

## OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

June 27, 2024

The Honourable David Eby Premier of British Columbia PO Box 9041 Stn Prov Govt Victoria, BC V8W 9E1

Sent Via Email: premier@gov.bc.ca

To The Honourable David Eby, Premier

Re: Forestry Works for BC

Forestry matters in every corner of this province. From hospitals, schools and roads and communities; forestry has been the foundation of so much of what we hold dear in this province. The City of Terrace believes that when British Columbia's forest sector is healthy, we all do better.

Today, the future of forestry in BC is uncertain. Harvest levels have fallen to less than 60% of BC's sustainable allowable annual cut and mills are closing. Natural forces like wildfire and mountain pine beetle contribute to the trend, but there is more to the story. The volume and pace of policy change in BC has led to uncertainty for cutting permits and forestry activities across the province.

A sustainable forest sector must have reliable and timely access to the Annual Allowable Cut (AAC) to continue to keep our province thriving. Without it:

- The potential for livable wages drops people are moving away to pursue a better life elsewhere
- Community investment slows companies are taking their capital to other provinces and countries, and
- One of the government's major renewable revenue sources declines. Governments have less funding in hand to support the programs, services, and infrastructure that residents of British Columbia deserve and need.

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It is not a matter of trees versus jobs, it is quality of life and an AAC we can all count on.

Terrace's economy is inextricably linked to forestry, and its residents have seen the direct impacts of the recent uncertainty in the industry. Most recently, this was evidenced through the loss of more than 150 local jobs with the closure of Skeena Sawmills. The City of Terrace Council kindly requests your support for the future of forestry in British Columbia via a meaningful commitment to allowable annual cut on the ground; not just on paper.

Sincerely,

Sean Bujtas Mayor

Cc: The Honourable Bruce Ralston, Minister of Forests FOR.Minister@gov.bc.ca

The Honourable Andrew Mercier, Minister of State for Sustainable Forestry Innovation Andrew.Mercier@gov.bc.ca

The Honourable Ellis Ross, MLA Skeena Ellis.Ross.MLA@leg.bc.ca