

This report provides the latest information on mill openings, closures, disruptions, investments, and other mill events in British Columbia (B.C.). For the latest available list of active mills, please refer to the [Major Primary Timber Processing Facilities in British Columbia](#) page.

## Mill Investments/Ownership Changes

- On May 31, Canfor entered an agreement to purchase Elliot Sawmilling Co. in Estill, South Carolina, USA for a price of USD \$110 million. The Elliott plant has a production capacity of 210 million board feet (MMBDFT) and it has both large and small log lines.
- On April 1, Brian Fehr became the new owner of the Galloway Lumber, which the Nelson family had operated for 75 years. The new owner will retool the mill into a fabricating shop, sawmill timber mill and a cross laminated timber plant in the next two years, creating 36 job opportunities.
- On May 5, Pinnacle Renewable Energy announced its plan to invest CAD \$30 million to modernize its Williams Lake pellet plant. The facility upgrades will include replacing the baghouses with a modern cycle filter system and adding a low-temperature bed-drying system to minimize emissions.
- On June 24, Hampton Lumber invested CAD \$39 million to purchase Conifex's Fort St. James sawmill and associated forest license, affecting over 140 employees. Hampton Lumber announced its plan to resume operations in the next 12-24 months.

## Temporary Mill Curtailments

Weak market, fibre supply constraints and higher log costs continued to challenge B.C. forest industry. Many major sawmills, pulp/paper, plywood/veneer and OSB mills on the coast and in the interior have imposed curtailments/closures. Major companies (e.g., Canfor, Conifex West Fraser, Western Forest Products, Tolko, Interfor, Aspen Planners, and Paper Excellence) have announced a series of curtailments at their B.C. mills. The tables below summarize those mill curtailments/closures based on the publicly available information.

This report defines mill curtailments/closures for the following three categories :

- Temporary curtailments— have a defined end date from information sources;
- Indefinite curtailments— do not have a defined end date and include shift eliminations or partial mill closures; and
- Permanent mill closures— permanent mill closures or shutdowns of the entire mill.

**Table 1: Temporary Curtailments**

Company	Location	Mill Type	Effective Date/Period	Downtime Period	Announced Capacity and Employment Impact
Aspen Planners	Merritt	Lumber	15-Apr	2 weeks	n/a
Paper Excellence	Powell River	Pulp and Paper	19-Apr	2 weeks – Paper only	n/a
Canfor	Wyndell, Bear Lake, Chetwynd, Elko, Fort St. John, Houston, Isle Pierre, Prince George, Radium, Plateau, Vavenby	Lumber	29-Apr	1-week- all B.C. sawmills 2 weeks - Isle Pierre and Mackenzie sawmills	100 MMBDFT
Taans	Graham Island		03-May	5 weeks	n/a
Conifex	Fort St. James	Lumber	06-May	4 weeks	14 MMBDFT
	Fort St. James and Mackenzie	Lumber	06-May	3 weeks	10 MMBDFT

**Sources:** Company news releases, media reports, analytical information, and government contacts. Please note this list is not comprehensive and may miss some events that occurred in small mills.

