

# The Balance

Inside B.C. Forests

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## B.C.'S TRIBUTE TO THE XII WORLD FORESTRY CONGRESS

Quebec City – B.C. Forests Minister Michael de Jong planted an Interior Douglas-fir from British Columbia in a Commemorative Garden sponsored by the BC Market Outreach Network as a tribute to the XII World Forestry Congress. The garden features trees from each of Canada's territories and provinces matched with a tree from another country.

De Jong said at the tree-planting ceremony that it was hard to pick one from the 40 species of native trees in B.C., which include some of the most valuable and interesting trees in Canada. He said the Interior Douglas-fir was chosen to raise the profile of the province's rich Interior forests, and because it grows in south central B.C.'s Interior Plateau where summers are warm

and winters are cold so it should adapt well to Quebec City's climate.

During the congress, 200 people from around the world attended a reception hosted by the BC Market Outreach Network to showcase the Ministry of Forests world-class fire protection program and its international forest firefighting expertise. The reception, with a display of technical information and simulations of a day in the life of B.C.'s fire control operations, took place following a severe fire season in B.C. caused by record dry weather.

The World Forestry Congress attracted more than 4,000 delegates representing government, research institutions, environmental groups, industry, youth and indigenous groups.



B.C. Minister Michael de Jong and Quebec Minister Sam Hamad plant an Interior Douglas-fir from B.C.

**INSIDE**

2  
REBUILDING B.C.'S COAST  
FOREST INDUSTRY

2  
B.C.'S SUMMER OF FIRE

3  
MANAGING PARKS  
TOGETHER

3  
SHOWCASING B.C.  
FOREST PRACTICES

4  
FOREST BRIEFS

## FIRST NATION REVENUE-SHARING DEAL SIGNED

Vancouver – The Gitga'at First Nation and British Columbia government have signed the province's first revenue-sharing agreement under the Forestry Revitalization Plan, which aims to open up new opportunities for First Nations in forestry and other industries.

Under the agreement, the Gitga'at First Nation will share in forestry revenues of \$1.57 million over the next 5 years and receive two direct invitations to apply for forest licences – one for 125,000 cubic metres over the next 5 years and another for up to 165,000 cubic metres once the provincewide timber reallocation process is completed.

"The agreement demonstrates a strong commitment to providing new economic opportunities for the Gitga'at," said Gitga'at chief negotiator Art Sterritt. "It will allow our people to enter the forest industry in a meaningful way."

The Gitga'at, located in northwestern B.C., are part of the Turning Point Initiative, an alliance of First Nations on B.C.'s north Pacific Coast, which is developing new approaches to land and marine-use planning that are both ecologically and economically sustainable.



## REBUILDING B.C.'S COAST FOREST INDUSTRY

Vancouver – Three forest industry leaders have challenged all forest sector participants to work together to rebuild British Columbia’s coastal industry.

In a recent report, executives from International Forest Products, TimberWest and Weyerhaeuser in B.C. set out 10 action points that would lead to a rejuvenated coastal industry in the next decade. They called for more investment in product development and promotion and in mill upgrades and new technology to process smaller, second-growth logs. They also detailed the need for improved productivity and lower costs. B.C.’s coast has 20 million hectares (about 50 million acres) of the most productive forestland in Canada.

The report estimated that \$750 million to \$1 billion in new capital investment is needed in the next 10 years to reverse a

decline in the coast industry that has resulted from high labour and operating costs, outdated equipment, trade barriers, operating restrictions and changing customer expectations. It describes a future for the coast with world-class mills, continued innovative eco-sensitive forest practices and increased community stability.

“Industry, workers, the IWA (Industrial, Wood and Allied Workers), contractors and government must work together like never before to create a future that will benefit all British Columbians,” said Duncan Davies, president and CEO of International Forest Products.

“We are prepared to make commitments appropriate to our own businesses to accelerate the transition and to assist affected workers,” said Paul McElligott, president and CEO of TimberWest.

“We need to start by repositioning our products to increase value, reducing costs and achieving land-use certainty,” said Craig Neeser, vice-president for Weyerhaeuser B.C.

The industry has already taken steps to reposition its high-quality hemlock, the most abundant species on the coast, by telling Japanese builders about its superior performance and unique attributes. It recently launched a new grade of lumber designed to meet the specific needs of Japanese building codes.

The industry report, *Embracing a New Vision: Rebuilding BC’s Coastal Forestry Industry* is available at <http://files.newswire.ca/36/BCForestryVision.pdf>



The McLure fire was one of the severe wildfires in B.C.’s Interior this summer. At its peak, it covered more than 26,000 hectares (64,250 acres) and involved more than 1,000 firefighters.

### B.C.'S SUMMER OF FIRE

Record drought, high temperatures and wind whipped up severe wildfires across much of British Columbia this summer. Although a total of 250,000 hectares (618,000 acres) burned, compared to about 30,000 hectares (61,800 acres) in an average year, this represents just 0.4 per cent of B.C.’s vast forestland. Across the province, people pitched in to help those affected and donate money, food and other supplies. At one point, the central Interior community of 100 Mile House, with a population of less than 2,000, had welcomed 1,388 evacuees from neighbouring towns and had homes for hundreds more.



## MANAGING PARKS TOGETHER

Bella Bella – BC Parks and the Heiltsuk First Nation will co-manage the Hakai Luxvbalis Conservancy Area, the largest marine protected area on the B.C. coast and the scenic backdrop for cruise ship passengers travelling through the Inside Passage.

