



Ref: 202273

JAN 8 2014

Distribution List
Via E-mail

Re: Update on Advancing Professional Reliance in Timber Pricing

I would like to update you on the progress of the working group for Advancing Professional Reliance in Timber Pricing. Further to my email of March 19, 2013, a strategic framework and implementation plan was developed to provide additional efficiencies in Timber Pricing for both industry and government. The framework outlines a series of tasks to advance professional reliance in appraisals and timber cruising. I am pleased to report on the work completed so far.

Clear legal construct was identified as a key element in the framework to advance professional reliance. Over the past few months industry and government representatives have been working on recommendations to provide clarity and consistency in the *Coast and Interior Appraisal Manuals* and the *Cruising Manual*. Many recommendations have been already implemented in the *Interior Appraisal Manual* on July 1, 2013. All remaining recommendations for the Coast and Interior will be finalised by the working groups over the next few months with consideration for implementation in early 2014.

Another key element identified was the importance of ensuring all forest professionals working in Timber Pricing are competent and fully informed. Appraisal training packages are being developed for joint ministry/industry/ABCFP training sessions planned for the spring of 2014. In addition, the ABCFP has formed a task force including industry and government representatives to develop draft standards and guidance in the practice area of appraisals. In the Interior areas a group of industry and government staff is looking at the quality of appraisal submissions. Outcomes from these groups are expected early in 2014 and will feed back to the timber pricing professional reliance working group.

I would like to thank the members of the committees for their work so far. However, looking forward there is still lots of work to complete the professional reliance framework. In the coming months the working group and subcommittees will be finalising training materials and providing recommendations to improve clarity in pricing and cruising manuals. Work will also

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start to develop verification processes and risk assessment tools. Over the next year, the group will continue to meet regularly to ensure the outstanding tasks are completed.

I will provide further updates as the team completes tasks in the advancing professional reliance framework. For more information including the report and action plan, please visit http://www.for.gov.bc.ca/hva/professional_reliance.htm or contact the Professional Reliance Coordinator, Jason Nunn, at Jason.Nunn@gov.bc.ca.

Yours truly,



Tom Jensen
Assistant Deputy Minister

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