



LOG EXPORT REVIEW

Thank you for the opportunity to participate with the review of BC log export policies. We hope that our comments will contribute to changes to enable increased effectiveness.

With the globalization of today's wood products markets, and supply and demand complexities, log exports has become a more complicated topic than ever. This makes it difficult to focus on the simple basics of the debate – is the export of logs good for BC?

The Forests Society believes there are several key questions that should be answered:

- Is it our intent to manufacture all or most logs within BC?
- What are the volumes of logs exported now? Is this acceptable?
- Do log export policies allow both sellers and buyers to receive a fair price?
- Do we advantage BC communities, processing facilities and employment?
- Is log waste avoided, utilization optimized, manufacturing diversity encouraged?
- Is the exporting of logs a sign of problems to be addressed in the forest industry?

Some of the specific components that we propose as part of an effective policy:

- Logs from private and Crown lands should be treated the same. Present legislation (Forest, Act Part 10) would apply to both sources.
- There should be a two-level approach – larger and smaller operations. Smaller (F.A. Sec 128 (2)) would have a more simple and quick application process.
- Larger-scale operations would have the responsibility to ensure that their export proposals did not substantially deprive the local economy of associated benefits. However receiving a fair price for their logs would be an expected component.
- There would be a formal requirement for local manufacturing facilities to have the opportunity to bid on all logs, from Crown or private land, proposed for export.
- Regional log markets should be established to guide fair prices, and over time enable the value of logs to approach export market prices.
- There would be administrative oversight, including monitoring and auditing, to ensure policies and principles were met and continuous improvement achieved.