



March 14, 2008

Dear ABCFP Member:

**The Advocacy Increment** e-newsletter will be published periodically for members of the Association of BC Forest Professionals. It contains information about the ABCFP's advocacy efforts. Back issues of this newsletter will be available on the association's website.

[www.abcfp.ca](http://www.abcfp.ca)

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## CONTENTS

- [1. FORESTRY ROUNDTABLE UPDATE](#)
  - [2. ABCFP CONTRIBUTES TO 90-DAY REGULATORY REVIEW](#)
  - [3. ABCFP ARGUES AGAINST REMOVING PRIVATE LAND FROM FOREST LAND MANAGEMENT](#)
  - [4. ABCFP SUPPORTS FUTURE FOREST ECOSYSTEM INITIATIVE](#)
  - [5. HIGH RETENTION HARVESTING GUIDELINES COMING](#)
  - [6. RESPONSE TO SAFETY REPORT COMING](#)
  - [7. QUESTIONS OR COMMENTS?](#)
  - [8. UNSUBSCRIBE](#)
- 

### 1. FORESTRY ROUNDTABLE UPDATE

In January, Premier Gordon Campbell announced the creation of a Working Roundtable on Forestry which would tackle the question of how to build a stronger, sustainable forest industry in BC. The ABCFP requested that the profession of forestry, recognized as a trusted and reliable source of information about forests, be named to the forestry roundtable; however, representatives of industry, academia and First Nations were selected instead. ABCFP members still have an opportunity to contribute to the roundtable's findings by participating in community meetings. For more information, visit the news release on the Ministry of Forests and Range (MFR) website:

[http://www2.news.gov.bc.ca/news\\_releases\\_2005-2009/2008FOR0028-000326.htm](http://www2.news.gov.bc.ca/news_releases_2005-2009/2008FOR0028-000326.htm)

[Back to Contents](#)

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### 2. ABCFP CONTRIBUTES TO 90-DAY REGULATORY REVIEW

In January, Premier Gordon Campbell announced that the provincial government would undertake a 90-day review of all regulations affecting forestry. The regulations under review are not necessarily 'owned' by the MFR as they could cover everything from

cutting permits to offshore log booming. In early March, the ABCFP was asked to provide feedback on this process. Because of the tight timeframe, senior staff immediately asked for input from all committee members. Mike Larock, RPF, director of professional practice and forest stewardship will combine all comments into one submission from the ABCFP.

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[Back to Contents](#)

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### **3. ABCFP ARGUES AGAINST REMOVING PRIVATE LAND FROM FOREST LAND MANAGEMENT**

The ABCFP investigated the issue of private land removal from forest management on behalf of the public and members and has contacted the various government ministries responsible for private managed forest land. To date most of the private land committed to TFL tenure has been removed from schedule A of the TFL agreements. Also, much of the managed forest land removed from the TFL agreements remains in managed forest land class of the *Private Managed Forest Land Act*. At the request of the office of the Auditor General of BC, executive director Sharon Glover and director of professional practice and forest stewardship Mike Larock, RPF, met with the Auditor General's representatives to discuss the issue. The message they delivered is that the profession of forestry is always opposed to the removal of forest land from forest management, whether that forest land is public or private. It is necessary to balance present and future values of society against the capacity of the land to provide for those values. In addition, immediate past president Paul Knowles made a similar statement to members at ExpoFor 2008 in Penticton.

[Back to Contents](#)

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### **4. ABCFP SUPPORTS FUTURE FOREST ECOSYSTEM INITIATIVE**

The association recognizes that BC forest ecosystems will respond to a changing climate and the resulting trends may be different than current patterns and uses of ecosystem products. Understanding the science of the changing climate and the effects on our ecosystems is a fundamental step of the initiative. Developing future scenarios to estimate the effects of climate change are important if we are to successfully adapt our planning and forests in the future. In recognition of the importance of the provincial government's Future Forest Ecosystem Initiative (FFEI), the ABCFP attended the signing of a research agreement between FPInnovations and the UBC Faculty of Forestry.

The FFE initiative outcomes are important for all members to follow in the coming months and years. The ABCFP encourages members to consider the findings and participate in the dialogue. It is also important for everyone to follow the progress of FFEI, and we can do so by visiting the FFEI website:

[www.for.gov.bc.ca/hts/Future Forests/](http://www.for.gov.bc.ca/hts/Future_Forests/)

Related to the FFEI is the Ministry of Forests and Range's genetic resource management project. In 2007, the MFR and the Forest Genetics Council of BC undertook a Challenge Dialogue respecting the conservation and management of BC's forest tree genetic resources. Their final report, which contains a vision, scope, guiding principles, and objectives for guiding forest genetics activities over the next decade, is available online for review and comment at:

[http://www.for.gov.bc.ca/hti/grm/grm\\_dialogue.htm](http://www.for.gov.bc.ca/hti/grm/grm_dialogue.htm)

The ABCFP encourages members to comment on this report.

[Back to Contents](#)

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## 5. HIGH RETENTION HARVESTING GUIDELINES COMING

The ABCFP has reviewed the Forest Practices Report titled *High Retention Harvesting and Timber Sustainability on the British Columbia Coast* January 2008. We accept the findings of the board and will complete recommendation two identified by the board.

The professional practice committee has reviewed the report and established a subcommittee to draft a response and guidance for members. The guidance will be on using appropriate professional diligence in the design of high retention silvicultural prescriptions on the coast.

Members working on the coast in high retention strategies are strongly encouraged to study the work by the Coastal Region FRPA Implementation Team, in particular, the report called *Silvicultural System and Partial Cut Harvesting Issues in the Coast Forest Region 2006/2007 Monitoring Results* August 30, 2007 will be of interest. The report is available here: <http://www.for.gov.bc.ca/RCO/stewardship/CRIT/index.htm>

[Back to Contents](#)

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## 6. RESPONSE TO SAFETY REPORT COMING

The ABCFP is aware of the Auditor General's report on safety (*Preventing Fatalities and Serious Injuries in BC Forests: Progress Needed*) that was released in January and is currently examining it. Recommendation 9 specifically refers to the ABCFP. The ABCFP will report back to members on the report in the future.

[Back to Contents](#)

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## 7. QUESTIONS OR COMMENTS?

If you have questions or comments about the items mentioned in this e-newsletter or other communications activities, please contact:

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[Back to Contents](#)

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## 8. UNSUBSCRIBE

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[Back to Contents](#)

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