

## NEW DIRECTION

Resource Management Ltd.

January 4, 2023

Minister Brenda Bailey  
Parliamentary Secretary Roly Russell

Sent via e-mail

Dear Minister Bailey:

I would like to commend you and your government for the program to help rural communities move toward resiliency. This priority initiative has been recognized for a number of years as outlined in the results of the 2011-2013 provincial dialogue initiative summarized in

<http://bcforestconversation.com/wp-content/uploads/Long-term-stewardship-summary-report.pdf>.

**However, to adequately meet the challenges of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century, a structured and integrated model of forest stewardship and wood manufacturing is essential.** This will result in a significant change from the chaotic approach applied through the last several decades which led to frustration of foresters, government staff and communities related to forest stewardship. I encourage you to work with the other forest related Ministries to build on current practice and implement the integrated nature of a critical infrastructure involving land use plans (provincial and First Nations), provincial, First Nations and community visions and other structures as outlined the [PowerPoint Presentation \(bcforestconversation.com\)](#) framework. Adopting this approach would require clarity across the province regarding the interconnection, of the various components, including community economic development and diversification. If we are to capitalize on the essential innovation of all participants and interested parties in the stewardship of the complex BC Forest Asset to meet government goals this will be required. We need all the input from committed and thoughtful forest knowledgeable individuals. Government leadership in this regard will be essential.

I encourage you and your associate forest related Ministers to adopt and communicate widely the primary provincial goal of achieving community resiliency associated with the stewardship of the BC Forest Asset. It has been clear over the years, communities require funding to establish themselves as a major contributor to this goal (<https://www.bcforestconversation.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/11/Forest-renewal-vision-framework-action-plan.pdf>). Now that we have political acceptance, we need to capitalize on it. The forest sector component of the Rural Economic Diversification and Infrastructure Program will help in this regard. I encourage you to consider the critical importance of community visions, preferably in partnership with local First Nations, within the framework by giving them priority in evaluating the Program proposals being submitted.

I would like to thank you for the opportunity to share my views. If you have any questions or need more information, please feel free to contact me.

Yours truly,



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