

B.C.'s Forest Sector: Working Together

Presentation for the BC Community
Forests Association AGM

Presentation Objectives

- Government Process – update
- Forest Sector Opportunities
 - Accomplishments to date
 - Next steps
- Dialogue: Growing Success for BC Community Forests



Government Process

During the next few weeks

- Extended caretaker period.
- Operational continuity:
 - Operational day-to-day decisions status quo;
 - No significant policy or spending decisions.
- Once Government is Confirmed:
 - Priority spending decisions brought forward;
 - Briefing on forest sector priorities;
 - Implementation of new government's policy agenda.

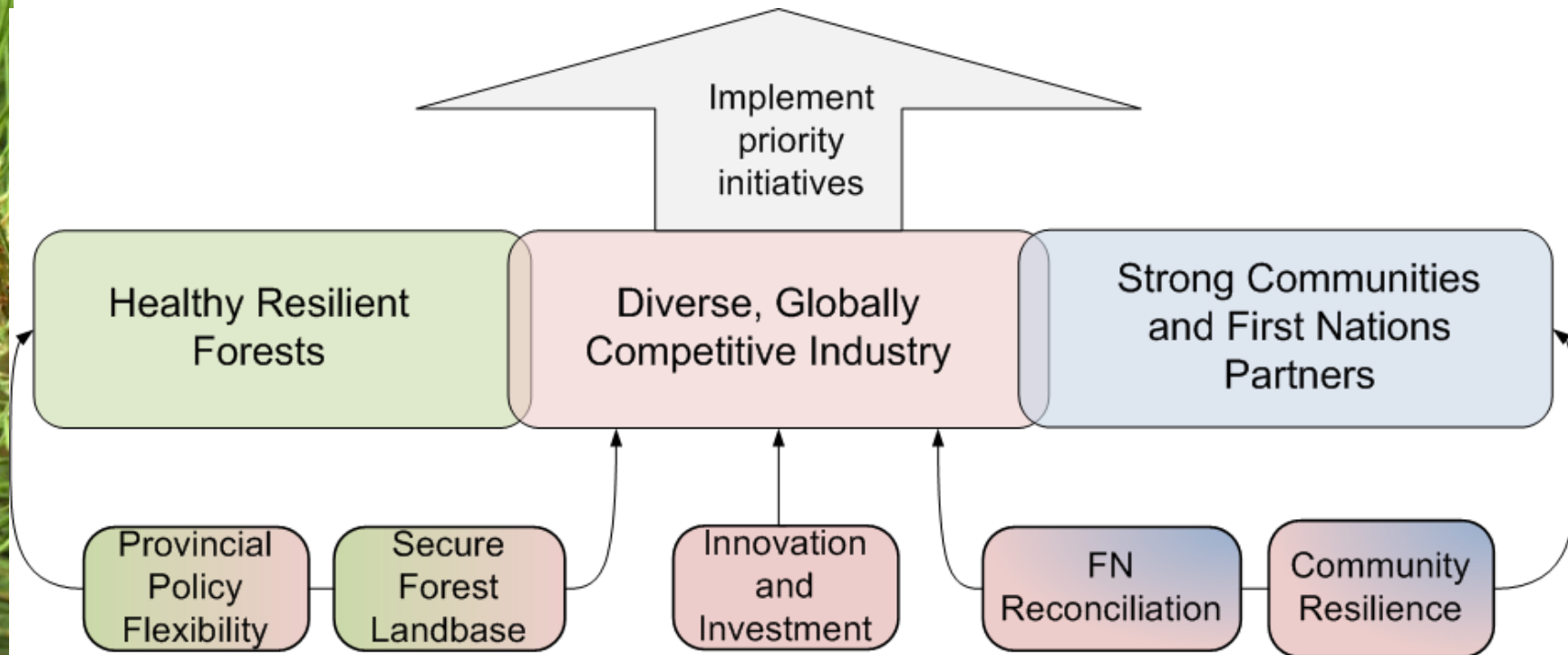
Forest Sector Competitiveness Agenda

- In August 2016, we released the Competitiveness Agenda
- B.C. has an advantage in market development
- The sector is challenged with:
 - rising costs;
 - market access;
 - global market uncertainty;
 - looming fibre supply reductions;
 - Impacts to forest-related employment.



Priority Themes

These interconnected goals provide the framework to support B.C.'s forest sector, encourage innovation and investment, and support rural communities throughout B.C.



