

READY FOR OPPORTUNITIES IN 2021



It's a new year with a newly re-elected government. Congratulations to our elected representatives in northwest BC: Jennifer Rice (North Coast), Ellis Ross (Skeena) and Nathan Cullen (Stikine), and to everyone who ran for office. Congratulations also to Katrine Conroy, the new Minister of Forests, Lands, Natural Resources Operations, and Rural Development. We look forward to a good working relationship with all our elected representatives, regardless of their political affiliations, and with the new provincial cabinet ministers.

Since we're looking to the future, it's always good to know what's been done in the past, so let's review what the North West Loggers' Association has been working on for its members and the communities of the northwest over the past year.

Cost drivers

Around this time last year, government reached a new awareness that contractor sustainability issues and operating costs for contractors and forest tenure holders were reaching a breaking point. Therefore, government started a cost driver process, engaging with contractors and tenure holders to identify significant savings (on the order of \$30/m³). We provided many ideas for cost reductions through improved permitting and consultation processes and timeframes, changes to policies, and encouragement and incentives for better utilization. The pandemic slowed this initiative down, but the issues have not gone away and we are continuing to encourage the reinvigoration of this process.

Stumpage

Stumpage could be considered part of the cost driver process, but deserves its own heading. We have not been advocating for a change to how stumpage is calculated; instead, we have been encouraging a modification to the way stumpage rates are tracked and collected, allowing low (negative) stumpage rates to offset higher (positive) rates. This will encourage improved planning, incent better use of the resource, and reduce pressure on the forests that are closer to sawmills.

Tenure reform

We continue to inform people that northwest BC is an organic example of tenure reform; most of the tenures here have transitioned to community or First Nations ownership. We have good examples of tenure holders working together and with government agencies.

Contractor Sustainability Review

Together with the Truck Loggers Association and Interior Logging Association, we have continued to engage, monitor and advocate for the implementation of the recommendations of the Contractor Sustainability Review.

Old Growth Strategic Review

We provided feedback to the Province's old-growth panel and strongly reminded them that old growth is not in short supply in northwest BC, and that we encourage proper land use and forestry planning so that we will always have old growth and functioning ecosystems.

First Nations

We have seen increased First Nations membership and continue to encourage First Nations involvement with contractors and economic development. For example, we were excited to see a fibre supply agreement signed between two local First Nation tenure holders and Skeena Sawmills in Terrace, which improved stability for several of our members.

Economic stability through wood-based renewable energy

We have met with multiple parties to explain the benefits that will come from utilizing our fibre-quality wood such as reduced carbon release from open burning of woody waste, creation of 500 jobs, reduced stress on the social safety net, improved land use planning and a stable contractor base.

Terrace truck wash

We worked with multiple community-minded companies to upgrade the truck wash in Terrace. Thanks to everyone that donated time and materials! Available to

both members and non-members, the truck wash helps with equipment maintenance, improved safety and reducing the spread of invasive plants.

Log exports

We have continued to explain to decision makers that exports are not bad, as they allow for the continuation of domestic operations and sawmills.

Advocacy and messaging

We met with candidates in the provincial election, and in every instance we felt that our message was received—that forestry and logging are good for the region and provide for community stability. We also meet with, and act as a resource for, local, elected representatives. The NWLA has a good relationship with local tenure holders as well, and encourage a broad, holistic approach to our forest economy; a sustainable harvest of the forest profile will result in a sustainable contractor force, as well as prosperous, resilient and stable communities.

Going forward in 2021, the NWLA plans to continue to push forward on the issues that have not yet been fully resolved. In addition, we will cooperate with governments, tenure holders and communities on how to deal with the new normal that is resulting from the pandemic, and provide input on how to stimulate, incent, and encourage community and economic stability and resiliency, regardless of how long the pandemic is with us. In particular, we will be working on having the cost driver process reinvigorated and expanded to include considerations related to stumpage; the Contractor Sustainability Review recommendations being fully implemented; and incenting and encouraging improved and increased use of northwest forest resources through wood-based renewable energy.

Our message for you in 2021: North West Loggers, like our forests, are strong and growing, and we're ready for opportunities! 🌲

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