

FOREST POLICY

Issue	West Coast Environmental Law	BC Liberals	BC NDP	BC Green
Tenure reform	<p>Tenure reform should advance ecological sustainability, recognition of Aboriginal Title and Rights, and democratic local control of forests. As a starting point the majority of tenure should be redistributed, at the lowest taxpayer cost, to First Nations, communities and small businesses. New tenures should be create to facilitate 'nature for carbon' credits (see also forests and climate change below)</p>	<p>"[N]ew tenures that provide new access to waste wood and to stable fibre supplies for bioenergy." (p. 41)</p> <p>"We will work with First Nations and communities to give them more access to fibre that they can depend upon for value-added growth." (p. 41)</p> <p>"[W]e will also introduce new "lump sum" sales, where licensees can buy an area of timber instead of only paying for the trees they harvest." (p. 41)</p> <p>"Our new vision for silviculture will include a new tenure specifically designed for growing trees." (p. 42)</p> <p>"[W]e will also establish a new Commercial Forest Reserve that ensures harvested lands continue to be protected as a forest asset." (p. 41)</p>	<p>"BC needs to reform its tenure system through a broad, community-based process that gives communities and workers a strong say in the future of the forest industry. Tenure reform will ensure we get more value out of the land base and that local communities, First Nations and businesses have access to the timber they need. The NDP will create a permanent Commission on Forestry to guide the change in our industry in a public, accountable way." (p. 13)</p>	<p>"Increase small-scale forest tenure such as community forests and woodlots." (p. 58)</p> <p>"Accelerate tenure reform to require no less than fifty percent of public forest tenures be held by First Nations, woodlots and communities by the year 2015." (p. 58)</p>
Stumpage and pricing	<p>Ensure that full and fair value is paid for forest resources.</p>	<p>"[W]e will also introduce new 'lump sum' sales, where licensees can buy an area of timber instead of only paying for the trees they harvest." (p. 41)</p>	<p>No mention but see analysis below</p>	<p>"Set up a formal inquiry into stumpage manipulation, reinstate government log scalers, and set stumpage rates at fair market value." (p.61)</p> <p>"Establish competitive regional log markets that sell all logs from public land through open auction, and in the interim replace the current stumpage tax system with the payment of a percentage tax on the logs sold." (p. 60)</p>

<p>Value-added manufacturing</p>	<p>BC should support value-added manufacturing, including the creation of transparent regional log markets that would make wood available in a manner accessible for value-added manufacturers</p>	<p>"A new Value for Wood Secretariat will be created to provide a one stop access to government agencies aimed at expanding and expediting investments in value-added growth."</p> <p>"We will ... [expand] value-added growth in manufacturing and engineered wood products. Our goal is to generate more economic value per hectare of forest-land than any other jurisdiction on Earth, by 2020." (p. 41)</p>	<p>"By capitalizing on new technology and processes, the NDP will reduce wood waste and get more value from BC timber." (p. 13)</p>	<p>"Encourage the development of value-added, second-growth processing facilities through tax-shifting....Ensure small and value-added BC-based forest businesses have access to a reliable wood supply through regional log markets." (p. 58)</p>
<p>Raw log export</p>	<p>Raw log export restrictions should be strengthened</p>	<p>"The export of raw logs is only allowed if they are deemed to be surplus to domestic needs. The best way to reduce even the current amount is to create more domestic demand for those logs." (p. 41)</p>	<p>"Carole James and the NDP will restrict raw log exports to make sure BC logs create BC jobs." (p. 13)</p>	<p>Not mentioned in current platform but see analysis below.</p>
<p>Forest certification</p>	<p>Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) certification is the only credible forest certification system. BC should remove legal barriers to FSC management and give preference to FSC-certified products in wood marketing strategies.</p>	<p>No mention</p>	<p>No mention but see analysis below</p>	<p>"Support companies that want Forest Stewardship Council eco-certification for their wood products and help marketeco-certified BC wood products internationally." (p. 60)</p>

Analysis:

Tenure reform: The parties' platforms on this issue reflect quite different approaches. The Liberals platform if implemented would redesign the tenure system to put in place legal building blocks for more intensive forest management (shorter rotations, more chemical inputs etc.) and burning our forests for bioenergy. Tenure changes proposed by the Greens and NDP are more focused on increasing First Nations and community control of forests, with the Greens making the more measurable and extensive commitment. No party proposes tenure changes that would enable 'nature for carbon' initiatives that protect rather than log natural forests.

Stumpage and pricing: Only the Green platform addresses this issue in broad policy terms. The Liberals make one specific commitment around the idea of 'lump sum' sales, a concept for which greater detail would be required to assess its full implications. Follow up correspondence from the NDP indicated that: "A full stumpage and pricing review will be a part of a reform of our tenure system, ensuring that the public get more out of the value of our forests and resources are opened up to new players in the industry."

Value-added manufacturing: Adding more value to the trees we log is emphasized by all three parties; however, both the Liberals and the NDP seem to be focusing more on new products such as wood pellets for burning rather than freeing up high value logs that value-added producers might access through regional log markets.

Raw log export: In the face of closing and idled mills in BC, the Liberals assertion that logs currently being exported are truly surplus to domestic needs appears questionable. Follow-up correspondence from the Green Party indicated that their position is that raw log exports should be banned.

Forest certification: Only the Greens address this important issue in their platform. Follow up correspondence from the NDP indicated that: "The NDP recognizes FSC as the standard in the industry and we will work with industry to remove legal barriers."

