



Ref: 193839

March 19, 2013

Distribution List  
*Via E-mail*

Re: Communication Plan on Advancing Professional Reliance in Timber Pricing

I am pleased to provide you with an update on an important project that is designed to increase business efficiencies in timber pricing to both the forest industry and government. Just over a year ago, a team comprised of representatives from the forest industry, government and the Association of BC Forest Professionals (ABCFP) was formed to develop a framework to advance professional reliance (PR) in the business areas of Crown timber appraisals and cruising. The team reported to me and other senior forest industry and government members of the Provincial Forestry Forum (PFF). The objective of this endeavour is to utilize the opportunities offered by professional service to achieve greater efficiency gains in timber pricing for both industry and government, while protecting the public interest. I am able to report that the team has developed a framework and implementation plan, discussed this initiative with numerous stakeholder groups and the file is moving forward with support from senior government, members of the PFF and the ABCFP staff.

At the onset of this project, the team was tasked with defining a framework that would provide the greatest efficiencies in the area of timber pricing. While appraisals and timber cruising were selected as the items to likely provide the greatest benefits in the short term, other areas such as waste/residue and scaling were also considered and may be scheduled for review at a later date.

Professional reliance is practiced throughout society and may be defined as the practice of accepting and relying on upon the decisions and advice of professionals who accept responsibility and can be held accountable for the decisions they make and the advice they give. The Association of BC Forest Professionals is mandated through the *Foresters Act* to govern the practice of professional forestry and it is through this structure both industry and government seek to achieve increased business efficiencies.

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## Communication Plan on Advancing Professional Reliance in Timber Pricing

In the process leading up to the development of the action plan, the team developed the following vision statement to guide the process; “A streamlined, efficient timber pricing system that utilizes professional reliance, ensures system integrity and provides benefits to both a competitive industry and government”; and developed the following statements identifying key outcomes; “ a clear legal construct and clear performance criteria; competent and informed professionals; effective and efficient verification commensurate with the risks; strong accountabilities for all parties and trust amongst pricing professionals.”

The framework plan, which meets the requirements of the Office of the Comptroller General and Auditor General, outlines a series of tasks that will be completed over a period of time to advance PR. As the tasks are successfully completed the scope of PR is planned to increase. In order of general priority, the action plan recommends updating appraisal and cruising manuals, providing training opportunities in the areas of appraisals to both ministry and government professionals, improving the consistency of the government risk assessment control measures and linking these actions to increased accountability of the forest professional.

The benefits will be:

1. Increased certainty and improved process and procedures.
2. Reduced timber pricing administration transaction costs; and cost reductions that exceed implementation costs and produce high quality submissions.
3. Reduced timelines for stumpage rate determinations and reduction in number of formal and informal appeals.
4. Common professional practice expectations for all practitioners, ministry, industry and ABCFP.
5. Reduced risk resulting in greater professional reliance and less ministry oversight.
6. Increased trust between ministry, industry and ABCFP.
7. Increased professional competency in the timber pricing functions.
8. Increased accountability for submission and review of timber pricing information.
9. Increased ability for enforcement by ABCFP.

The team is still finalizing the outstanding details of the plan and securing the necessary resources to advance this project. Work on the various tasks has already begun with updates on the appraisal manuals targeted for completion by the summer of 2013. There is still much work to complete on this project, with full implementation not expected until 2014. As this project advances and milestones are achieved, I will provide you with further updates. A website is being set up where relevant correspondence and progress reports can be accessed.

## Communication Plan on Advancing Professional Reliance in Timber Pricing

For further information, please visit [https://www.for.gov.bc.ca/hva/professional\\_reliance.htm](https://www.for.gov.bc.ca/hva/professional_reliance.htm) or contact the Professional Reliance Coordinator, Jason Nunn, at [Jason.Nunn@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Jason.Nunn@gov.bc.ca)

Yours truly,



Tom Jensen  
Assistant Deputy Minister

### **Distribution List**

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Regional Executive Directors – Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations

BCTS Timber Sales Managers

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FLNR Coast Operational Issues Forum

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