

Date: February 18, 2026

To: **Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs**

Name and title: Councillor Garth Frizzell, Chair, Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs

Subject: Forestry Sector Issues

Attachment(s):

1. Transformation of Canada's Forest Sector Backgrounder to Inform for Public Engagement
2. Forestry is a Solution
3. From Conflict to Care: BC's Forest Future

Recommendation(s):

1. That the Committee DIRECTS staff to proceed with submitting input to the Canadian Forest Sector Transformation Task Force by March 16, 2026, as detailed in the report titled, "Forestry Sector Issues" from the Chair, dated February 18th, 2026.
2. That the Committee DIRECTS staff to develop a strategy to support upcoming strategic engagements with provincial and federal ministers as detailed in the report titled, "Forestry Sector Issues" from the Chair, dated February 18th, 2026.
3. That the Committee SUPPORTS the *Forestry is a Solution* initiative by writing in support of the campaign to the relevant provincial authorities as detailed in the report titled, "Forestry Sector Issues" from the Chair, dated February 18th, 2026.

Purpose:

The Committee should consider undertaking additional tasks related to the Forestry Sector. Immediate items that may be directed or recommended include providing input to the Canadian Forest Sector Transformation Task Force by March 16, 2026. In addition, as staff will conduct meetings during the Council of Forest Industries (COFI) conference April 8-10, 2026, the output of these meetings may be used to assist in developing a strategy to support upcoming discussions with other orders of government. In addition, the Committee may recommend supporting the *Forestry is a Solution* initiative by amplifying the campaign. This campaign may help strengthen the collective messaging around the needs of the BC Forestry Industry.

Background:

Prince George, like nearly 300 other forest-reliant communities in Canada, has relied on forestry for over 100 years as a major pillar of the economy. Over the past two decades the forest sector has seen dramatic contractions due to many factors such as inflation, tariffs, changing consumer preferences and technological changes.

The Federal Government has created the Canadian Forest Sector Transformation Task Force to identify priority pathways for industry and government to restructure, retool and transform Canada's forest sector for long-term competitiveness and sustainability. A copy of *Transformation of Canada's Forest Sector Backgrounder to Inform for Public Engagement* is attached to this report.

Key points to address through input include the following:

- Maximizing the forest sector's contribution to new housing investments
- Ways to use innovation, digitalization and advanced technologies to increase productivity
- Optimizing the use of forest fiber
- Tools to support workers and communities
- Opportunities for market diversification that can expand access to new markets and strengthen Canada's position in existing ones.

The BC COFI advocates for the interests of its members and works with government, First Nations, communities, labour and other partners to promote a healthy, diversified and sustainable forest industry that benefits people and families across BC. During the COFI conference April 8-10, 2026, staff will have the opportunity to have strategic discussions with forest industry leaders and develop a better understanding of how Prince George can align our messaging where appropriate.

The *Forestry is a Solution* initiative aims to address the following forestry issues in British Columbia:

1. Speed up access to economic wood
2. Improve competitiveness and cost certainty
3. Make BC Timber Sales work as intended
4. Support First Nations partnerships

There are three ways in which residents can support BC Forestry including signing a petition, sending a letter or sharing the campaign. An overview of the campaign is attached. The Committee may support this work by writing in support of the campaign to the relevant provincial authorities as example.

Summary and conclusion:

This report supports staff advancing the City's interests in the forestry sector by submitting input to the Canadian Forest Sector Transformation Task Force by March 16, 2026, ensuring our perspectives are reflected in this important initiative. Staff will also participate in meetings during the COFI conference April 8-10, 2026, which will support the development of a coordinated strategy to guide future engagement with provincial and federal partners. Additionally, by amplifying the *Forestry is a Solution* campaign, the city will contribute to strengthened, unified messaging around the needs and priorities of British Columbia's forestry sector.

Respectfully submitted:

Councillor Garth Frizzell, Chair, Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs

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