interested in improving its understanding around the cumulative impacts associated with the implementation of FRPA and related policy initiatives and how they collectively affect our provincial forest and range lands. These learnings assist PAC in determining how other initiatives may affect implementation of FRPA, and if FRPA is limiting our ability to achieve broader objectives, so that sound technical advice can be provided.

In 2003 and 2004, PAC examined ways that the initial development of FRPA could be improved as legislation was being introduced. In 2005 and 2006, PAC's focus included providing advice and guidance during the transition period between the Forest Practices Code and FRPA. In 2007 and 2008, PAC has been particularly focused on FRPA implementation issues to help ensure that the FRPA framework is practical and effective in a manner that complements other legislation.

Over the years, PAC has benefited from the commitment provided by its membership. We would like to thank past members James O'Hanley and Ric Slaco for their significant contributions over the years, including their work during the first part of 2008, and welcome Randy Chan who has recently joined PAC to provide a forest industry perspective.

## Minister's Forest and Range Practices Advisory Council:

### Current Membership (2008):

**Duncan Barnett**, BC Cattlemen's Association

**Randy Chan**, Tolko Industries Ltd, representing major forest licensees (Interior)

**Bruno Delesalle**, Grasslands Conservation Council of British Columbia

**Peter LaRose**, Council of Tourism Associations of British Columbia

**Corinne Lonsdale**, Union of British Columbia Municipalities - Natural Resource Committee

**Brian McNaughton**, Federation of British Columbia Woodlot Associations

**Garry Merkel**, (Co-Chair), First Nations Summit Task Group

**Kim Pollock**, United Steelworkers of Canada

**Rick Publicover**, Central Interior Logging Association

**Jim Snetsinger** (Co-Chair), Chief Forester, Ministry of Forests and Range (MFR)

## Minister's Forest and Range Practices Council: – 2008:

### Meetings:

In 2008, PAC held two two-day meetings and also met three times via teleconference.

### PAC Briefings – 2008:

PAC members were briefed and had discussions about various initiatives over the year, including:

- FRPA legislation updates: proposed FRPA amendments such as those related to range management, stocking standards and licence to cut as they relate to the Forests for Tomorrow program;
- Provincial FRPA Implementation Team (PFIT): revised PFIT terms of reference, success measures, briefings on the four PFIT Working Groups (issues management, silviculture, woodlots/range/small forest licensees, and objectives), Administrative Guide revisions related to Forest Stewardship Plan approval, and specific concerns such as providing opportunities for innovation and managing for cumulative effects on the land base;
- FRPA objectives: PFIT chair provided an update on the 'objectives' pillar under FRPA including how orders under the *Government Actions Regulation* (GAR) apply and plans for offering workshops on writing orders;
- Range management: MFR Range Branch draft report regarding FRPA implementation between range tenure holders and forest licensees, Range Program Strategy, compliance and enforcement efforts to improve programs for range across districts, natural range barrier issues, considerations regarding need for forage objective under FRPA, agro-forestry initiatives, and updates on Invasive Plant Council activities;
- Forest Worker Safety: follow-up concerning the Forest and Range Evaluation Program's report, MFR's Forest Worker Safety Strategy and Action Plan, the Inter-Agency Committee on Forest Safety, range safety concerns, road use permit issues, MFR compliance and enforcement's "recognize/record/report" approach to safety infractions as well as its authority to address and act on safety concerns, and the overall legislative approach regarding forest worker safety;
- 90-day Forestry Regulatory Review: regulations, policies and processes that affect forest industry were examined, opportunities for streamlining to reduce unnecessary cost burdens were explored with 50 priority actions approved by government;
- Working Roundtable on Forestry: identifying key issues/opportunities facing the forest sector (i.e., climate change, remaining competitive in evolving world economies, impacts of innovation and technology, changing demographics in the workforce, issues facing B.C.'s forests including the mountain pine beetle, changing societal expectations, upholding First Nations' rights, and sustaining B.C.'s environmental standards) and making recommendations to ensure a sustainable forest industry for the future; the Roundtable examined longer term issues (relative to the 90-day review process) and held various consultation meetings supported by four working groups: (i) products and markets, (ii) cost structure and capital investment, (iii) stumpage, and (iv) tenure;
- Minister's objectives: the Minister established four key objectives for MFR: (i) maximizing the value extracted from B.C.'s forests; (ii) maximizing growth opportunity from our forests; (iii) expanding markets particularly to China; and (iv) expanding the use of wood in commercial and institutional construction;
- Forest and Range Evaluation Program (FREP): MFR staff provided updates on activities concerning the following FRPA values: biodiversity, cultural heritage, and fish, riparian and water quality;

