Petition in Support of the New Forest Act

To the Honourable the Legislative Assembly of the Province of British Columbia, in Legislature Assembled:

British Columbia's forestry laws—the Forest Act, the Forest and Range Practices Act (FRPA), the Private Managed Forest Land Act (PMFLA), and the Ministry of Forests Act—organize forest governance around timber supply and extraction. This framework fails to give ecological integrity, watershed security, community decision-making, and stable local economies the priority they require.

We, the undersigned residents of British Columbia, petition the Legislative Assembly to enact a New Forest Act founded on three priorities: ecological integrity in law, community decision-making in law, and stable community economies. We request a legislative framework that does the following.

1 Makes ecological integrity the foundation of forest decisions

Protects and restores nature's protective functions, including stable hydrology, intact forest cover, biodiversity, soil carbon, and ecosystem resilience, to reduce community exposure to flood, wildfire, drought, and climate-related risks.

2 Establishes Nature Directed Stewardship as the governing framework

Grounds forest stewardship in ecological science and Indigenous knowledge, treating forests as critical public infrastructure that sustains water security, public safety, biodiversity, and long-term community well-being.

3 Creates accountable governance and local decision making

Establishes a Ministry of Ecosystem Integrity; Local Forest Boards with local and Indigenous participation in decision-making; and an independent Forester General reporting annually to the Legislature. Local ranger stations, regional science panels, and Indigenous Knowledge Panels support monitoring, compliance, and learning.

Regional log sort yards provide open, competitive access to logs and support local processing and manufacturing.

4 Replaces the existing legislative framework

Repeals and replaces the Forest Act, FRPA, PMFLA, and the Ministry of Forests Act with a coherent New Forest Act framework. Fully implements the Water Sustainability Act, including completing the regulatory framework for Water Sustainability Plans.

5 Implements Protect Restore Harvest

Protect. Protects primary forests in perpetuity, with no logging.

Restore. Restores degraded secondary forests and compromised watersheds through road deactivation, hydrological repair, and recovery of forest structure and ecological function. No salvage logging occurs in the Protect or Restore zones.

Harvest. Permits selection-based, continuous-cover forestry on previously logged and roaded lands in designated Harvest areas, only where ecological thresholds allow.

6 Provides an orderly and transparent transition

On public land. Provides for existing forest licences to end at renewal through a proposed 1–5 year legislative transition, without tenure buy-backs. Supports workers and communities through the shift to restoration, stewardship, and forestry within ecological limits.

On private land currently governed by the PMFLA. Retains private ownership while replacing the PMFLA with enforceable ecological standards and watershed thresholds consistent with those applied on public land. Standards protect water, salmon habitat, slope stability, and downstream communities.

Clearcutting ends. Harvesting may continue in designated Harvest areas using selection-based methods where ecological thresholds allow. The transition phases in over 1–5 years. Preferential forest land tax classification depends on measurable compliance with ecological and watershed protection standards.

7 Supports stable community economies

Shifts forestry from dependence on high-volume extraction toward greater value per tree and locally rooted economic activity, including restoration work, local milling, regional manufacturing, Indigenous Guardians, and long-term stewardship employment.

Supporting documents

This petition supports the New Forest Act Proposal (March 2026), including its appendix on replacing the PMFLA, and the NFA Backgrounder (October 2025).

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