

By Electronic Mail

September 1, 2006

Re: Review of British Columbia Log Export Policy

As you may be aware, the Minister of Forests and Range, the Honourable Rich Coleman, has asked the two of us to conduct a comprehensive review of British Columbia's log export policies. A copy of the announcement of the Review, and its terms of reference, are attached to this letter.

An important component of this review will be consultations with key parties with an interest in the issue. We have been asked to focus on the British Columbia Coast, as that is where the issue of log exports is most significant. We are contacting you, as an interested party, to solicit your input.

We would be interested in receiving your input through a face-to-face meeting and/or a written submission. In order to facilitate meeting as many parties as possible, we are planning to travel extensively to coastal communities. Our schedule for meetings outside Vancouver and Victoria is as follows:

- Duncan – September 11;
- Port Alberni – September 13;
- Campbell River – September 14;
- Port Hardy – September 15
- Queen Charlotte Islands/Haida Gwaii – September 25
- Prince Rupert – September 26
- Terrace – September 27.

If you would like to meet with us in one of those communities on those days, please contact either one of us with the contact information below. If a meeting in Victoria or Vancouver is more convenient, that also can be arranged with either one of us.

In the interest of full and frank discussion, we will meet separately with each individual group that requests a meeting.

If you want to make a written submission as well, we would ask that you provide that to us no later than October 15. This will give us time to appropriately consider all input before we submit our final report to Minister Coleman on November 15. Electronic submission would be preferred, if that is possible. You should be aware that we intend to make copies of written submissions available to the Ministry of Forests and Range and these may, in turn be made available to the public through the provisions in British Columbia's freedom of information law.

As you will see from the terms of reference, the scope of our review is quite far ranging. We have included with this letter a list of questions that may stimulate thinking on the range of issues. We want to stress, however, that this is meant to be a "non-prejudicial" set of questions, and you are free in your presentation/submission to us to comment and advice on any aspects of British Columbia's log export policy you deem appropriate.

We look forward to your input.

Sincerely,

W.E. (Bill) Dumont, RPF
Dumont and Associates
Forestry Consultants
1753 Peerless Road, RR # 1
Cobble Hill, British Columbia
V0R 1L0

Tel: 250 743 9882
Email: wedumont@shaw.ca

Don Wright
Analytica Consulting
4505 Tanglewood Crescent
Victoria, British Columbia
V8X 3V3

250 888 9821
don.wright@shaw.ca

Attachments

Cc: Honourable R. Coleman, Minister of Forests and Range

Log Export Policy Questions

1. What would be the impact of tightening the restrictions on the export of logs on:
 - the level of logging employment;
 - the level of manufacturing employment;
 - other employment;
 - the competitiveness of the forest industry;
 - the level of government revenues?

2. What would be the impact of loosening the restrictions on the export of logs on:
 - the level of logging employment;
 - the level of manufacturing employment;
 - other employment;
 - the competitiveness of the forest industry;
 - the level of government revenues?

3. Should the export of logs be completely eliminated? Why or why not?

4. Should the export of logs be completely free of restrictions? Why or why not?

5. Is the current regulatory approach to log exports sufficiently efficient, effective and transparent? If not, what changes or alternative approaches would you suggest?

6. What criteria would you suggest be used to determine when and where log exports should be permitted?

7. Are there some parts of the Coast, or some species or grades, for which log exports should be less restricted than others?

8. Should a distinction be made between logs from crown lands and logs from private lands? If so, how should that distinction get translated into log export policy?

9. What are the implications of the proposed Canada-U.S. agreement on softwood lumber for log export policy?

10. Are there any environmental protection implications for log export policy?

INFORMATION BULLETIN

For Immediate Release
2006FOR0101-001048
Aug. 17, 2006

Ministry of Forests and Range

COLEMAN APPOINTS EXPERTS TO REVIEW LOG EXPORTS

VICTORIA – Former deputy forests minister Don Wright and professional forester Bill Dumont have been selected to lead a comprehensive review of the province's log export policy.

The review will examine the rationale for log exports from private and Crown lands and their effect on harvesting, log markets, workers, communities, and the forest products industry. Wright and Dumont will analyze current laws, regulations and policies governing log exports and will make recommendations to improve the existing legal and administrative structure. Their report will be submitted to Forests and Range Minister Rich Coleman by Nov. 15, 2006.

Wright previously served as British Columbia's deputy forests minister and assistant deputy minister. He has private sector experience as the former vice president of forestry, environment and corporate affairs for Weldwood of Canada. Wright holds a master's degree in natural resource economics and a PhD in economics.

Dumont is a Vancouver Island resident with 35 years of forestry experience. He served as chief forester for Western Forest Products, where he earned a reputation for sustainable forest management, consultation and working with First Nations. He is a recipient of the B.C. Environment Minister's Award and the Bill Young award for Excellence in Integrated Resource Management.

1 backgrounder(s) attached.

Media Christine Lewis
contact: Public Affairs Officer
 Ministry of Forests and Range
 250 387-4592

BACKGROUND

2006FOR0101-001048
Aug. 17, 2006

Ministry of Forests and Range

TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR LOG EXPORT REVIEW

Bill Dumont and Don Wright shall examine the rationale for log exports from Crown and private lands and the effect of log exports on the forest products industry, log markets, the logging industry, workers and communities.

They shall review current laws, regulations and policies that govern log exports in British Columbia and make recommendations to improve the current legal and administrative structure.

In undertaking this review, they shall meet and consult with interested parties, including the BC Federation of Labour; Coast Forest Products Association; Truck Loggers Association; United Steelworkers Union; Pulp, Paper and Woodworkers of Canada; Communications, Energy, and Paperworkers Union of Canada; licensees; logging companies; manufacturing companies; First Nations; interested communities; the Timber Export Advisory Committee and the provincial government.

A report will be provided to the Minister of Forests and Range by Nov. 15, 2006.