- Climate change and forest carbon: the role of the Climate Action Team and Climate Action Secretariat, a draft interim report by the Forest Sector Climate Action Steering Committee being presented to the Roundtable, linkages to Future Forest Ecosystems Initiative, Forests for Tomorrow and other programs, and information on seed transfer;
- Bioenergy: inter-agency and industry analysis regarding current bioenergy activities and future opportunities as well as links to other key government initiatives, and release of B.C.'s Bioenergy Strategy;
- Gene resources: final report on forest gene resource conservation and management based on a challenge dialogue sponsored by MFR's Tree Improvement Branch, Research Branch and the Forest Genetics Council with stakeholders and interested members of the public;
- Oil and gas activities: cross-agency working group developing a new Act governing oil and gas activities.

## **PAC Recommendations and Accomplishments – 2008:**

PAC activities and accomplishments included:

- FRPA legislation: providing review and comment on proposed amendments;
- FRPA implementation: PAC requested that PFIT prepare a report on innovation, including impediments under FRPA and successes that have been made around innovation as well as information coming out of PFIT's scoping activities regarding how cumulative effects on the land base are managed and shared when available;
- Range management: discussing (via teleconference) and reviewing the draft MFR Range Branch report and its recommendations, and the draft Range Program Strategy;
- Forest worker safety: teleconferencing to review and discuss issues around forest worker safety prior to making recommendations to the Minister (see below), and member review of MFR's Forest Worker Safety Strategy and Action Plan. PAC also requested that additional information be provided on the role of compliance and enforcement officers concerning forest worker safety, clarity on the reporting/accountability aspects of the Inter-Agency Committee on Forest Safety, and asked that the Inter-Agency Committee consider requiring operators to have SAFE companies certification;
- Premier's initiatives: teleconferencing to discuss the 90 day Regulatory Review process and the Working Roundtable on Forestry that led to recommendations to the Minister (see below);
- FRPA objectives: draft revisions to the Government Actions Regulation: Policy and Procedures and related documents were provided to PAC members for review and comment.

PAC provided a recommendation regarding forest worker safety stating that:

- PAC recommends that the Minister commission a review of FRPA and FRPA-related regulations specifically to identify and provide appropriate wording where forest worker safety is an integral part of a practice requirement and/or standard.
- The recommendation was in consideration of three recent safety reports: (i) MFR's FREP report *Worker Safety Impacts Associated with Legislation, Policy, Planning and Implementation of Forest Harvesting Activities in BC*; (ii) the Auditor General's report *Preventing Fatalities and Serious Injuries in BC Forests: Progress Needed*; and (iii) the Forest Safety Ombudsman report *No Longer the Road Less Travelled*.

- The Minister responded to PAC indicating that the recommendation is being considered within the context of an overall MFR Forest Worker Safety Strategy for which an Action Plan is being developed. In addition, he noted that MFR's forest worker safety initiatives are now part of government's larger response to addressing worker safety. The Minister committed the ministry to keep PAC informed of the MFR's progress on worker safety initiatives, and encouraged PAC to pass along any further specific safety-related concerns to MFR's Safety Team or to MFR's representatives on the Inter-Agency Safety Committee.

