THE LEGISLATIVE ASK

Replace BC's existing forestry laws with a New Forest Act that puts ecological integrity first in law, gives communities decision-making power, and restructures forestry to support stable local and regional economies.

Do not add these ideas to the existing forestry system. Replace the legal framework governing that system.

WHY LEGISLATION?

The existing laws continue to organize forest management around timber supply and extraction. As long as those laws remain in place, new programs, planning processes, and terminology still operate within the same system.

The New Forest Act changes the system itself - in law.

THE LEGISLATIVE CHANGE Repeal and replace the Forest Act, Forest and Range Practices Act, Private Managed Forest Land Act, and Ministry of Forests Act. Fully implement the Water Sustainability Act. Transition approximately 1-5 years as existing harvesting rights reach renewal.

WHAT MUST THE NEW LAW ESTABLISH?

1	2	3
ECOLOGICAL INTEGRITY FIRST	**COMMUNITY DECISION-MAKING**	**STABLE REGIONAL ECONOMIES**
Ecological requirements come before timber targets. Ecological limits → Protect → Restore → Harvest within limits → allowable harvest	Local people and local Indigenous Peoples have a real role in decisions about the lands and watersheds that affect them.	Shift from volume dependency toward value: regional log markets, local processing, value-added manufacturing, restoration, monitoring, and planning.

WHEN GOVERNMENT SAYS, "WE ARE ALREADY DOING THINGS LIKE THIS"

Government may point to restoration programs, three-zone planning, forest landscape planning, First Nations participation, or value-added initiatives. Do not let the conversation disappear into a list of individual programs.

BRING IT BACK TO ONE QUESTION: WHAT DOES THE LAW REQUIRE?

The NFA is not asking government to add selected ideas to the existing forestry system. It is asking government to replace the legal framework governing that system.

THE ASK TO DECISION-MAKERS

Ask MLAs, councils, regional districts, and organizations to support the development and adoption of new forestry legislation based on the New Forest Act framework, and to ask the provincial government to begin replacing BC's existing forestry legislative framework.

- Support a new forestry law that puts ecological integrity first.
- Support community decision-making in law.
- Support a transition to stable regional economies based on value rather than maximum volume.
- Ask the provincial government to formally consider the New Forest Act legislative framework.

DO NOT KEEP TRYING TO CHANGE FORESTRY ONE PROGRAM OR POLICY AT A TIME.
Replace the legal framework and put the new priorities, rules, and decision-making structure into law.
NOTHING CHANGES UNTIL THE LEGISLATION CHANGES.

BC forestry policies: what would change?



BC NDP • BC Greens • BC Conservatives | Updated October 6, 2026

A concise comparison of published commitments, the government's latest three-zone proposal, and an assessment using the New Forest Act (NFA) framework. Policies are promises or proposals unless identified as implemented. Numbered citations link to sources on page 3.

BC NDP: timber supply, industry support, and conservation

The NDP government is pursuing a Working Forest Landscape Model tied to an annual harvest objective of **45 million cubic metres**, alongside old-growth planning and its 30%-by-2030 land-protection commitment. The proposed zoning prioritizes commercial timber production in one zone and permits forestry in a multiple-use zone. [1, 2]

Its expanded BC Timber Sales mandate supports local mills, First Nations, and value-added manufacturers, including a commitment to allocate 20% of BCTS licences to the Category 4 value-added program. [3] Budget 2026 introduced temporary stumpage-payment deferrals; a September campaign pledge would favour BC and Canadian materials, including wood, in public procurement. [4, 5]

BC Greens: a new forestry plan released October 4

The Greens propose to reject the Working Forest Model, its 45-million objective, and its no-net-loss approach. Harvest levels would emerge from regional planning within ecological limits. They also propose to: [6]

- End conventional clearcutting on public forests; expand selective harvesting, thinning, and longer rotations; protect big-treed old growth and large second-growth forests; implement all 14 Old Growth Strategic Review recommendations with First Nations and conservation financing.
- Redistribute tenure toward First Nations, communities, and smaller operators; work toward 20% of AAC for community forests; remove requirements forcing community forests to maintain AAC; direct 30–50% of available fibre toward higher-value manufacturing; diversify processing, and end raw-log exports and minimal-processing loopholes.
- Share more forest revenue locally; ban glyphosate and other chemical herbicides; support worker retraining; publish maps and harvest data; strengthen enforcement, and amend the Private Managed Forest Land Act.

