

MINISTER MANDATE FOREST PRIORITIES VS 21st CENTURY FOREST SECTOR VISION

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The following is a comparison of the *Healthy Forest-Healthy Communities (HFHC)* recommended 21st Century integrated forest sector vision items (<https://www.bcforestconversation.com/bc-forest-renewal-vision-framework-update/>) and the forest related mandate items provided to each Minister by the Premier.

MINISTERIAL MANDATE ITEMS

1) Minister Katrina Conroy mandate forest items

- a) Continue work to **update and modernize forest policy and legislation** to ensure a competitive, sustainable future for forest communities, Indigenous peoples, workers, and companies.
- b) Lead the **transition of our forestry sector from high-volume to high-value production**, increasing the value-added initiatives of our forest economy, including by making mass timber a priority in public buildings moving forward.
- c) Support the Minister of Jobs, Economic Recovery, and Innovation to **advance the mass timber action plan**.
- d) Working with industry and labour, **dedicate a specific portion of the annual allowable cut toward higher value producers** who can demonstrate their ability to create new jobs for workers in B.C.
- e) Continue collaborating with the forest industry and stakeholders to **implement the Interior Forest Sector Renewal process** and the Coast Forest Sector Revitalization Initiative.
- f) **Plant more trees** for a healthy industry and province and continue to **make significant investments in forest health, wildfire protection, silviculture, and revitalizing our forests**.
- g) **Champion innovation in our forestry sector that aligns with CleanBC** objectives and improves sector efficiency.
- h) **Implement the recommendations of the Old Growth Strategic Review** in collaboration with Indigenous leaders, labour, industry, and environmental groups to protect more old-growth stands – in addition to the 353,000 hectares protected in September 2020.

2) Parliamentary Secretary Nathan Cullen mandate forest items

- a) With support from the Minister of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development, bring forward a plan to **create a new Ministry for Lands and Natural Resource**

Operations that will develop and implement land use policies that support B.C.'s goals for economic activity, environmental sustainability and reconciliation with Indigenous peoples.

- b) Support people and businesses, with a focus on regional and rural communities, in our government's COVID-19 response and recovery.
- c) With support from the Parliamentary Secretary for Environment, lead work with neighbouring jurisdictions to cooperatively **develop and invest in new strategies aimed at better protecting our shared wildlife and habitat corridors, including work to implement the Together for Wildlife Strategy.**
- d) In collaboration with Indigenous partners, communities and stakeholders continue to **modernize land-use planning for B.C.s ecosystems, rivers, lakes, forests and provincial public land and waters.**
- e) Support the work of the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy to protect clean water, including through the **creation of a Watershed Security Strategy** and the associated Watershed Security Fund

3) Minister Ravi Kahlon mandate forest items

- a) **Lead the Office of Mass Timber Implementation** and, with support from the Minister of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development, advance the mass timber action plan.

4) Minister George Heyman mandate forest items

- a) Continue to work with partners to **protect species at risk** and work collaboratively with other ministries to **protect and enhance B.C.'s biodiversity.**

MATCHING VISION RECOMMENDATIONS WITH MINISTERIAL MANDATE

PRIORITIES (Abbreviated mandate priorities are included in the brackets)

1) Moving toward community resiliency (*update and modernize forest policy and legislation*)

- a) Government to adopt the 3 components (long-term forest stewardship, diversified forest resources sector and knowledgeable community) and provide support that will help communities move toward resiliency.

2) Regulatory infrastructure (*update and modernize forest policy and legislation*)

- a) Government to develop legally binding resource management and extraction principles in the Forest Act
- b) Government to adopt legally binding long-term forest management and wood manufacturing vision statements as part of a nested and integrated regulatory system.
- c) Government to review legislative, regulatory and policy instruments associated with the forest sector with the objective of integrating and updating them to meet the Provincial visions for long-term forest stewardship, wood manufacturing and community resiliency.

- 3) Regional wood manufacturing cluster model (transition of our forestry sector from high-volume to high-value production, advance the mass timber action plan)**
- a) Government adopt the “regional cluster model” as the basis for increasing sustainable wood manufacturing.
 - b) Government to adopt policies and assistance programs that encourage the creation of regional wood manufacturing clusters consistent with the composition of the wood supply.
 - c) Government to modify and clarify existing legislation, regulations, and policies to create a strong investment climate to encourage investment in secondary wood manufacturing.
 - d) Government to identify the barriers in achieving the new manufacturing sector and create small working groups consisting of knowledgeable, innovative, and collaboratively independent specialists to identify solutions to overcoming the barriers.
- 4) Community visions (dedicate a specific portion of the annual allowable cut toward higher value producers)**
- a) Government to provide financial and guidance support to communities to identify strategic actions to move toward economic diversification and community resiliency.
 - b) Government to initiate a program, to support financially and through guidance, regional rural Indigenous and Non-Indigenous communities to collaboratively develop long-term forest stewardship and wood manufacturing visions.
- 5) Long-term forest stewardship practices (implement the Interior Forest Sector Renewal process, plant more trees, make significant investments in forest health, wildfire protection, silviculture, revitalizing our forests, champion innovation in our forestry sector that aligns with CleanBC, modernize land-use planning, creation of a Watershed Security Strategy)**
- a) Government to require tenure holders to develop spatially and temporally explicit Strategic Plans at the landscape unit level to replace the Forest Stewardship Plans.
 - b) Government to expedite the land use planning update process to provide the basis for moving toward community resiliency with consideration of the reconciliation requirements.
 - c) Government to adopt the integration of old growth values as part of the new forest sector vision framework.
 - d) Government to adopt a nested-integrated approach to the monitoring of forest management practices.
 - e) Government to ensure sufficient Ministry staff and resources are available to adequately monitor forest practices and overcome the deficiencies noted by the FPB and the BC Ombudsman.

- f) Government: a) To evaluate the required funding for providing a forest resources inventory that is necessary to achieve well-managed forests, and b) To implement a strategic action plan to provide sustainability of the funding for the inventories over a 10-year period.

6) Community knowledge (no mandate item)

- a) Government to initiate a forest knowledge extension initiative to develop and maintain a community forest culture with an emphasis on rural communities using knowledgeable and trustworthy experts in the various fields.

7) Research (no mandate item)

- a) Government to engage with other research institutions to build a BC cooperative and collaborative model for forest related research in to meet the needs of the current and future BC forest asset decision-making.

SUMMARY

Although the Premier has given direction to the Ministers on priority actions that would contribute to achieve the recommended HFHC vision, they lack details and especially integration. Continuing to move in this direction will, at best, result in segments of an integrated vision but will not capitalize on the full potential of the actions. Government still fails to provide legally binding forest resources management principles and a vision for the 21st Century forest. A person can only guess as to what Government envisions the 21st Century BC forest should resemble. This does not help forest managers or regulators in moving to a desired future forest. The principles and vision guidance are critical to moving forward and achieving the full potential of the BC forest asset and its contribution to community resiliency. More leadership is needed from Government.