

Executive Summary

Implementation of Recommendations from the Working Roundtable on Forestry

On March 9, 2009, the Working Roundtable on Forestry released its report and consensus on a vision, six key priorities, and 29 recommendations directed at all forest sector stakeholders to achieve **“a vibrant, sustainable, globally competitive forest industry that provides enormous benefits for current and future generations and for strong communities.”**

The Working Roundtable made it clear there is no one entity that can solve the problems of the forest industry in British Columbia. While the provincial government holds a leadership role in stimulating dialogue and action, all parties must work to advance a common vision. This status update provides highlights of key actions the Province of British Columbia is taking to advance the priorities set out by the Working Roundtable.

A complete status report is available online at www.for.gov.bc.ca/mof/forestry_roundtable

PRIORITY #1:

A COMMITMENT TO USING WOOD FIRST

Desired Outcome:

- British Columbians are proud and supportive of forestry’s role as an essential element of the future green economy and their livelihoods
- Wood and wood products are the first choice and a preferred product in construction, interior design and daily living

Actions Completed/Progress

- Published, “Generating More Value from Our Forests”, a vision and action plan to help position British Columbia as a world leader in innovative and higher-value uses for wood
- Changed B.C. building code effective April 1, 2009, to allow buildings from wood-frame construction to increase from four to six storeys

- Showcasing the use of B.C. wood in 2010 Olympic venues
- Introduced Wood First legislation this fall to maximize the use of wood in provincially-owned or provincially-funded buildings
- Will showcase B.C. wood at Shanghai World Expo 2010

**PRIORITY #2:
GROWING TREES, SEQUESTERING CARBON, AND ENSURING THAT LAND IS
AVAILABLE FROM WHICH TO DERIVE A RANGE OF FOREST PRODUCTS**

Desired Outcome:

- We get the best value and range of products from our investments on the land base
- We attract private investment in forests
- We have a secure commercial forest land base

Actions Completed/Progress

- Released discussion paper, Growing Opportunities: A New Vision for Silviculture in British Columbia
- Released draft forestry carbon offset protocol for review and comment as a key step in determining how forestry activities can help mitigate the effects of climate change, and determining carbon credits for certain forestry activities

**PRIORITY #3:
CREATING A GLOBALLY COMPETITIVE, MARKET-BASED OPERATING CLIMATE**

Desired Outcome:

- A cost-competitive jurisdiction that attracts capital
- A predictable business environment
- Leading edge forestry businesses

Actions Completed/Progress

- Harmonizing provincial sales tax with federal goods and services tax to lower costs for business and enhance competitiveness. This change is expected to save the B.C. forest sector \$140 million annually
- Introduced new area-based innovative timber sales licence
- Established industry-ministry forums with joint workplans, for each of the three forest regions, focused on solving issues to support industry competitiveness
- Established coastal pulp and paper working group with representatives from companies, unions and the ministry executive to address issues affecting competitiveness

PRIORITY #4: EMBRACING INNOVATION AND DIVERSIFICATION

Desired Outcome:

- Production of next generation forest products
- Reduced reliance on the U.S. market
- Company/firm growth and diversification

Actions Completed/Progress

- Introducing regulations in fall 2009 to make it is easier to salvage roadside waste from logging and increase amount of fibre available for bioenergy and biofuels
- With federal government, increased funding for China marketing initiatives to \$13 million in 2009/10 – a 50 per cent increase from 2008/09

PRIORITY #5: SUPPORTING PROSPEROUS RURAL FOREST ECONOMIES

Desired Outcome:

- Communities continue to benefit from forestry

Actions Completed/Progress

- Eliminated 5-year probationary agreement for community forest agreement holders and set minimum term at 25 years
- Awarded six new community forest agreements to date in 2009
- Worked with northwest licensees to establish the Northwest B.C. Forest Coalition
- Helped more than 7,500 forest workers and their families since the launch of the Community Development Trust in May 2008. In summer 2009 the Job Opportunities Program received an additional \$60 million - \$30 million from each the province and federal government
- The Ministry of Forests and Range is providing \$20 million and the federal government \$10 million over two years to improve Forest Service roads that serve as crucial transportation links for rural communities

PRIORITY #6:

FIRST NATIONS BECOMING FULL PARTNERS IN FORESTRY

Desired Outcome:

- First Nations are full partners in forestry

Actions Completed/Progress

- Ministry has signed forestry agreements with 167 First Nations providing access to 43.1 million cubic metres of timber and \$243 million in revenue-sharing
- Ministry is working with First Nations Forestry Council on improving economic viability of forestry tenures issued to First Nations
- Ministry participates on UBC's First Nations Council of Advisors to develop aboriginal forestry professionals and aboriginal community forestry

Visit www.for.gov.bc.ca/mof/forestry_roundtable to download full status report.