

NEW DIRECTION

Resource Management Ltd.

March 1, 2018

Honourable Doug Donaldson
Minister of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations & Rural Development
PO Box 9049
Stn Prov Govt
Victoria, BC V8 W9E2

Dear Minister:

I was pleased to hear your comments at the ABCFP AGM and Conference on February 23, 2018. There were several that are consistent with those of myself and others over the years to advance long-term forest stewardship and involve communities to a greater extent. However, there is one essential piece missing.

The late Dr. Gordon Baskerville, former Dean of the Faculty of Forestry at the University of New Brunswick and later Professor at the Faculty of Forestry, University of BC, told us foresters: "decide what you want from the forest and then go to the tool box." When taken in the provincial context, this means the first step is to identify a vision for the forest and the associated goals. We in BC have always worked with the tool box (guidebooks, standards, etc.) in isolation of an official vision and goals. This has created a very complex and disjointed system due to reaction to issues versus a vision. In addition, it does not provide foresters with the clarity needed to move toward long-term forest stewardship.

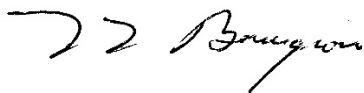
I was pleased to see the Chief Forester's office identify a vision in response to the earlier Auditor-General's report on lack of timber objectives. I am also encouraged by the information I have heard regarding the development a set of goals and objectives to complement the vision statement.

We have had vision statements from Chief Foresters in the past. However, they have never influenced the operational and strategic decision-making. This has given us a "warm and fuzzy feeling" but nothing else. It is my view this is because the statements are not legally binding. Without this direction, we will not progress to long-term forest stewardship in BC and resiliency of forest-dependent communities.

I encourage you to capitalize on the guidance documents from the Chief Forester's office and make them a legal driver in operations and strategic decision-making. This would go a long way in capitalizing on the wisdom and advice from one of the greatest forest management leaders in BC and Canada and establish BC as a national and international leader. We, including yourself, would be wise to take Dr. Baskerville's advice in "deciding what you want from the forest and then go to the tool box."

I am at your disposal, if you wish to discuss this matter further.

Yours truly,



Bill Bourgeois, PhD, RPF (Ret)
President, New Direction Resource Management Ltd.

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