BC Conservatives: secure fibre and reduce industry costs

The detailed forestry commitments below come from the **2024 platform**, rather than a verified replacement forestry platform for 2026. They include: [7]

- Define timber-production and biodiversity-priority areas; replace stumpage with a value-added end-product tax; introduce "One Project, One Permit"; review industry costs, and change sawlog AAC to fibre AAC, and support workers and contractors with transition assistance and workforce training.
- Use more fibre for energy and secondary products; prioritize harvesting fire- or otherwise damaged forests; use selective logging and fuel management near communities; expand controlled burning and species diversity, and stop aerial glyphosate spraying.

The October 5, 2026 Wildfire Action Plan adds aircraft procurement, fuel reduction near communities, easier prescribed-fire approvals, faster deployment of qualified crews, and a prevention-technology fund. [8]

The NDP's three zones and the 45-million target

The Working Forest Landscape Model is still being explored—not a completed province-wide zoning system.

Announced in August 2026, the model would operate alongside existing land-use and forest landscape plans. The first candidate area, announced September 15, is near Campbell River, in partnership with Nanwakolas Council and four member First Nations. Technical analysis is intended to identify potential legislative or policy changes. [1, 2]

Proposed zone	Government's stated direction
Working-Forest	Prioritize commercial timber production and improve supply certainty.
Multiple-Use	Restore ecosystem functions while continuing forestry and other uses, including wildfire-risk reduction.
Conservation and Protection	Protect biodiversity and ecological integrity; support 30%-by-2030 and old-growth commitments.

The proposal also explores keeping the area of both working forest and conservation land stable through a no-net-loss principle. These details remain under development. [1]

45 million m^3 is substantially above recent harvests

Measure and period	Million m^3	Source
Actual total harvest, 2023	38.9	[9]
Actual total harvest, 2024	38.9	[9]
Crown harvest, calendar 2025, excluding waste	~32.0	[10]
Budget 2026 Crown assumption, annually, 2025/26–2028/29	29.0	[11]
Government's annual harvest objective	45.0	[1]

45 million is roughly 41% above the reported 2025 Crown harvest and 55% above the February 2026 budget assumption. These are calculated comparisons. Total-land, Crown-land, calendar-year, and fiscal-year measures differ; budget assumptions are not actual cuts. The 2025 figure is forestry analyst David Elstone's reading of provincial data. [10, 11]

NFA assessment: changing the map leaves the central problem

Our critique identifies what the announcement does not commit to: protecting all primary forests, ending clearcutting, restoring damaged forests without further timber extraction, or replacing corporate tenure with NFA governance. It does not establish NFA-style binding ecological thresholds that determine whether harvesting can occur. [12, 13]

The risks are concrete: multiple-use "restoration" can still involve logging; protecting 30% of the provincial land base does not itself protect all primary forests; and preserving a working-forest area could constrain future conservation. The published model does not quantify how much additional loggable forest would gain permanent protection. [1, 12]

NFA assessment of the parties: NDP and Conservative proposals retain timber-supply certainty as a central objective. The Greens' new plan moves substantially closer to NFA principles, but does not commit to protecting all primary forests or replacing the four forestry statutes and existing licences through NFA's 1–5-year transition. [6, 7, 13]

The NFA asks what the land can support first: protect primary forests, restore degraded landscapes without salvage logging, and harvest by selection only where ecological thresholds allow. [13]

Sources

All web sources accessed October 6, 2026. Citations [1]–[13] correspond to the report's claims. Policy summaries and NFA assessments are presented separately.

[1] BC government. Working Forest Landscape Model announcement and three-zone backgrounder, updated August 27, 2026.
Open source

[2] BC government. First candidate area announced for Working Forest Landscape Model, September 15, 2026.
Open source

[3] BC government. BC Timber Sales to increase fibre access, strengthen long-term forest outcomes, protect jobs, 2026.
Open source

[4] BC Ministry of Finance. Budget 2026 highlights: forestry support and temporary stumpage-payment deferrals.
Open source

[5] BC NDP. Eby pledges new "Built in B.C. and Canada" buying rules, September 24, 2026.
Open source

[6] BC Greens. Plan to reform forestry sector, protecting forests, jobs, and communities, October 4, 2026; includes full forestry policy brief.
Open source