PAC also provided recommendation regarding the Regulatory Review and Forestry Roundtable stating that:

- PAC recommends that the Minister direct his staff to: (a) ensure that PAC is consulted as part of the regulatory review; (b) consider PAC membership on the review committee; and (c) ensure that range side of the Ministry be included in the review.
- PAC further recommends that the Minister consider: (a) including both local government and range representatives on the forestry roundtable; and (b) establishing a parallel roundtable to address the serious situation in the range industry in B.C.
- The Minister responded to PAC noting that more than 250 submissions to the regulatory review process have been received; many from sectors represented by PAC members, and the results of the review will be published. He noted that the Roundtable's primary focus will be on identifying conditions for the long-term success of B.C.'s forest sector within the global marketplace, and noted that PAC can provide the Roundtable with any specific suggestions it wishes to make. He anticipated that range user interests may be better addressed through discussions in progress with the BC Cattlemen's Association on the beef cattle industry strategy and regulatory issues, and encouraged PAC to continue to work with the Director of the Range Branch to identify and address range-related issues.

## **PAC Priorities – 2009:**

During its deliberations in 2008, PAC identified the following actions that need to be addressed in 2009:

- Working Roundtable on Forestry: Roundtable recommendations that affect FRPA will be monitored by PAC. (the Roundtable report was released March 2009)
- Worker safety: MFR will be reviewing the FREP report on forest worker safety to determine what actions need to be included in MFR's Forest Worker Safety Action Plan and/or be addressed by the Inter-Agency Committee on Forest Safety and will report back to PAC; PAC is particularly interested in understanding policy options being considered by MFR to address safety recommendations and having MFR report back on what can be done to improve information sharing about/among the various industrial users of resource roads to ensure they are aware of who else is authorized (i.e. road permit holders) to use those roads;
- FRPA implementation: review report to be prepared by PFIT on opportunities for innovation including successes around innovation under FRPA;
- Cultural heritage resources: as part of the Forest and Range Evaluation Program (FREP), MFR is assessing how cultural heritage resource values are being addressed under FRPA and the results of the assessment will be reviewed by PAC;

- Range issues: MFR Range Branch will report back to PAC on implications of having a potential FRPA forage objective; further discussions with PAC members are needed on range monitoring requirements in Bill 33 and the Range Program Strategy (e.g. the forage supply modeling/ analysis aspects);
- Climate change: the Forest Sector Climate Action Steering Committee is preparing a report that will be presented to the Roundtable and opportunities for PAC involvement will be examined; as more information regarding climate change policy is brought forward, PAC may wish to consider if FRPA can be used to support forest management, given climate change concerns (including the need to retain forest carbon), and if FRPA provides sufficient flexibility necessary for forest practices to address climate change;
- Interior forestry issues: PAC will be seeking presentations from Forests for Tomorrow, forest health, and Future Forest Ecosystem Initiative staff, given the importance of these programs to addressing the mountain pine beetle and climate change challenges;
- Agro-forestry: ways to build working relationships with agro-forestry as part of the Range Program Strategy will be examined;
- Bioenergy: PAC will continue to follow this important issue, particularly with the release of B.C.'s Bioenergy Strategy, to track its implementation as it relates to forest practices and sustainability.
- Assessing whether Government's goals and assumptions for FRPA have been successfully achieved.

*For complete reference on past PAC activities, please visit <http://www.for.gov.bc.ca/code/pac.htm>*

## PAC Members' Biographies:



**Duncan Barnett**

**Affiliation: BC Cattlemen's Association**

Duncan divides his time between operating the family ranch near Williams Lake, B.C., and working as a consultant within the ranching and forest sectors with a focus on Aboriginal and range issues. Duncan is also an elected director of the Cariboo Regional District.



**Randy Chan, RPF, VP & General Manager, Tolko Industries**

**Affiliation: Industry, Interior Representative**

Randy has been practicing forestry in the BC interior since 1971 and is currently Vice-President and General Manager of Environment and Forestry with Tolko Industries Ltd. Randy was past president of the Association of BC Forest Professionals (ABCFP). The ABCFP awarded Randy as Professional Forester of the Year in 1990; Volunteer of the Year in 1999 and Distinguished Forest Professional in 2008. Randy is also an honorary member of the Applied Science Technologists and Technicians of B.C.



