



Executive Summary

New Forest Act: Protecting Communities and Nature

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- **Statutes repealed and replaced.** The Act repeals the Forest Act, FRPA, PMFLA, and the Ministry of Forests Act; the Water Sustainability Act is fully implemented (not repealed) to support watershed-first planning.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.E. (Protect–Restore–Employ) 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).
- **Employ** 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 PRE 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.

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