



## Executive Summary

# New Forest Act: Protecting Communities and Nature

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**The New Forest Act is about three things: prioritizing ecological integrity, community-based decision-making, local economies.**

**What this does.** The New Forest Act shifts BC from volume-driven industrial logging to Nature-Directed Stewardship (NDS), treating forests as critical public infrastructure for water security, flood/fire protection, carbon storage, biodiversity, and community stability. It replaces the current regime with outcomes-first rules and community-centred governance.

**Why now.** Industrial forestry has produced degraded landscapes, higher disaster risks and costs, and declining jobs and mills - while prioritizing short-term timber flow over long-term ecosystem function and local economies. The legislation enshrines ecological integrity and public interest ahead of private extraction.

### How the transition works.

- **Licences end at renewal.** Existing licences are dissolved at their five-year renewal dates - an orderly 1–5 year transition with no tenure buy-backs.
- **Statutes repealed and replaced.** The Act repeals the Forest Act, FRPA, PMFLA, and the Ministry of Forests Act; the Water Sustainability Act is fully implemented (not repealed) to support watershed-first planning.

**The framework: P.R.H. (Protect–Restore–Harvest)** implements NDS in space and sequence:

- **Protect** primary forests in perpetuity (no industrial logging/roads).
- **Restore** degraded secondary forests (road removal, hydrology repair, proforestation; no “salvage” logging).
- **Harvest** selection-based forestry on previously logged/roaded lands, with partial cutting, continuous cover, and full-cycle tree retention - only where ecological thresholds allow.

**Governance the public trusts.** A new **Ministry of Ecosystem Integrity (MOEI)** administers the Act with Indigenous and public leadership; **Community Forest Boards** make local decisions; **Regional Log Sort Yards** restore open, competitive log markets; an independent **Forester General** reports annually to the Legislature. Local ranger stations, regional science panels, and Indigenous Knowledge Panels anchor monitoring, compliance, and learning.



## What changes on the ground.

- **Outcomes first:** forests kept functioning - connected cover, cold clean water, stable slopes, living soil carbon, wildlife habitat.
- **Logging continues, but differently:** selection/partial cutting, minimal roads, higher structural retention, and hydrology-led layout.
- **Jobs shift and grow:** restoration, monitoring, planning, regional sorting, local mills, and value-added manufacturing - **more jobs per cubic metre** and steadier community work than industrial-extraction-and-export.

**Training and accreditation are ready to implement.** Foresters learn NDS via a paradigm-first course (outcomes/limits), a field practicum, and a supervised project with sign-off, built on skills already taught (selection systems, riparian design, terrain stability). Government can require NDS sign-off on public projects and credit hours toward professional development, with simple annual audits to improve.

**Economic rationale.** The P.R.H. system avoids liquidation, restores watershed security, and supports small and medium-sized local businesses in milling and value-added manufacturing. It re-opens regional log markets so public timber becomes public value instead of raw-log exports.

**Funding and independence.** This proposal and the companion backgrounder were produced without government, industry, or foundation money - funded by residents and volunteers - so the only obligation is to communities and the public interest.

**Decision in front of BC.** Enact new legislation that protects people and ecosystems, aligns with DRIPA, and puts British Columbians to work in conservation, restoration, and careful selection forestry - or continue paying for floods, fires, drought, and lost opportunities. The favourable choice is clear.

↓ Download the full proposal and backgrounder at: [www.boundaryforest.org](http://www.boundaryforest.org)

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