

# Provincial Forest Advisory Council

## Terms of Reference

May 2025

### Preface

The BC NDP Caucus and the BC Green Caucus agree on the need for urgent action to ensure strong communities and economies in BC predicated on the sound stewardship of forests.

Forestry in BC is in transition, exacerbated by the introduction of US tariffs and geopolitical instability. This accumulating uncertainty puts the future of the forest sector in dire straits, imperiling not only the communities and businesses that rely on it, but also crippling the province's ability to diversify the sector, and to actively manage forests for a wide range of domestic forest-based values and ecosystem health.

Leading changes to address the state of forestry in BC is complex work. Input from many will be required, along with an effective approach to change management, trusted data and information. There is extensive work already underway within BC that builds on recent engagements with First Nations and multiple stakeholders.

The Cooperation and Responsible Government Accord 2025 ("Accord") provides for a comprehensive review of BC forests.

This commitment for a "review of BC forests" is an opportunity to establish the foundation for generational change, recommend and implement key goals and outcomes for BC forests, and define how these will be advanced, assessed, measured and reported upon in a new more transparent and inclusive way.

### Purpose:

Institute a responsive and inclusive way to provide oversight, assessments, advice, recommendations and guidance to the Government of BC on the paradigm shift to forestry in BC.

### Objective:

Establish the Provincial Forest Advisory Council (PFAC) that is empowered to provide timely oversight, assessments, advice, recommendations and guidance on forestry in BC as we make the paradigm shift in BC to a new, more stable system that supports resilient communities, economies and forest ecosystems.

### Scope:

- Support Government to lead systemic change in all aspects of forest stewardship by providing a trusted, representative, and accountable PFAC for oversight, disciplined guidance of work long-term and to assist in recommending, confirming and refining government goals and outcomes for change

- Make recommendations on long-term investment, innovation and economic opportunities for the BC forest sector that build on past work and the Old Growth Action Plan, including but not limited to identifying new manufacturing opportunities supported by a stable fibre supply.
- Build widespread trust and support for change by publicly reporting and assessing progress toward goals/outcomes, providing opportunities for engagement with key stakeholders, and by providing a trusted and public source of data and information on BC forests.
- Honour the commitments for joint oversight, assessment and reporting on progress toward implementation in the Old Growth Action Plan to support implementation now and into the future.
- Ensure that changes arising from this work advance reconciliation and take into consideration the *Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act*.
- May make recommendations that recognize the interconnectedness between forestry and other Ministries of government.
- Make recommendations to government that are necessary to achieve and administer the desired changes, including but not limited to, budgeting, legislation, ministry mandates.

## Governance and Management

- This work is subject to the terms and conditions of the Accord.
- The BC Green Caucus, and Minister of Forest's Office will provide further interpretation and direction, as required.
- The Green Party Caucus and the Minister of Forest's Office will direct the establishment of a steering committee to provide ongoing oversight, advice, recommendation and guidance, and appoint co-chairs who are accountable to the Minister of Forests.
- The Ministry of Forests will ensure other relevant Ministries, such as Water, Land and Resource Stewardship, and Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation are regularly updated and engaged.
- The Ministry of Forests will provide technical and secretariat support, including the engagement of expert advisors as appropriate.

## Steering Committee

### Co-Chairs

- The Minister of Forests and the BC Green Caucus will jointly select the co-chairs of the PFAC.
- The co-chairs will be responsible for managing the steering committee, including but not limited to decision-making, dispute resolution, meeting frequency and quorum, external communications, resourcing, work planning that delivers on the scope of this Terms of Reference, and reports.
- The co-chairs will liaise with the Minister of Forests and the BC Green Caucus to provide reports and receive directions.

### Members

- PFAC members are independent, reputable and knowledgeable.
- Additional members may be added to PFAC at the direction of the Minister and BC Green Caucus.
- Recommended membership – see Appendix 1.

## Other

As required, PFAC may create subcommittees, seek advice and expertise from subject matter experts and existing committees, recommend/oversee broader engagement activities, and interact with groups such as the Provincial Forestry Forum as appropriate (see Appendices for current membership of Provincial Forestry Forum).

## Deliverables and Timeline

1. Terms of Reference approved (April 15)
2. Initiation & early design (April 22) – PFAC established and announced.
3. Start-up (April 22 to May 22) – Workplan and communications plans reviewed and approved, first meeting of the PFAC conducted.
4. Assessment and Design (May to September 2025) –
  - o Confirm and/or revise outcomes for the future of BC forests based upon existing work and commitments of government.
  - o Assessment and reporting – production of reviews, assessments and reports supported by transparent data, available on a planned and periodic basis. Assessments and reports may be in the form of a data portal, public dashboard, conference/workshop or combination.
  - o Program of collaboration with First Nations in the design and delivery of the system.
  - o Program of engagement to enable influence of stakeholders and the public at appropriate times in the assessment cycle.
5. Interim Report (September 2025) – Provision is made for an interim report to allow for recommendations that may have policy, legislative or budget implications for 2026/7. This Interim Report will be made available publicly within 45 days as per the Accord.
6. Report out (December 2025) – Final accepted recommendations made available publicly within 45 days as per the Accord.

## Appendix 1. Provincial Forest Advisory Council

### Co-Chairs:

1. Garry Merkel
2. Shannon Janzen

### Members:

3. Norah White
4. Jason Fisher
5. Jeff Bromley
6. Harry Nelson
7. Hugh Scolah
8. Al Gorley
9. Laurie Kremsater

[\[1\]](#) The Old Growth Action Plan sets out 3 goals and related outcomes for the transition of forest management in BC. These goals were developed jointly between First Nations and the Provincial Government (cabinet) with the close engagement of multiple interests involved within the broader forestry sector.