



LOCAL LOGS

LOCAL JOBS

Wednesday September 18, 2024

MEDIA RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE September 18, 2024 – Today, forestry communities from across British Columbia’s northern and central regions came together to call on the Government of B.C. to come together, work with municipalities and First Nations to fix the forest sector.

In ‘*Modernizing Forestry Policy in BC – June, 2021*’ p.13 point 3. *Increased community participation*, the Government states:

“As rural communities strive to define their economic future, the province will review tenure options to communities with a clear plan to manage local forests for forestry, keeping the fibre moving for manufacturing and keeping jobs within communities.”

The assembled group of Mayor’s, Councillors, Regional District Chairs and guests are calling on the Government of B.C. to:

- 1) Commence a structured tenure redistribution in accordance with ‘Modernizing Forestry Policy in BC, and ensure Municipalities and First Nations are empowered to manage our timber supply;
- 2) Expedite the expansion of Community Forests in BC;
AND
- 3) Work with Municipalities and First Nations to implement fire safe strategies that mitigate wildfires through regionally approved fire management practices.

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Quotes:

Mayor Joan Atkinson, District of Mackenzie

“We are in desperate need of tenure redistribution in this Province, putting to rest the damage that commenced under previous governments when appurtenancy was removed without guardrails.”

Mayor Shane Brienen, District of Houston

“We have forestry companies calling tenure their assets, while the Government of B.C. call our forests the asset of all British Columbians. It’s time for this to be defined, and for Municipalities and First Nations to be empowered to manage the forests that we all live, work and can once again thrive in.”

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