



Dear Valued Customers:

The Province of British Columbia (B.C.) values and appreciates our overseas customers' attention to the legality and sustainability of forest product imports. Both our customers and B.C. share the view that these matters are globally significant, and of central importance to credible importing and manufacturing of forest products across the world.

As the Minister of Forests, Mines and Lands, I am pleased to confirm that our province's forest policy and enforcement framework is among the world's most comprehensive and rigorous. Most of B.C.'s 59 million hectares of forest land is publicly owned, and is managed to protect natural diversity and address the interests of all British Columbians. Our province has forest legislation, regulations and standards that set strict conditions regulating private companies who are licensed to harvest public forests. Our forest companies often exceed these standards with their planning and practices on the ground.

A 2009 study by the Finnish research company Indufor Oy compared forest regulation and certifications standards in B.C. and around the world. The study stated that: "Canada (British Columbia and Ontario) and Australia (New South Wales) are the countries with the most demanding legislation on the studied elements." The Indufor Oy study reaffirms the fact that B.C. continues to be a leader in practicing sustainable forest management.

British Columbia's forestry laws are backed by a comprehensive compliance and enforcement regime that involves various provincial and federal agencies. Within the Ministry of Environment and the Ministry of Natural Resource Operations, their compliance and enforcement staff inspects harvesting operations throughout the province to ensure that the requirements of our forest laws are met. Providing a further level of assurance, B.C. also has an independent Forest Practices Board, which audits and reviews all forestry activities on behalf of the public.

Forest companies operating in B.C. share our commitment to sustainable forest management, demonstrating high levels of compliance with forest practices laws and a world-leading level of third-party forest certifications (CSA, SFI, and FSC). As a result, B.C. has a very secure forest products supply chain. Our customers can be very confident that their purchases originate from timber that has been harvested according to the laws of B.C.

Sincerely,

Pat Bell
Minister