

February 26, 2026



Re: Request for Official Endorsement of “Forestry is a Solution”

Dear Councillor Dawn Vomacka,

On behalf of a coalition of forest sector organizations, I am requesting that the Town of Lake Cowichan endorse the **Forestry is a Solution** initiative by way of council motion, demonstrating community support for forestry across British Columbia.

Launched on January 20, 2026, at the BC Natural Resources Forum in Prince George, this province-wide initiative is led by a broad coalition of community leaders, workers, and industry advocates. Our goal is to demonstrate the deep public support for British Columbia’s forest sector and ensure it remains a strategic asset for the future of our province.

Why This Matters to Our Community

For many communities across British Columbia, forestry is more than an industry—it is a cornerstone of your economic resilience. However, the sector currently faces significant headwinds from global competition, challenging operating conditions, and damaging U.S. trade actions. We believe that by working together, we can show the provincial government that forestry provides the solutions for BC’s most urgent challenges, including:

- **Building affordable housing** by providing renewable, low-carbon materials.
- **Reducing wildfire risks** through active, professional forest management in our backyards.
- **Supporting family-sustaining jobs** for skilled workers in the bush, at the mills, and in the office.
- **Contributing revenues and services** that fund our local schools, hospitals, and public services.
- **Storing carbon** in every beam and board, helping cut building emissions.



Request for Action

The **Forestry is a Solution** initiative outlines four key priorities for immediate government action to strengthen the sector:

1. **Speed up access to economic wood** by expediting permits and approvals for greater predictability.
2. **Improve competitiveness and cost certainty** by reducing administrative and regulatory burdens.
3. **Fix BC Timber Sales** to ensure a reliable and competitive supply of logs for mills and secondary manufacturing.
4. **Support First Nations partnerships** with the capacity and tools to expedite referrals and increase revenue sharing.

Request to Council

We respectfully request that Council consider a motion to:

1. **Officially endorse** the “Forestry is a Solution” campaign.
2. **Encourage community members** to visit forestryisasolution.com to sign the petition and send a letter to their MLA, the Minister of Forests, the Premier, and the Official Opposition Forests Critic.
3. **Support staff** to share information about Forestry is a Solution through your community’s official communication channels.

Our collective goal is to reach **5,000** signatures to demonstrate support for the government to take these practical steps. When our forests and forest sector thrive, our communities remain strong.

Thank you for your leadership and for your continued support of the workers and families who depend on BC forestry. We would be pleased to provide a brief presentation to Council on this initiative at your earliest convenience.



Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Kim Haakstad".

Kim Haakstad

President & CEO, BC Council of Forest Industries

On behalf of coalition partners:

- BC Council of Forest Industries (COFI)
- Truck Loggers Association (TLA)
- Alliance of Resource Communities (ARC)
- ResourceWorks
- Interior Logging Association (ILA)
- Interior Forest Labour Relations Association (IFLRA)
- BC Pulp and Paper Coalition
- Private Forest Landowners Association (PFLA)
- Woodlots BC
- Council on Northern Interior Forest Employment Relations (Conifer)
- North West Loggers Association
- Independent Lumber Manufacturer's Association (ILMA)

Enclosed

- Forestry is a Solution Platform

Forestry is a solution for BC, for Canada.

- + Supports people.
- + Strengthens communities.
- + Builds economic resilience.

British Columbia's forest sector can help protect jobs, strengthen communities, and build a stronger BC and Canada. At a time of global uncertainty and damaging U.S. duties and tariffs we need a made-in-BC solution.

BC has the forests, the workers, and the expertise. Let's work together for BC.

Take Action > Learn More >



Take Action:
Support a made-in-BC economic solution

Do you support BC forestry? Take one or all of these steps:

Step 1: Sign the petition

Sign [this petition](#) and stand with neighbours and friends to support BC forestry.

Sign Petition

Powered by spark*activation

Step 2: Send the letter

Politicians need to hear from you. Send [this letter](#) to your MLA and the BC Government.


Send Letter


Travis Joern (joern@cofi.org) is signed in


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Step 3: Share the campaign

Let's bring BC together on this issue. Share with your networks!

