



City of Campbell River
From the Office of the Mayor

May 28, 2024

The Honorable Bruce Ralston
Minister of Forests
Room 138 Parliament Buildings
Victoria, BC V8V 1X4

Via email: FLNR.Minister@gov.bc.ca

Dear Minister Ralston,

I am writing to express my deep concern regarding the provincial government's recent management of forest practices, which are having severe repercussions on local communities and the broader provincial economy. As you may be aware, two weeks ago, Canfor Corporation announced its decision to close a sawmill in Bear Lake, curtail production at a pulp mill in Prince George, and suspend plans for a new mill in Houston, BC. This announcement has sent shockwaves through these three BC communities, resulting in hundreds of job losses that support families and sustain local economies.

The forest sector in BC is facing significant challenges, compounded by uncertainties surrounding fibre supply and the BC Government's Forest policies and directives. Our forests have supported communities and families for generations, and it is essential to maintain this legacy.

According to the BC Council of Forest Industries' 2024 report, the forest industry in BC supports approximately 100,000 jobs across the province. The industry contributes \$17.4 billion in value-added activity, with significant portions derived from forestry, logging supported activities, wood products manufacturing, and pulp and paper manufacturing. Additionally, the sector generates approximately \$9.1 billion in labour income and contributes \$6.6 billion in government revenue, benefitting provincial, federal and municipal levels.

This decline in the forest sector is not just a statistic; it represents a real crisis affecting people and communities. It is imperative that all levels of government take immediate and decisive action to protect good forestry jobs and ensure a sustainable future for this vital industry.

Without significant change, announcements like the one Canfor made two weeks ago will become more frequent, affecting communities across BC, including Campbell River. It is vital that we prioritize the health and sustainability of our forest sector to protect our communities, families, and the economy. I urge you to consider the far-reaching impacts of current forest management practices and to work

collaboratively with industry stakeholders to develop policies that support the long-term viability of BC's Forest sector.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Kermit Dahl". The signature is stylized with large, rounded letters and a prominent flourish at the end.

Kermit Dahl
Mayor