Some Recent Milestones & Accomplishments

Rural Dividend Program to encourage economic diversification;

- Lower North Thompson Community Forest (\$100,000)
 - Value-Added Fibre Utilization project
- District of Sicamous (\$10,000)
 - Regional Community Forest Feasibility Study
- Fort Nelson First Nation / Northern Rockies Regional Municipality (\$50,000 per recipient)
 - Supporting Forest Economic Opportunities
- Additional community forests-based applications have been submitted for 3rd intake, with decisions expected late summer 2017.

Some Recent Milestones & Accomplishments

Value-Added

- Significant economic presence in small communities:
 - 153 mills in 85 communities with < 10,000 residents
 - 55 mills in communities with 10,000 -50,000 residents

Recent Actions:

- Request exemption for valued added products under a new softwood lumber agreement;
- Support open market access to competitive sale of timber maintaining BC Timber Sales' Category 2 program.
- Improve sector access to technical research information;
- Pilot program to improve access to the North American market for new value-added exporters (Rapid Market Response).
- Wood Secretariat.



Some Recent Milestones & Accomplishments

Wood Secretariat

- To provide a single point of contact between government and value-added sector to discuss issues, share information;
- The first meeting of the Secretariat was held March 15, 2017;
- Membership: Value Added and Specialty Saw Milling Association members, MIT, FLNRO, JTSTL, FII.

Wood Secretariat:

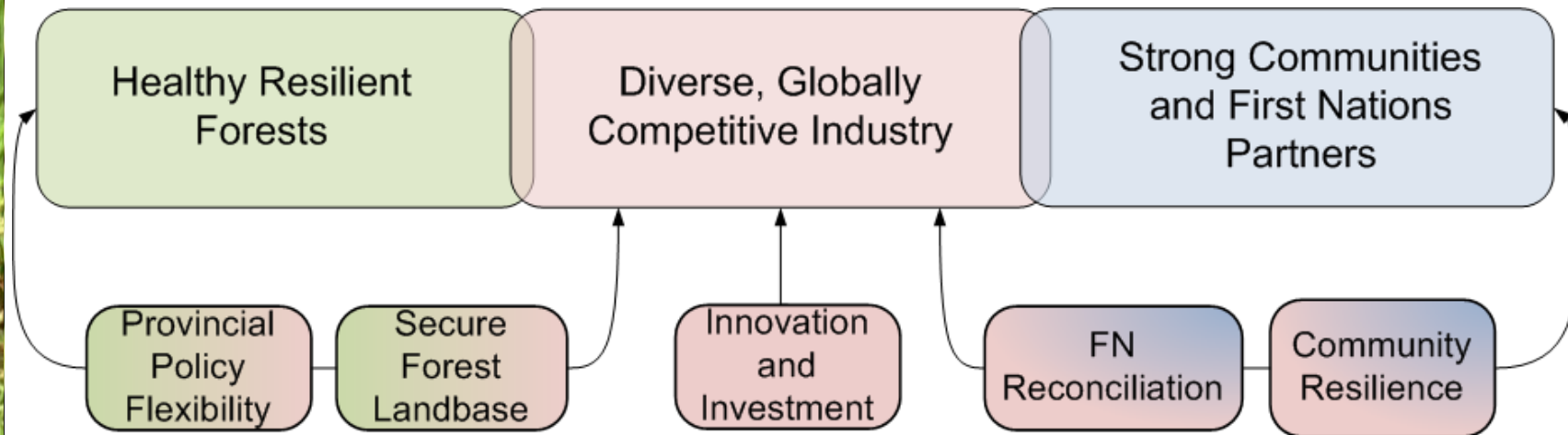
Collaborative focus on promoting the Value Added and Specialty Wood Manufacturing sector's competitiveness through actions designed to improve access to skills training, access to key markets, innovation and fibre.

Next Steps:

- July: Initial Ministerial briefings on sector priorities, if change in government
 - Confirm approach and priorities to reinvigorate B.C.'s forest sector and ensure a sustainable economy that works for B.C.;
 - Continued engagement with sector stakeholders;
 - Implementation of ongoing initiatives and development of new initiatives to support our forest economy in B.C.

QUESTION FOR BCCFA MEMBERS:

What are the policy priorities that you feel are most critical to ensuring growing success for community forests?





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