

JAN 17 2009

Garry Merkel, Co-Chair
Forest and Range Practices Advisory Council
466 Second Avenue
Kimberly, British Columbia
V1A 2P7

Dear Mr. Merkel:

I would like to take this opportunity to follow up on my letter to you of October 6, 2008, where I indicated that Ministry of Forests and Range staff had been asked to prepare an analysis of options that address forest worker safety within a regulatory context. Given the critical importance of forest worker safety, I would like to report on the regulatory analysis completed to date.

A broad suite of legislative options, including amendments to the *Forest and Range Practices Act* and the *Ministry of Forests and Range Act*, has been considered. Ministry staff has been asked to analyze the possibility of enhancing the ministry's mandate through a change to the *Ministry of Forest and Range Act* and to complete the policy analysis on this option by the end of February, 2009.

Pending any significant unidentified issues, a final decision will be made on the most appropriate manner in which to incorporate forest worker safety after this policy analysis is completed.

Thank you again for your continued engagement on forest worker safety.

Sincerely,



Pat Bell
Minister