## Quarterly Mill Status Report - Q2 & Q3 2019

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Aspen Planners	Merritt	Lumber	20-May	2 weeks	n/a
Western Forest Products	Ladysmith	Lumber	06-May	2 weeks	80 workers
West Fraser	Chasm	Lumber	16-May	2 weeks	24 MMBDFT
Tolko	Armstrong and Soda Creek	Lumber	27-May	4 weeks	n/a
Interfor	B.C. Interior Castlegar, Chase, Grand Forks and Delta	Lumber	01-Jun	One month	20 MMBDFT
West Fraser	Chetwynd, Quesnel, Williams Lake, Smithers and Fraser Lake	Lumber	01-Jun	1 week	30 MMBDFT
Western Forest Products	Duke Point	Lumber	07-Jun	2 weeks	n/a
	Saltair	Lumber	07-Jun	1 week	n/a
Canfor	All B.C. except WynnWood Bear Lake, Chetwynd, Elko, Fort St. John, Houston, Isle Pierre, Prince George, Radium, Plateau, Vavenby	Lumber	12-Jun	Two weeks curtailment in all mills Houston and Plateau - 4 weeks Mackenzie - 6 weeks	200 MMBDFT
Canfor	Taylor	Pulp and Paper	29-Jun	Approximate 13-week curtailment till September 30	n/a
Canfor	Intercontinental and Northwood in Prince George	Pulp and Paper	June and August	Curtailments in July and August	75,000 Tonnes NBSK pulp
Western Forest Products	Ladysmith	Lumber	24-Jul	1 week	67 workers
Conifex	Mackenzie	Lumber	29-Jul	3 weeks	n/a
Catalyst	Powell River	Paper	20-Jul	Two paper machines curtailed for three weeks till Aug 12	n/a
Tolko	Armstrong	Lumber,	17-Aug	2 weeks	700 workers
	Lavington	Plywood and Veneer	17-Aug	2 weeks	n/a
	Kamloops	Plywood and Veneer	24-Aug	1 week	n/a
Sinclair Group	Prince George, Vanderhoof, and Fort St. James	Lumber	19-Aug	2 weeks	25 MMBDFT

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Canfor	Houston, Bear Lake, Prince George and Fort St. John	Lumber	03-Sep	1 week	n/a
West Fraser	Quesnel and Williams Lake	Plywood	n/a	2 weeks	9 million square feet
Canfor	Prince George	Pulp and Paper	14-Sep	2 weeks	n/a
Paper Excellence	Powell River	Paper	15-Sep	2 weeks	n/a
Mercer	Celgar	Pulp	20-Sep	4 weeks	43,000 tonnes
Paper Excellence	Crofton	Pulp and Paper	26-Sep	2 weeks	70 workers

**Table 2: Indefinite Curtailments**

Company	Location	Mill Type	Effective Date/Period	Announced Capacity and Employment Impact	Closure Details
Aspen Planers	Merritt	Lumber	03-Jun	3.7 MMBDFT Capacity loss; 150-250 direct and indirect workers	2 shifts to 1 shift
Tolko	Kelowna	Lumber	12-Jun	90 workers	2 shifts to 1 shift
Western Forest Products	Chemainus	Lumber	17-Jun	n/a	Reduced work hours from 120 hours/week to 80 hours/week
Canfor	Mackenzie	Lumber	18-Jul	250 employees affected	Whole mill
Louisiana Pacific	Peace Valley	OSB	09-Aug	190 workers	n/a
Norbord	100 Mile House	OSB	27-Aug	160 workers	Whole mill
Western Forest Products	Ladysmith	Lumber	Aug	67 workers	Whole mill
West Fraser	100 Mile House	Lumber	Q3	34 workers	3 shifts to 2 shifts
Canfor	Houston and Plateau	Lumber	03-Sep	n/a	Reduced work hours From 5 days/week to 4 days/week
Tolko	Kelowna	Lumber	15-Sep	127 workers	Whole mill
West Fraser	Williams Lake, 100 Mile House, Fraser Lake, Chetwynd, and Quesnel	Lumber	16-Sep	100 MMBDFT	Reduced work hours from 5 days/week to 4 days/week
Tolko	Armstrong and Soda Creek	Lumber	19-Sep	20% capacity reduction	Reduced work hours from 5 days/week to 4 days/week
Canfor	Isle Pierre	Lumber	20-Sep	55 workers	2 shifts to 1 shift

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**Table 3: Permanent Mill Closures**

Company	Location	Mill Type	Effective Date	Estimated Annual Capacity Loss*	Estimated Annual Capacity and Employment Impact
Canfor	Vavenby	Lumber	01-Jul	250 MMBDFT	178 workers
Tolko	Quesnel	Lumber	02-Aug	197 MMBDFT	150 workers
Interfor	Hammond	Lumber	27-Sep	148 MMBDFT	147 workers
West Fraser	Chasm	Lumber	08-Sep	226 MMBDFT	176 workers

Notes: 1. The annual capacity loss is estimated based on the estimated annual output capacity published in the 2017 B.C. Mill List Report. 2. The employment impact is estimated based on company press releases.

*Sources: Company news releases, media reports, analytical information, and government contacts. Please note this list is not comprehensive and may miss some events that occurred in small mills.*