[7] Conservative Party of BC. 2024 Policy Platform, printed pages 24–29, "Saving BC Forestry."
Open source

[8] Conservative Party of BC. Wildfire Action Plan, October 5, 2026.
Open source

[9] BC Ministry of Forests. 2024/25 Annual Service Plan Report, printed page 7: actual total harvest in 2023 and 2024.
Open source

[10] David Elstone, RPF, Spar Tree Group. The 2025 British Columbia Crown Timber Harvest…Did Not Get The Memo, January 14, 2026. Analyst's report of provincial Crown harvest data, excluding waste.
Open source

[11] BC Ministry of Finance. Budget and Fiscal Plan 2026/27–2028/29, February 17, 2026, Table 1.5.1 (printed p. 41) and Table A5 (printed p. 156). Forecasts and assumptions, not actual harvest.
Open source

[12] BFWSS. Changing the Map Doesn't Change the System: BC Government's New Forest Plan Is Not Reform, August 28, 2026. Source of the NFA critique.
Open source

[13] BFWSS. New Forest Act Proposal Update March 2026, executive summary (printed p. 3), legislative transition, and PRH sections; New Forest Act Executive Summary, March 2026, pp. 1–2. Documents supplied for this report; proposal resources available online.
Open source

Comparison scope: current government announcements, the Greens' October 2026 forestry brief, and the Conservatives' detailed 2024 forestry platform plus their October 2026 wildfire plan. This report does not treat older platform promises as implemented policy.

QUESTIONS GOVERNMENT IS ASKING

Six key questions about how the New Forest Act would work

These are recurring implementation questions raised in meetings and presentations. The answers below reflect the New Forest Act Proposal, Backgrounder, and Executive Summary.

1 RESTORE — WHAT ACTUALLY HAPPENS IN THE RESTORE ZONE?

The Restore Zone is for secondary forests and watersheds already degraded by logging, roads, altered hydrology, excessive disturbance, or loss of forest structure. The objective is recovery, not another round of timber extraction.

Restoration can include road deactivation and removal, hydrology and stream repair, slope stabilization, reforestation and stand rehabilitation, rebuilding forest structure, invasive-species work, and long-term monitoring. In areas that are over ecological or watershed thresholds, additional disturbance is paused while recovery occurs.

There is no logging in the Restore Zone. The NFA also rejects post-disturbance "salvage" logging as a default response. A damaged landscape is given time and assistance to recover ecological function.

Restore is also work. Road rehabilitation, watershed restoration, monitoring, field assessment, planting, and other recovery work become part of the regional economy rather than being treated as an afterthought.

Key point: Restore means recovery first. It is not another timber-production zone.

2 ECOLOGICAL LIMITS — WHO DETERMINES THEM, AND ON WHAT BASIS?

The NFA reverses the current order of decision-making. It does not begin with a predetermined timber target and then try to make the landscape produce it. It begins by asking what the land and water can sustain.

Nature-Directed Stewardship uses ecosystem and conservation science together with Indigenous knowledge. Ecological limits are determined from the characteristics and condition of the actual place: watershed function, hydrology, terrain and slope stability, soils, moisture, climate, habitat and reproductive needs of species, road density, cumulative disturbance, forest structure, and other site-specific factors.

Regional Science Panels, Indigenous Knowledge Panels, the Forest Research Branch, local monitoring, and Community Forest Boards all contribute to that process. The Forester General provides independent oversight and reporting.

The proposal provides examples of measurable thresholds, but it does not pretend that one province-wide number can define every ecological limit. Detailed standards and thresholds would be established in legislation, regulation, and regional planning using the best available evidence.

Only after Protect and Restore requirements and ecological limits are established is the amount of allowable harvest determined.

Key point: Ecological limits come first. Allowable harvest is the outcome, not the starting target.

3 COMMUNITY DECISION-MAKING — WHO DECIDES, AND WHO SITS ON THE BOARDS?

The NFA replaces a highly centralized system with regional decision-making centred on Community Forest Boards.

Community Forest Boards oversee forest management for local lands and watersheds. The proposal says they are made up of local people and local Indigenous Peoples who are affected by decisions about the land. Their responsibility is to the public interest, not to tenure holders or corporate boards.

