



Q&A AND KEY FACTS

Requested Transfer of Replaceable Forest Licences A16869 and A75084

Details of the Disposition

On March 31, 2026, Husby Forest Products Ltd. and its subsidiary Dawson Harbour Logging Co. (collectively “Husby”) submitted a Request for Approval of an Intended Transfer (RAIT) to dispose Replaceable Forest Licences (RFLs) A16869 and A75084 to the Council of the Haida Nation (CHN).

CHN was formed in 1974 to organize Haida citizens into one political entity. Part of the vision was a clear mandate to settle questions of land title and reconciliation. Over the past 40 years the CHN has been addressing these questions and has become a National government enacting legislation and policy affecting many aspects of life on Haida Gwaii. The consolidation of the CHN as a national government has worked hand-in-hand with collective action that Haida have taken to protect their culture and way of living.

Husby began in the 1970’s as a gravel and log hauling trucking company. During the mid 80’s the company acquired forest licences in Haid Gwaii and became a fully integrated forestry company. To date, the Husby Group has diversified its holdings with the inclusion of Select Steel, Tecfor Resources, Forex Log & Lumber, J & G Logworks, Peregrine Lodge, The Forest Company, and numerous joint ventures with First Nations. Husby has 16 full-time employees who are Haida Gwaii residents and six contract workers with seasonal/shift presence on Haida Gwaii.

What are the legal requirements for transfers under the *Forest Act*?

The requested transfer of the two RFLs is subject to the requirements of the *Forest Act*. In accordance with section 54, for the proposed transfer to be considered ‘in effect’ it must receive approval from the Minister of Forests.

Persons holding forest tenure agreements may transfer them to another party, provided notice is given to the Ministry of Forests and written approval is received from the Minister. Once a request for the approval of a transfer is submitted, the Minister must consider the effect on the marketing of fibre in B.C. and the broader public interest. To support this assessment, Ministry experts will conduct a market concentration analysis and gather information that represents the public interest. The market analysis, along with relevant public interest information, is provided to the Minister to inform their decision. The Province is also duty-bound to formally consult with all First Nations who may be affected by a proposed transfer.

Following the review, the Minister may approve the transfer, deny it, or approve it subject to conditions, as permitted under the *Forest Act*. A transfer does not alter the nature of the licence, and the new holder assumes all associated obligations associated with the licence.



Will First Nations with traditional territory overlapping the potential area of operations under the licence be consulted?

As with all statutory decisions, the province has a duty to consult with all First Nations who may experience a potential impact to their rights and title as a result of the disposition prior to the Minister making his decision.

Consultation follows existing engagement agreements and the updated procedures for meeting legal obligations when consulting First Nations. The Ministry will fulfill its legal duty to consult with, and provide information to, First Nations regarding the proposed dispositions, while encouraging parallel engagement on the part of the proponents. There may be circumstances where the Ministry will meet more formally with a First Nation where issues or concerns are raised that warrant further discussion.

For over 20 years, the Haida Nation and the Province of B.C. have been engaging constructively on new, successful approaches to reconciliation. These have included jointly managing aspects of natural resource and land-use decision-making on Haida Gwaii. Provincial laws continue to apply through the reconciling process. The Haida Nation and the Province will continue to use their existing shared decision-making bodies and processes, including the Solutions Table and Haida Gwaii Management Council, to make necessary land and resource decisions.

Are manufacturing facilities involved in the proposed transaction?

There no manufacturing facilities involved in the transaction.

What happens to existing license obligations, such as roads silviculture?

Any outstanding liabilities, such as reforestation obligations arising from previous harvesting under the licenses, move with the tenure agreement to the new holder. In this case, CHN would be responsible to perform all existing and future obligations under the RFLs A16869 and A75084 upon completion of the transfer.

The request received by the Ministry also includes the transfer of two Road Permits, specifically R06269 and R06268. CHN would be responsible for all obligations associated with these permits upon completion of the transfer.

What will be considered when determining if a transfer is in the public interest?

None of the following information is intended to fetter a decision maker or limit the scope of the factors that the Minister considers when addressing the public interest in this and any future decision.



As mentioned previously, the decision maker must consider the effect of the transfer on the public interest, and specifically, if it would not be in the public interest for CHN to hold the rights under the agreements. Broadly speaking, agreements entered into under the *Forest Act* have a public value and the use of our public forests is expected to provide a benefit to the citizens of British Columbia. Although this consideration must reflect the context of the reconciliation agreements developed between the Province and the Haida Nation, the legal transfer of these licenses remains administered under the provisions and requirements of the *Forest Act*.

While “public interest” is not defined under the *Forest Act*, it has limitations. The relevant factors to be considered are confined to those regarding the intended recipient acquiring and holding the agreement. The Minister considers if the intended recipient is appropriate, if the rights available under the agreement will be managed in the best interests of British Columbians, and if the economic return through the agreement will continue to benefit local communities and industry.

The Minister will review the transfer request based on government objectives, specific circumstances and the broader implications of the decision. Ultimately, what is considered relevant to the public interest, assessing if a requested transfer is not contrary to the public interest will be determined by the decision maker based on the objectives, facts and circumstances for that particular decision.

As with all statutory decisions made by the Minister, the broader public is encouraged to provide information or to express support or concerns directly to the Ministry. A web form to facilitate the submission of comments from the public has been made available on the Ministry’s website, located here:

[Identifying the Public Interest in Proposed Timber Tenure Dispositions - Province of British Columbia](#)

Additional questions or comments regarding this or any other requested transfer of forest tenure agreements can be also be submitted by email to: foresttenuresbranch@gov.bc.ca