



# Forest Revenue Audit Program

## Legislative changes to the *Forest Act*

### Overview

Gives Ministry of Small Business and Revenue authority to audit, inspect and assess:

- the person who harvests the Crown timber, and
- a person who acquires, has acquired, deals in or has dealt in the Crown timber harvested

## **Audit/Inspection Powers**

In order to ensure compliance, authority is given to SBR staff to:

- Enter on land or premises
- Enter a residence with consent or a warrant
- Inspect, audit or copy records
- Demand information

## **Authority to Estimate Stumpage**

SBR may assess estimated stumpage if it determines one or more of the following occurred:

- the Crown timber was not: scaled, scaled correctly, reported in a scale, or reported correctly in scale
- the volume or quality of Crown timber was calculated based on incorrect information
- the incorrect rate was applied, or
- Crown timber information was not submitted or was not accurate

SBR is authorized to assess the person that harvests and/or any person that deals in or acquires the timber

## **Penalties and Interest**

SBR may assess penalties if a person contravenes the Act or made false or deceptive statements

SBR will assess interest from the date that the stumpage should have been paid

## **Assessments**

SBR must issue a written notice of assessment for the amount of stumpage, interest and penalties assessed

SBR must not include a period greater than 6 years unless there is wilful default or fraud.

# Disputes and Appeals

If a person disputes an assessment they can:

- appeal to the SBR minister within 90 days of the date of the assessment
- appeal to the BC Supreme Court within 90 days of the date of the minister's decision

Giving notice of appeal does not affect the requirement to pay the amount due