



February 12, 2023

Dear Mayor Jack Crompton and Whistler (Resort Municipality) Council,

There are two main kinds of actions we can take on climate change. First, we can adapt to the changing climate. Second, we can reduce greenhouse gases to limit or stop climate change. The Government of British Columbia is doing both using forestry as a nature-based tool.

There are many forestry workers throughout British Columbia who are on the front lines and are taking action on climate change, and we consider them to be climate change heroes. Behind the scenes, other heroes also work within the BC Ministry of Forests and the Office of the Chief Forester. They work at the crossroad of understanding where the science meets the national and international frameworks, where the natural power of forests to reduce greenhouse gases are being actioned.

They have translated this understanding into meaningful actions in B.C.'s forests to take action, including:

1. Planting trees that otherwise would not be planted because growing trees absorb carbon dioxide.
2. Fertilizing forests to help trees grow faster, to absorb carbon dioxide faster.
3. Using woody biomass waste that otherwise would have been burned to avoid greenhouse gas emissions.
4. Storing carbon in long-lived wood products such as wooden buildings and furniture.

The Ministry of Forests, through the establishment of a new Future Forest Ecosystems Centre, is supporting new guidance and practices to help forests become more resilient to the changing climate. These tools tell us what tree seeds and species will be more suited at a site level as the climate changes. The governments of BC and Canada have provided funding to turn these ideas into significant actions in our forests. For example, \$150 million deployed by the Forest Enhancement Society of BC (FESBC) resulted in the reduction of greenhouse gases equivalent to taking 4.2 million cars off the road for a year. This is an achievement that every British Columbian, and Canadian, can be very proud of.

The enclosed issue of the **FESBC 2023 Accomplishments Update** provides you with further insight into who some of the talented staff are, and the amazing work the Ministry of Forests is doing to take action on climate change.

Steven F. Kozuki, RPF
Executive Director, FESBC

(630) MC - 9