



## PRESS RELEASE

### ***Premier Supports Funding of the Forestry Service Providers Compensation Fund***

**January 22, 2015, Victoria** – Today Premier Christy Clark stepped up and championed the forest industry when she reaffirmed her support for funding the Forestry Service Providers Compensation Fund recognizing the Fund’s significance to the forest industry and BC’s rural communities.

“This is another step towards building real contractor sustainability,” said Don Banasky, TLA President. “I thank Premier Christy Clark for listening to our concerns and I will be looking for a specific funding mechanism when the government delivers another balanced budget.”

“There is a demonstrated need for this fund,” said David Elstone, TLA Executive Director. “We’ve already seen one claim processed last year and there are four new claims seeking compensation. This illustrates that even in today’s markets an ongoing funding mechanism is critical for contractor sustainability,” said Elstone.

Forest contractors are small, locally owned businesses that create jobs in BC’s rural communities. When these companies are left in the lurch by a tenure holder that becomes insolvent, the whole community suffers. “We’ve seen this happen more than once,” said Banasky. “And we know that the ripples are felt throughout our communities.”

*The TLA (Truck Loggers Association) represents over 440 independent forest contractors and their suppliers operating on the coast of British Columbia. Our membership supports thousands of workers and, along with other independent contractors, accounts for close to 90 per cent of the trees harvested on the coast. The TLA promotes a thriving, sustainable coastal forest industry in BC.*

– 30 –

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