

Re: Feedback Private Managed Forests Lands Review and *Forests and Range Practices Act*

To Whom It May Concern:

To address many of the growing social, economic and environmental issues related to forestry, several forestry experts have suggested that the Province introduce major policy changes that will empower local communities in the planning and management of both public and private managed forests while also strengthening independent oversight.

One very promising model is outlined in the paper, *Restoring Forestry in BC: The Story of the Industry's Decline and the Case for Regional Management*, by former B.C. Forests Minister Bob Williams. Published through the Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives (January 2018) this paper suggests the following changes:

- Adopt a new model of regionally-based forestry management that will empower local communities to engage in long term planning of their regional economies and ecosystems,
- Create a Forest Charter passed by the Legislature that includes an overall vision, sustainability principles, and standards for our forests; and
- Appoint a Forester General to serve as a new independent officer who will report annually to the Legislature and work with the diverse regions of our province on local land planning processes.

For details on this model, please see the CCPA paper at:

<https://www.policyalternatives.ca/publications/reports/restoring-forestry-bc>

I would also note that the elected Council of the Municipality of North Cowichan has endorsed a resolution that will be debated at the upcoming Union of BC Municipalities (UBCM) convention in September 2019 calling for the Province to explore the feasibility of adopting a regionally-based forestry management model, creating a Forest Charter and appointing a Forester General.

I thank you for considering this feedback and look forward to hearing about the results of both the reviews of the Private Managed Forests Lands Program and the *Forests and Range Practices Act*.

Sincerely,

Rob Douglas, Councillor
Municipality of North Cowichan