

## 2017 BC NDP – BC GREENS CONFIDENCE AND SUPPLY AGREEMENT

### Forestry Related Commitments and Comments

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#### COMMITMENTS

The recent *Confidence and Supply Agreement* between the BC NDP and the BC Greens includes three (3) forestry related items:

- Revitalize the Environmental Assessment process in BC and review and address failures in the professional reliance model in BC so that British Columbians' faith in resource development can be restored.
- Reinvigorate our forest sector to improve both environmental standards and jobs for local communities.
- Implement an increase of the carbon tax by \$5 per tonne per year, beginning April 1, 2018 and expand the tax to fugitive emissions and to slash-pile burning.

Five (5) forestry priority issues were previously presented ([Political priority issues](#)) for consideration by the Political Parties. It is encouraging the *Confidence and Supply Agreement* includes commitments related to two (2) of these, specifically:

1) **Ensuring Professional Reliance performance meets community expectations**

Providing adequate and transparent compliance and enforcement of forest management practices that builds confidence that long-term forest stewardship is not being compromised.

2) **Generating rural community influence on strategic forest lands decision-making**

Removing barriers and providing Government leadership to encourage growth and innovation of the secondary wood manufacturing sector.

#### COMMENTS

It is recognized the commitment statements are general in nature, implementation can be interpreted several ways and the previous HFHC recommended priorities included additional components. However, it is encouraging the intent of the commitments appears to be consistent with the recommendations generated through the HFHC community dialogue.

The increase in carbon tax associated with “slash-pile burning” could be an incentive to utilize more of the logging residue for bio-energy and secondary wood manufacturing. However, the barriers to the utilization of this fibre must also be addressed to achieve the reduction in emissions. Together these actions could create local jobs and contribute to both community economic development and diversification. The commitment to reinvigorating the forest sector has the potential to increase community economic development and jobs through advancing secondary wood manufacturing in communities. Given both Parties committed to increase secondary wood manufacturing and the issue was identified during the HFHC dialogue (<http://bcforestconversation.com/wp-content/uploads/Restoring-BCs-forest-legacy-final-report.pdf>), action on this issue is expected.

A review of the forest sector Professional Reliance Model is encouraging. It has been in existence for 15 years and many lessons have been learned regarding its application. Although modifications have occurred over this period, many believe more has to be done. The commitment to “review and address failures” provides an opportunity for a more full evaluation and improvement of the Model. The Government is encouraged to look at the more detailed HFHC recommendations provided previously on this topic.

It is recognized there are many more long-term forest stewardship issues needing attention than those in the *Confidence and Supply Agreement*. However, it does provide an opportunity to bring forestry to the forefront in the political discussion over the next few years.

Assuming the BC NDP, with support by the BC Greens, become the Government, it is critical for people supporting the HFHC priority issues to ensure the more fully described recommendations are included in the expected future discussions at both the political and Ministry staff levels. The BC NDP election platform identified only one forest management commitment which was to “expand investments in reforestation.” Maintaining the BC forest asset requires much more as previously outlined in <http://bcforestconversation.com/wp-content/uploads/Long-term-stewardship-summary-report.pdf> !