

# Over 275 forestry and labour leaders call for a path forward on old growth that supports healthy forests, good jobs and strong communities

Dear British Columbians,

An important conversation about old growth is happening across BC.

Together, we've been listening to what British Columbians have to say – workers, Indigenous partners, community members, families, friends and neighbours.

What we've heard is that while old growth may mean different things to different people, British Columbians care about the path forward.

People across this province care about the future – about conservation, keeping BC's forests healthy and helping tackle climate change. They also care about families and communities' wellbeing.

Collectively, we're proud to be part of BC's forest industry – a sector that puts paycheques in people's pockets, funds important public services, is recognized as a global leader in sustainable forest management and is delivering renewable low-carbon products that are good for the planet.

Our industry is made up of companies big and small – family owned, Indigenous owned, significant global players and specialty producers making products for niche markets – operating from communities throughout BC.

We are companies and workers that live and work in your community. We support nearly 10,000 local businesses – businesses that sell equipment and high-tech tools, who provide environmental, silviculture and contracted services. We eat in your restaurants, we volunteer in your communities and we contribute to the social fabric of our province in so many ways.

While the pandemic has challenged us all, our industry has been a bright light. We kept people working safely and continued to deliver more than \$4 billion in revenues to government over the last year – money that supports health care, education and the public services we all enjoy. In fact, the forest industry supports more than 100,000 good jobs in BC – including tens of thousands of jobs made possible by a modest old growth harvest.

With 75 percent of old growth forests already protected or outside the area where harvesting is allowed, we believe we can ensure old growth is preserved for future

generations while also providing opportunities to families and communities who depend on a small portion of BC's old growth for their livelihoods.

We can't do this without a fact-based, inclusive and balanced approach.

The forest industry has a proud history and we can have a bright future. We believe a positive path forward is possible.

We have been listening to the public conversation. Now our hope is that our voice will be heard too.

Signed,

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