They do not operate alone. They work within provincial legislation and Nature-Directed Stewardship standards, and are supported by Regional Science Panels, Indigenous Knowledge Panels, the Forest Research Branch, local ranger stations, and regional structures. An independent Forester General reports to the Legislature on how the system is working.

The proposal establishes the governance structure and who must be represented. The detailed mechanics for selecting or appointing individual Community Forest Board members would have to be set out when the legislation and regulations are drafted.

Local decision-making therefore does not mean every community can choose whatever forestry practices it wants. Local decisions are made inside enforceable ecological limits and provincial public-interest law.

Key point: Local people gain real decision-making power, but within ecological rules that apply across BC.

4 FIRST NATIONS — WHAT IS THEIR ROLE IN THE NFA?

Indigenous participation is built into the NFA governance structure rather than added at the end of a planning process.

The proposal includes local Indigenous Peoples on Community Forest Boards and representatives of regional Indigenous Nations on Regional Committees. Indigenous Knowledge Panels, made up of representatives of regional Indigenous Nations, advise and support Community Forest Boards and bring Indigenous knowledge, values, histories, cultures, food sovereignty, and subsistence needs into planning.

The proposed Ministry of Ecosystem Integrity also includes Indigenous and non-Indigenous leadership. The framework states that management decisions are to be grounded in both Western science and Indigenous knowledge and that the new legislation should align with DRIPA.

The NFA is a legislative framework, not a substitute for the Crown's legal relationships and obligations to individual First Nations. The exact governance arrangements in each region would have to be developed through the legislative and implementation process with the Nations involved.

Key point: Indigenous knowledge and participation are part of the decision-making structure, not an afterthought.

5 WORKERS AND TRANSITION — WHAT HAPPENS TO JOBS, TENURES, AND TIMBER SUPPLY?

The NFA proposes a phased transition, not an overnight shutdown of forestry. Existing harvesting rights conclude at their renewal dates, producing an approximately one-to-five-year transition without tenure buy-backs.

Logging continues on previously disturbed lands where ecological thresholds allow, but the methods and economic objective change. Selection and partial cutting, continuous cover, retention, hydrology-led planning, and reduced road impacts replace clearcut-dominated industrial forestry.

The economic model shifts from dependence on high volume toward greater value from the timber that can be harvested within ecological limits. Regional log sort yards and open regional log markets are intended to improve access to fibre for local mills and small and medium-sized manufacturers.

Work also expands beyond timber extraction. The proposal identifies employment in restoration, road rehabilitation, watershed work, monitoring, planning, compliance, regional log sorting, local milling, and value-added manufacturing.

The objective is not to promise that every existing job remains unchanged. It is to move away from an increasingly unstable volume-dependent system and build a forestry economy around a timber supply the land can actually sustain.

Key point: Forestry continues. The transition changes where the work is, how forestry is done, and how much value communities receive from the timber available.

6 FIRE — HOW DOES PROTECT–RESTORE–HARVEST DEAL WITH WILDFIRE RISK?

The NFA does not treat industrial logging as a general wildfire solution. Its fire approach begins with maintaining and restoring forest function.

The Backgrounder notes that intact and mature forests can maintain cooler, moister microclimates, greater canopy cover, wind buffering, and more complex forest structure. By contrast, clearcuts and plantations can create hotter, drier conditions, fine fuels, slash, and simplified stands. Nature-Directed Stewardship is designed to maintain continuous forest cover and reduce the disturbance and slash associated with clearcut-dominated forestry.

Protect keeps primary forests and critical ecological areas intact. Restore repairs damaged landscapes, including roads, hydrology, slopes, and forest structure. Harvest continues on previously disturbed lands, but with selection and partial cutting, continuous cover, retention, minimal roads, and site-specific ecological limits.

This does not mean fire disappears or that every forest should be treated identically. Climate, weather, terrain, forest type, and local conditions matter. The NFA's answer is to make fire resilience one of the ecological outcomes that planning must address, rather than using timber extraction as the starting objective.

Key point: The objective is functioning, resilient forests — not logging forests in the name of fire prevention.

THE LEGISLATIVE POINT

These questions are about implementation. The central New Forest Act request remains legislative: replace the existing forestry framework and put ecological integrity, community decision-making, and stable regional economies into law.

