

North Area Planting Conference Call

April 24, 2020 11:59 AM

Agenda

1. **Introductions/Meeting format** (Mike McLachlan/John Huybers) [2mins](#)
2. **Provincial Overview** (Shane Berg, Deputy Chief Forester) [30 mins](#)
 - a. **Update**
 - b. **Q&A**
3. **NA update** (John Huybers) [5mins](#)
 - a. Next steps
4. **Provincial Operations** (Neil Hughes/Kerri Brownie/Al Powelson) [5 mins](#)
 - a. BC Timber Sales/ Forests For Tomorrow/ Forest Carbon Initiative update
5. **Round table/Final questions** [3 mins](#)
 - a. Type any Questions in Instant Message box or email to Mike McLachlan in advance of the meeting

Discussion:

Provincial Overview:

- Two links sent out prior to the meeting:
 - a. Provincial health Order and
 - b. Industrial Camp Standard and Guidance for Silviculture Camps
- Key documents sent out prior to the meeting:
 - Key Messages
 - Official gov't Q&A (short and long form)
- Key to starting your plant is having a COVID-19 coordinator identified; if you have five different camps, you need five different coordinators (one for each camp). Coordinators (e.g. first aid attendants) will be key figures in submitting the attestation form, which confirms that the contractor and coordinator have an infection prevention and control protocol (not reviewed or approved). Form to be available this afternoon.
- Attestation will confirm that you understand and are adhering to the Ministerial Order and the silviculture guidance document, and will speak to which measures are being taken to protect employees, physical distancing, hygiene and cleaning, etc.
- Regarding designing your hygiene measure, the Industrial Camp Standard and Guidance for Silviculture Camps document will help to design infection prevention and control protocol.
- You do not have to submit the protocol; rather you need to acknowledge that it exists.
- Once all boxes have been checked on the attestation form, you will be given a reference number. This action will trigger an inspection.
 - Key consideration before planting under your reference number is S(7), which covers a situation in which accommodation is in use and for a worksite in operation on the day in which the Order is issued (April 23, 2020). See S(7a) and S7(b).
 - If you are moving camps and you have already been planting (e.g. moving from Grand Forks to 100 Mile House), you will need an inspection prior to starting. The intent is to make inspections such that they do not delay your planting season. Major shifts in the timing we thought you'd be planting could result in delays; showing up earlier could result in a delay.
- Licensees have the responsibility to make sure contractors are fulfilling their contracts (e.g. species, planting quality, other details). BCTS, FFT etc. will be checking on the camps.
- The contractor or COVID-19 coordinator of the planting operation is responsible for completing the attestation document, not the licensee.
- Regarding FNs potentially wanting to participate in security or be involved, the issue is visibility and who to pick. The province will be contracting out to one company that will be handling all of it. This avoids many possible issues.

- Trigger for knowing when the inspection is going to come will come through attestation form, as well as the spreadsheet. Please let us know when you are going somewhere and when you are going to be there. We will coordinate that schedule; we need to know where you're going to be. The attestation form.

Security:

- If you are in a hotel or motel, there will be a requirement to have a security company on site to confirm that you are adhering to physical distancing guidelines. These security companies will be paid for by the province; they will not have authority to stop you, they are there to observe and report. They will have authority to walk the halls, check things out, etc.
- Independent FLNRORD-paid security is not required for remote camps or private accommodation.
- There will be no security for planters working out of their homes (if there are a large number of planters living in a home, there may need to be arrangements made).
- Confirmation: there will be no security in remote tent camps; if you are staying in a cabin camp (e.g. 10 cabins), the current assumption is that security will be sent.
- Regarding availability of money for security in rural native communities, this will depend on individual planting situations and proximity to the community
- Regarding security for AirBnB, if there are only a few people, no; however, if there are 20 or so, we may need to look at it.

North Area Update:

- More communication with local gov't (First Nations, mayors, regional district) will likely happen in the coming days.
- Communication will likely provide coordinator and communication details for communities to reach out to individuals who can provide specific details.
- Some communities are very nervous about planting in their area so the idea is to hold off on communication at this time (not to seem like salespeople).
- Many have already received the Order and the MoH document.
- If you are dealing with a hesitant Band or community, let FLNRORD know so a more coordinated plan can be formulated.
- Regarding whether a DM will send an email similar to the one received by those in meeting attendance to First Nations, it is expected that communication will go out early next week. This communications is likely to include a list of whom to contact in the event that they have specific concern.
- Regarding clarification on whom to contact regarding inspection dates, the attestation form (web based) will trigger this. It is possible that a phone conversation could get this moving in lieu of an on-site inspection.
- A calendar invite will follow today's (April 24) call regarding a call for next week.
- Regarding contract amendments, now that contractors understand the expectations, more informed, specific conversations can occur.
- If licensees have questions, Kerri Brownie would be a good contact, could provide insight as far as what BCTS is doing.
- Meeting attendees will receive a revised spreadsheet in the near-term. It is important to make sure all the details are correct; right now the hope is the master spreadsheet and the details therein are hopefully 80-90% accurate.
- Mike to setup a call for next week and to provide correspondence regarding updated spreadsheet request.

Question & Answer:

Q: Now that the Ministry of Health has released the “Protecting Employees, Contractors and Employers Working in the Silviculture Sector During the COVID-19 Pandemic” has been released, once updated, could BCTS make available their two BMP for planters and forestry field workers as well as the camp checklist.

A: This can be shared over the coming days. Guidelines and orders were just released so it may take some time to ensure all these documents are consistent.

Q: What is the role of licensees compared to the role of contractors?

A: Inspections themselves will be completed by gov't. Contractors are required to complete the "attestation".

Q: Are "attestation numbers" and inspections required for companies that are wholly staffed by local planters who are commuting to the block each day from their homes?

A: Yes. Every planting operation will require an Infection Control Protocol which is confirmed on the website.

Q: The Q & A mentions "Government is looking at measures to support planting operations to make sure safety precautions are met in a consistent manner". When can we expect to learn more about any financial supports?

A: The purpose of the order and the guidance is to ensure safety. The Deputy Minister is working on this file personally and is working with industry on this.

Q: What is the plan for communicating with municipalities and FN

A: New release happened earlier today. Minister and the Chief Forester are providing a media briefing today. Communications will go out to UBCM, First Nations etc.

Q: Who will be doing the security?

A: Security will be handled by one large security firm with the responsibility for the entire province.

Q: Could you clarify who we contact to confirm the camp inspection date request.

A: The attestation form (web form) will trigger the camp inspection dates. FLRNORD will coordinate the inspection dates.

Q: Who are the Covid-19 coordinators?

A: The covid coordinators are a contract responsibility - typically it will probably be the first aid attendant

Q: Is a tent camp on private land going to require security?

A: Camps do not "require" security. Government is arranging for security where certain operations have camps within or close to communities that may warrant it. The coordination, arrangements and cost will be on government.