

April 11, 2008

### **Working Roundtable on Forestry - Meeting Summary**

- The Working Roundtable on Forestry held its first meeting on April 11, 2008.
- At that meeting the members of the Roundtable confirmed that their objective is to identify key issues and opportunities facing forestry in British Columbia, and make recommendations for a strong, vibrant, sustainable forest industry for the future.
- The Roundtable will not deal with the current regulatory review, workforce adjustment programs or other short term programs or issues facing the forest sector.
- The Roundtable's work will consider:
  - the challenges and opportunities climate change presents for BC's forests,
  - changing competitiveness in the face of evolving world economies,
  - adapting to evolving markets, technology and an aging workforce,
  - issues such as mountain pine beetle
  - Changing social expectations with respect to forestry.
- The Working Roundtable on Forestry work plan includes:
  - Identifying the key challenges and opportunities facing forestry in BC
  - Identifying key questions that require objective answers and common understanding by the roundtable in order to develop recommendations
  - Identifying the conditions and frameworks that need to exist for the forest industry to be vibrant and sustainable for the long term
- The Working Roundtable on Forestry will obtain input and suggestions from industry experts, industry associations and stakeholders by:
  - Meeting with local experts, community leaders, First Nations leaders and others in communities around the province;
  - Commissioning research and soliciting information, input and ideas from forest sector representatives, associations and subject matter experts.
  - The Roundtable may also visit forest operations in other countries or provinces to learn about forestry practices in other jurisdictions, as required.
- The Minister of Forests and Range will report to Cabinet quarterly on the progress of the Working Roundtable.
- The Working Roundtable on Forestry's guiding principles are:
  - The softwood lumber agreement will be honoured.
  - First Nations' rights will be respected.
  - No subsidies will be provided to industry.
  - No net deforestation will be proposed.
  - Government's climate change strategy will be supported.
  - High environmental standards will be maintained.
- Although the Roundtable will request specific information, the public can share their ideas on ways to improve the forest sector through [Forestry.RoundTable@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Forestry.RoundTable@gov.bc.ca)