

Working Roundtable on Forestry June 26, 2008 Meeting Summary

At its fifth meeting, the Chair of the Working Roundtable, Minister Bell discussed the progress that previous Forests and Range Minister Coleman made as Chair of the Working Roundtable, and reiterated his commitment to the Roundtable and his anticipation that the Roundtable will produce useful recommendations.

The Roundtable members endorsed the June 13, 2008 Roundtable meeting summary. The Roundtable also discussed the status of their deliberations, reflecting on their work to date, work yet to be done, and meetings with communities and others that it still wished to have.

The Roundtable discussed and agreed to invite First Nations, organized labour, industry, environmental and other associations to a series of meetings in early September to provide their suggestions for the long-term success of the forest industry.

The Roundtable received and discussed both the Vision and Terms of Reference of the Forest Sector Climate Action Steering Committee. The Committee—which is examining the future of the forest sector in a carbon-constrained world and the opportunities afforded to the forest sector by climate action initiatives—will deliver a report to the Roundtable on September 12, 2008 that the Roundtable can use in its deliberations.

The Roundtable had a lengthy discussion regarding how to ensure that the interests of First Nations, communities, workers and environmental interests are considered in its work.

The Roundtable agreed to form four working groups to focus on specific areas of interest: products and markets, cost structure and capital investment, stumpage and rent, and tenure. Each Working Group will undertake its work over the coming 3-4 months, and report back to the Roundtable as a whole with their conclusions and recommendations.