Heiltsuk Tribal Council Chief Ross Wilson recently signed the co-management agreement with Joyce Murray, B.C.’s minister of water, land and air protection, saying: “Together we will safeguard our lands and explore new opportunities for our community.”

A joint management board will be created to direct all planning and operations in the area, which is south of Bella Bella in the heart of Heiltsuk traditional territory. It comprises 122,998 hectares (more than 300,000 acres) of land and marine environments renowned for their beauty, eco-tourism and sport fishing.

The agreement brings to 14 the number of protected areas co-managed by BC Parks and First Nations, and is one of the first co-managed protected area/park agreements to be concluded on the Central Coast, in an area also known as the Great Bear Rainforest.



Minister Joyce Murray and Chief Ross Wilson sign the co-management agreement.

## SHOWCASING B.C. FOREST PRACTICES

Vancouver – BC Market Outreach Network staff like to show international visitors forest practices on the ground in British Columbia because they know the guests will be impressed.

This was the case with Päivi Salpakivi-Salomoa, one of a group of foresters and customers from Finland and Australia who recently toured Tree Farm Licence 26 east of Vancouver. After the tour, she confessed that what she saw was not what she expected. She was surprised by the amount of planning involved before a tree is cut – including consideration of cutblock sizes, harvesting techniques and riparian protection.

Petri Heinonen, senior environmental coordinator for Metsähallitus, the Finnish state forest enterprise, echoed this view. He was making a return trip to B.C. and said he was pleased to see the number of positive changes that had occurred since his last visit.

As well as TFL 26, the tour included a presentation by the Coast Information Team to review land and resource management planning processes currently underway along B.C.’s Pacific Coast and a meeting with B.C.’s chief forester. The group also visited Hayes Forest Services on Vancouver Island, a leading forest services provider in B.C. and recognized as one of Canada’s 50 best-managed companies two years in a row.

Päivi Salpakivi-Salomoa, manager of environment for Finnish paper producer UPM-Kymmene, was not the only member of the group

who liked what she saw. Kai Lintunen, communications manager, Finnish Forest Association, called Hayes “a well-oiled operation that really takes its responsibility seriously”. And after spending time with Hayes, Pekka Kallio-Mannila of the Finnish Forest Industries Federation said it was “interesting to see how they have solved the problems here that we are now facing in Finland”.



Kris Gounder, harvest regulation manager for the State Forests of NSW Australia, with forestry technician Kelly Cameron from the Mission Municipal Forest during a tour of Tree Farm Licence 26.

# FOREST briefs

## EXAMINING BEETLE ISSUES

VICTORIA - The British Columbia government will convene a special symposium in Quesnel this fall where community leaders, forest health scientists and forest industry representatives will examine the many issues related to the mountain pine beetle infestation in the province's Interior. As a result of recent dry, hot summers and mild winters, B.C. is currently experiencing the most extensive beetle infestation in recorded history, with the area affected covering about 4 million hectares (almost 10 million acres) of pine across most of B.C.'s Interior.

## BIDDING FOR TIMBER LICENCE

DUNCAN – Hayes Forest Services Ltd., in partnership with Khowutzun Forest Services Ltd. owned by the Cowichan Tribes, have

joined forces to bid for a timber licence on 83,500 hectares (about 200,000 acres) of public forestland on southern Vancouver Island. If the bid for Tree Farm Licence 46 succeeds, it would bring together the largest Indian band and the largest forest services company in B.C. The allowable annual harvest for the TFL was recently set at 510,000 cubic metres of wood.

## PARKS WILL PROTECT DIVERSITY

VANCOUVER – The governments of Canada and British Columbia have signed a memorandum of understanding that paves the way for creation of a new national park and 2 new national marine conservation areas in B.C. The park would preserve an area in the southern Interior with desert-like conditions and an ecosystem that ranges from low-level grasslands to high-

elevation pine and spruce forests. The marine conservation areas are located at the southern end of the Haida Gwaii/Queen Charlotte Islands and in the southern Strait of Georgia close to one of the most populated regions of Canada.

## RESEARCH FUNDING ANNOUNCED

VICTORIA – The B.C. government announced \$4.4 million in funding through the Forestry Innovation Investment research program for universities, the private sector and the Pacific Forestry Centre. Projects funded include continued research into the mountain pine beetle and studies to test the effectiveness of alternative streamside management techniques and to improve the accuracy of fire-weather forecasts.

## BOOTH SHOWS ITS VERSATILITY

Quebec City – The BC Market Outreach Network's multilingual, interactive display was among the most popular at the XII World Forestry Congress, with more than 2,000 delegates dropping by to experience a virtual tour of B.C.'s forests and forest management.

Some visitors had specific technical inquiries; others just wanted to browse or have their picture taken in front of the B.C. forest and wilderness scenes.



The BC Market Outreach Network's interactive display booth.

On the last day of the congress, Network staff demonstrated the versatility of the booth when the congress exhibition area was opened to Quebec City residents. Since most Quebecers speak French as their first language, the videos and other features of the booth were switched to French for the day. This made the already popular venue even more popular, resulting in line-ups to enter the booth.

### KEEPING YOU UP TO DATE

Vancouver – The BC Market Outreach Network has updated its website, [www.bcforestinformation.com](http://www.bcforestinformation.com), and added more detail to its popular interactive maps so it is easier for visitors to examine protected areas, including special management zones and the amount of land protected by ecosystem.

A number of new fact sheets are also available on the website. They include reports on wildfire, mountain pine beetle and 2 special reports that examine the diversity of the forests in B.C.'s coast region and northern Interior region. A southern Interior forest report is in the works.