ARRANGING & CONDUCTING AN NFA BRIEFING

A practical guide to getting the New Forest Act in front of decision-makers — and asking them to act

Government already knows about the New Forest Act. A briefing is an opportunity to build support for the legislative change, put the proposal in front of the right people, and obtain a concrete next step.

1 | ARRANGE THE BRIEFING

1

DECIDE WHO YOU WANT TO REACH

Request a briefing with an MLA, municipal council or regional district, First Nation government or organization, or another community, watershed, professional, or environmental organization affected by forestry decisions. One or two prepared people can give an effective briefing.

2

ASK FOR A SPECIFIC MEETING

Request 20–30 minutes to brief them on the New Forest Act proposal. Give them newforestact.ca and, if useful, the Executive Summary. Do not overwhelm them with the full package before the meeting unless they ask for it.

3

CHOOSE THE DOORWAY

Do not change the proposal for different audiences. Change the doorway into it. An MLA may enter through legislative change; local government through water, flooding, wildfire, infrastructure costs, or local economies; watershed groups through hydrology and cumulative disturbance; forestry audiences through timber supply, transition, regional log markets, and value-added manufacturing.

2 | CONDUCT THE BRIEFING

Keep the briefing simple:

- THE PROBLEM — BC's existing forestry laws continue to organize the system around timber supply and extraction.
- THE LEGISLATIVE CHANGE — The NFA replaces that framework and puts ecological integrity, community decision-making, and stable regional economies into law.
- HOW IT WORKS — Nature-Directed Stewardship + Protect–Restore–Harvest + regional governance + economic restructuring.
- THE TRANSITION — Approximately 1–5 years as existing harvesting rights reach renewal.
- THE ASK — Tell them exactly what you want them to do next.

You do not need to answer every technical question. If you do not know an answer, say so and direct them to the appropriate NFA material at newforestact.ca.

KNOW YOUR AUDIENCE. CHOOSE THE DOORWAY. EXPLAIN THE CHANGE. MAKE THE ASK.

3 | FOLLOW UP

Within a few days:

- Thank them for the meeting.
- Send any NFA material you promised.
- Restate the action you requested.
- Ask what the next step is.

A MEETING IS NOT THE OBJECTIVE. MOVING THE PROPOSAL FORWARD IS.

SAMPLE MEETING-REQUEST EMAIL

Subject: Request for briefing on the New Forest Act

Dear [Name],

I am writing to request a short meeting to brief you on the New Forest Act, a proposal for replacing BC's existing forestry legislative framework.

The proposal would put ecological integrity, community decision-making, and stable regional economies into law. It includes Nature-Directed Stewardship, the Protect–Restore–Harvest framework, regional community governance, and a phased transition from the existing tenure system.

The New Forest Act has now been presented directly to the BC government, including the Ministers responsible for forests and water, and the next step is to broaden discussion of the legislative proposal with MLAs, local governments, First Nations, and organizations across BC.

Would you be available for a 20–30 minute briefing in the next few weeks?

You can review the proposal and supporting material at newforestact.ca.

Thank you,

[Name]
[Community / organization, if applicable]
[Contact information]

MAKE A CONCRETE ASK

Do not end a briefing with "What do you think?" Decide what you want the person or organization to do.

MLA	COUNCIL / REGIONAL DISTRICT	ORGANIZATION
• Review the NFA and raise it with caucus.	• Request or receive an NFA presentation.	• Review the NFA proposal.
• Request a formal NFA briefing for the relevant critic, spokesperson, or minister.	• Review the NFA in relation to water, watersheds, disaster risk, and local economic stability.	• Host an NFA briefing for the board or membership.
• Support replacing the existing forestry framework with legislation that puts ecological integrity first.	• Consider a resolution or letter asking the Province to consider the NFA framework.	• Endorse the call for a new legislative framework.
		• Share the proposal and encourage members to raise it with their MLAs.

If they are interested but not ready to support it, ask for the next step:

- Who else should receive this briefing?
- Would you be willing to arrange an introduction?
- Can we send you the material addressing the questions you raised today?
- Would you be willing to discuss this again after you have reviewed the proposal?

DON'T FINISH WITH "WHAT DO YOU THINK?" FINISH WITH "WILL YOU…?"

THE POINT OF THE BRIEFING

You are not asking people to become NFA experts.

You are asking them to understand the central legislative change, consider the proposal seriously, and do something that moves it forward.

Know your audience. Choose the doorway. Explain the change. Make the ask.