

April 25, 2007

Honourable Rich Coleman
Minister of Forests and Range and Minister Responsible for Housing
Parliament Buildings
Victoria BC
V8V 1X4

Dear Minister Coleman:

RE: Staff support for a full-time Junior Forest Warden position

As you recall, the Executive of the Association of BC Forest Professionals (ABCFP) met with you in Vancouver on March 30 to discuss a variety of issues. At this meeting we requested that the Ministry of Forests and Range (MoFR) support a full-time staff position for the Junior Forest Wardens (JFW) of British Columbia. As you suggested, we are making that request in writing.

We share a common concern with respect to present and future recruitment into the profession of forestry. The combination of a smaller pool of young people entering the workforce and a high level of retirements occurring in the next decade means that forestry will be competing with all other trades and professions for the best qualified young adults.

The most efficient way to recruit people into forestry is to get them interested in natural resource science at an early age. The perfect tool to spark early interest in forestry is the Junior Forest Wardens.

Many Forest Service employees and ABCFP members have been inspired to pursue careers in forestry because of their involvement with the Junior Forest Wardens. The JFW program mandate is met through weekly meetings, weekend campouts/activities, national campouts and visits to established children/youth camps. JFW activities include:

- Outdoor recreation (hiking, canoeing, snowshoeing, camping, orienteering, rock climbing and cross-country skiing).
- Special projects (Christmas tree farms, nesting boxes, salmon enhancement, waterway cleanup, campsite development and trail maintenance).
- Tours (active logging sites, tree nurseries, ecological and forestry centres, mills and wildlife rehabilitation centres).
- Community events (parades, mall displays, National Forest Week, fairs/exhibitions, pitch-in week and park interpretive activities).

The JFW program in BC is currently operating two clubs. In contrast, Alberta has 55 active clubs with over 1,000 members and 700 volunteers. The difference is due to the Alberta Provincial Government's initial support of five Junior Forest Warden positions to get the program off the ground.

Now is the perfect time to organize the 'rebirth' of the JFW legacy in BC. We are asking for the Ministry of Forests and Range to support one full-time position that will promote, expand and implement the JFW program.

The ABCFP would be happy to encourage its members to become involved with the JFW program to augment the MoFR-sponsored JFW staff position.

Thank you for considering supporting this important recruitment initiative. If you need information to proceed with a Junior Forest Warden FTE implementation, please contact Karen Haasjes, RPF, Practices Forester, BCTS Chinook Business Area (604-898-2173 or Karen.Haasjes@gov.bc.ca). Karen is President of the JFW Association of BC. You can also go to www.juniorforestwardens.com for further information.

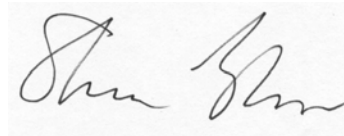
We would be happy to answer any questions or provide more information.

We look forward to hearing your decision.

Yours truly,



Paul Knowles, RPF, ABCFP President



Sharon L. Glover, ABCFP Executive Director

For:

Junior Forest Wardens of BC
Truck Loggers Association
Evans Lake Forest Education Society
Gerry Burch RPF (Ret)
Michel Vallee RPF, Malaspina University College Professor and Chair, Vancouver Island
Section, Canadian Institute of Forestry
Doug Stables, RPF, National President, Canadian Institute of Forestry

CC Doug Konkin, Deputy Minister
Karen Haasjes, RPF, President of JFW Association
Truck Loggers Association
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