

# **FPC Transition Training**

## **Introduction: Industry Perspective**

### **Ken Higginbotham**

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2           Good morning everyone. My name is Ken Higginbotham, Vice-President of  
3 Forestry and Environment at the Canfor Corporation. I've also been involved as the  
4 industry co-chair of the collaborative work being carried out between industry and  
5 government in establishing the Forest and Range Practices Act and what we have been  
6 calling the transition bill.

7           We are pleased with the progress we've made and pleased that you have joined  
8 us in this training program, which will allow us to move ahead in putting an amended  
9 Forest Practices Code in place while we look forward to the actual implementation of the  
10 Forest and Range Practices Act.

11           We are going through a transition here because we have known from the  
12 beginning that the new Forest and Range Practices Act would not begin its actual  
13 involvement until next spring some time, but given government's reductions in resources  
14 and the opportunity for industry to start to transition itself towards a results based  
15 environment, we decided to amend the current Code and allow us to start moving in the  
16 direction that we all want to go in the future.

17           For industry, I believe that transitioning to the Forest and Range Practices Act will  
18 allow us to experience working in a results versus rules environment. It will provide  
19 greater flexibility for us and begin to have corporations and individual foresters and  
20 biologists look at living in a different world with respect to professional accountability. All  
21 of this, of course, needs to be done with the maintenance of environmental standards.

22           We believe that we can realize some immediate cost decreases in operational  
23 and transactional associations that we have with the government in an amended Code  
24 environment. Forest development plans are to be extended, of course, until 2005 and  
25 create a reduction in the planning environment that we have to be involved in. We will

1 have fewer approvals. We will have fewer deactivation prescriptions necessary, and we  
2 will have fewer mandatory assessments, all of which can help us in the months ahead  
3 before the Forest and Range Practices Act comes into force. And as forest development  
4 plans carry on their life to 2005, allow us to save money in existing approved plans. This  
5 will also, as I mentioned earlier, allow us to align our workload and our expectations in our  
6 interactions with government with decreased government resources and decreased  
7 industry resources in these difficult times for the industry.

8           Extending our forest development plans to 2005 will afford companies the  
9 opportunity to pay less attention to those plans and more attention to the development of  
10 forest stewardship plan, which will be required under the new Act. We think that that is a  
11 very important kind of undertaking to begin. We will, of course, do all of this with the  
12 expectation of significant compliance and enforcement activities undertaken by  
13 government, and we will, of course, need to continue, therefore, to make sure that we  
14 carry out our work in a way that would be suitably accountable to the landowner, which, of  
15 course, is the government.

16           There will be less legislated interaction between agencies and industry under both  
17 the amended Code and the new Code, but I would like to suggest that the collaboration  
18 that has occurred in developing both the FRPA and the transition bill should cause us all  
19 to recognize that there is a new kind of relationship that we should extend between  
20 government and industry and so while our relationship may be less on approvals and  
21 those kinds of matters, we ought to build that relationship to build trust in a results based  
22 environment where we will be determining the results in many cases.

23           So we will continue to plan and conduct assessments. We will continue to protect  
24 resources. And we will need to follow the practices that are established in legislation, in  
25 regulations, and in standards whether we establish the standard or whether the standard

1 is established by government. We need to make sure that we see this as more than just  
2 a reflection of reduced regulatory requirements for industry, but as a new opportunity, a  
3 new way to manage, a way to build a new culture within the forest industry, and in our  
4 relationship with government. So, good luck with the training. We look very much  
5 forward to seeing the work that has been on paper up until now actually delivered in the  
6 field.

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8 (END OF PRESENTATION)

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