**Bruno Delesalle, MSc.**

**Affiliation: Grasslands Conservation Council of British Columbia**

Since May 1999, Bruno has worked with a group of grassland enthusiasts, conservation organizations and ranching interests to establish and develop the Grasslands Conservation Council of British Columbia. Bruno has a wide range of experience in managing conservation and extension programs as well as ecology, policy, research, consultation and communications work. Bruno actively participates on various boards and committees.



**Peter LaRose**

**Affiliation: Council of Tourism Associations (COTA)**

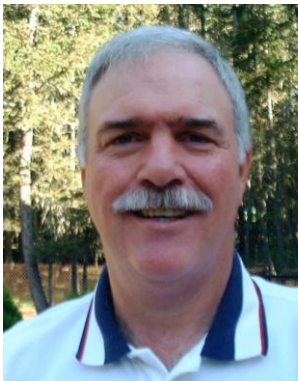
Peter has several years of public policy and program development experience in such diverse areas as international trade, natural resources, energy, and technology. With a background in federal, provincial and local government as well as the private sector, he brings a balanced and consensus-driven approach to public policy issues affecting the B.C. tourism industry. Peter holds a Master's degree in comparative politics from the University of British Columbia.



**Corinne Lonsdale**

**Affiliation: Union of BC Municipalities**

Corinne has over 19 years experience as an elected official, including three terms as Mayor of the District of Squamish. Corinne has been re-elected as Councillor for the District of Squamish and has a wide range of knowledge gained from her service on various committees (Advisory Committee of FRBC, MAC on Certification, EOF for the Sea to Sky LRMP, Executive of UBCM and the Lower Mainland Treaty Advisory Committee).



**Brian McNaughton, RPF**

**Affiliation: Federation of BC Woodlot Associations**

Brian is under contract as General Manager, Federation of BC Woodlot Associations. The Federation represents 27 woodlot associations whose members consist of about 815 woodlot licence holders as well as numerous private forest landowners throughout B.C. Previously, Brian worked as a public servant with the Ministry of Forests with 10 years in silviculture and a further 10 years as District Manager, Williams Lake Forest District.



**Garry Merkel, RFP**

**Affiliation: First Nations Summit**

Garry is a First Nations professional forester with 35 years experience in the forest sector. In addition, he is an experienced treaty negotiator, active on many regional and provincial initiatives, and has a special interest in community-based land management.



**Kim Pollock**

**Affiliation: United Steelworkers**

Kim is a Canadian national research representative for the United Steelworkers. Previously, he spent 12 years as Director of Public Policy and Environment for the Industrial, Wood and Allied Workers of Canada, which merged with Steelworkers in 2004. Kim provides USW officials, activists and members with social and economic research and analysis of forest sector issues and has written extensively on forestry and forest industry issues. Kim grew up in Port Coquitlam, B.C., and graduated with a degree in sociology from the University of B.C. He also worked previously as a newspaper reporter and political aide.



**Rick Publicover**

**Affiliation: Central Interior Logging Association** (also representing the Interior Logging Association, the North West Loggers Association, and the Truck Loggers Association)

Rick is Executive Director of the Central Interior Logging Association (CILA). He is responsible for the overall implementation of the association's programs and services. CILA represents the log-harvest sector across the Central and Northern Interior Regions. CILA members include independent logging, log-hauling, road building and silviculture contractors and suppliers.



**Jim Snetsinger**

**Chief Forester, Ministry of Forests and Range**

Jim was appointed B.C.'s Chief Forester on November 8, 2004. Since joining the B.C. Forest Service in 1986, Jim has held various positions, including Appraisal Officer, Regional Recreation Officer and Operations Manager in the former Morice Forest District, and Regional Staff Manager, Regional Manager and Regional Executive Director for the Northern Interior Forest Region. He also served as the Regional Director for Land and Water B.C. for a short period in 2002.