

WORKING ROUNDTABLE ON FORESTRY

Terms of Reference

PURPOSE:

The Working Roundtable will identify key issues and opportunities facing the forest sector in British Columbia, and make recommendations to ensure a strong, vibrant, sustainable forest industry in British Columbia for this generation, and for future generations.

The Working Roundtable will determine conditions necessary for the long term success of the forest sector in the context of global paradigm shifts such as:

- climate change and the challenges and opportunities it presents for BC's forests
- changed competitiveness in the face of evolving world economies
- evolving markets
- evolving technology
- changing demographics as the workforce ages
- issues affecting BC's forest stock such as the pine beetle
- changing social expectations with respect to forests and the forest industry.

The Working Roundtable members will provide input to, and recommendations for, a forest sector plan that looks forward 5 to 10 years.

Working Roundtable members will not be expected to reach consensus or agreement, nor is the Working Roundtable a decision making body.

PRINCIPLES

- 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

MEMBERSHIP

The members of the Working Roundtable have been chosen because of their ability to receive, consider and provide new perspectives and ideas. Working Roundtable members are not intended to represent individual forest sector stakeholders because it would be impossible to have a Working Roundtable of a reasonable size and at the same time represent all forest sector interests.

OPERATIONS

The Working Roundtable will welcome presentations, input and ideas from forest sector representatives, associations and interested individuals.

Working Roundtable members will be asked to review and comment on proposals, questions or issues, and will have the ability to request briefings from forest sector or other experts, commission research and conduct surveys.

The Roundtable will hold meetings in communities around the province. At these meetings local experts, community leaders or others will be contacted to meet with Roundtable members, and roundtable members may undertake field or mill tours.

The Roundtable may visit forest operations in other countries or provinces to learn about forestry practices in other jurisdictions.

A website will be established to provide for public input and provide public information about the Roundtable and forestry in BC.

The Minister of Forests and Range will report to Cabinet quarterly on the progress of the Working Roundtable.