Share on: 

Share on: 

Share on: 

Share on: 

The Problems

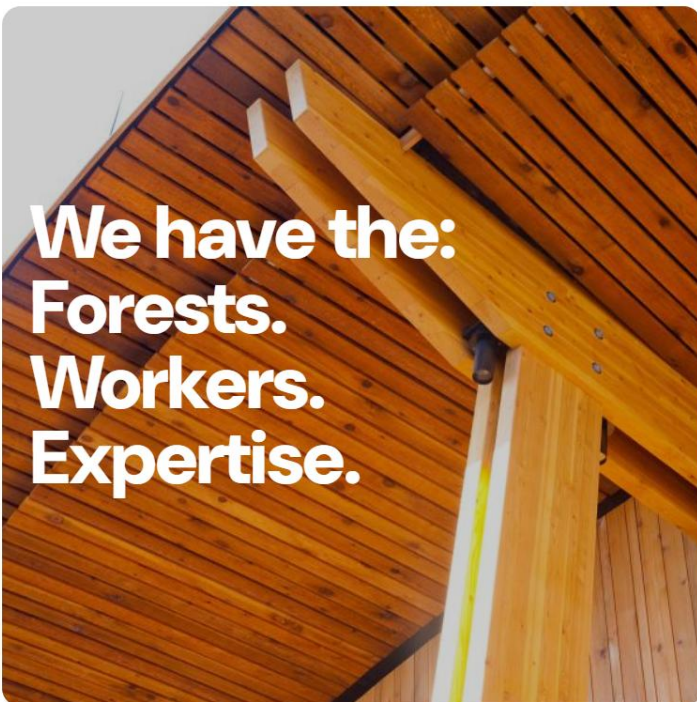
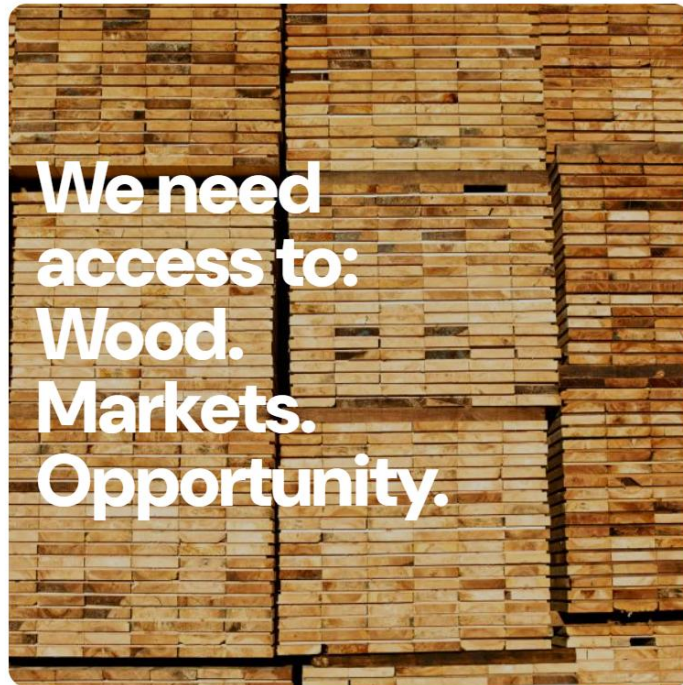
British Columbia's forest sector is operating in a difficult global environment:

- Global competition is increasing
- Conditions in BC limit the full potential
- U.S. trade actions hurt Canadian wood producers

Yet despite these headwinds, forestry remains one of BC's greatest economic opportunities.

This is a moment to focus on homegrown solutions that create value here in British Columbia.

Take Action >



The Opportunity

British Columbia has the timber to support a healthy and sustainable forest sector. Ready to harvest and fire-damaged timber is available – and demand for Canadian wood remains strong. The opportunity is clear:

Get wood moving efficiently through the value chain from the forest to the mill to your home

This will:

- Keep people working
- Offset economic damage from U.S. trade actions
- Create more value and increase secondary manufacturing jobs
- Strengthen economic security

This is about using harvest ready timber better and faster.

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Let's work together for BC

What needs to happen:

1. Speed up access to economic wood

Expedite permits and approvals so timber reaches mills in a predictable and timely way.

2. Improve competitiveness and cost certainty

Address administrative and regulatory burdens affecting harvesting and manufacturing.

3. Make BC Timber Sales work as intended

Deliver a reliable, competitive supply of logs to support mills and workers.

4. Support First Nations partnerships

Support First Nations with the capacity and tools to expedite referrals and increase revenue sharing.

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Why Forestry matters right now

Forestry is a solution. When it can reach its full potential, forestry is a strategic asset for British Columbians. BC's forest sector:

- ✓ Supports tens of thousands of good, family-sustaining jobs
- ✓ Keeps rural, First Nations, and urban communities economically strong
- ✓ Supplies Canadian wood for housing and infrastructure
- ✓ Stores carbon in every beam and board, helping cut building emissions
- ✓ Generates public revenue for essential services
- ✓ Reduces wildfire risk through active forest management

A Broad Coalition of Support:

This is about working together to ensure forestry continues to contribute to BC's future. Support for forestry solutions spans British Columbia, including:

- Forestry workers and their families
- First Nations governments and entrepreneurs
- Local businesses and contractors
- Industry organizations
- Residents who care about economic stability and community resilience



Take Action >