



Resource Municipalities  
**COALITION**

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**Honourable Katrine Conroy, Minister**

Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations & Rural Development  
PO Box 9049, Stn Prov Govt  
Victoria, BC V8W 9E2

June 14, 2021

**RE: Modernizing Forestry in BC**

Minister Conroy,

The Resource Municipalities Coalition (RMC) advocates for responsible resource development as we believe it sustains communities by addressing impacts on ecosystems as well as cumulative impacts to a healthy natural environment and to citizens by ensuring the provision of effective social services that improve quality of life while building a sustainable future. It is based on these values that we recognize the importance of the forestry sector on our natural environment and quality of life for all British Columbians. As a renewable resource, the forest sector will contribute to the economy of British Columbia for years to come through proactive management practices and the RMC applauds the government for moving forward with the policies as set out within "*Modernizing Forest Policy in British Columbia*".

We support the guiding principles as identified within the report and encourage government to act on them swiftly, as noted within the report, the current policy framework is nearly two decades old and inadequate to address the challenges of today.

We recognize the complexity in implementing the 20 policy intentions, but we are also gravely concerned with the timelines outlined in the intentions document. Government has already taken a significant amount of time to engage with stakeholders and the resulting reports, specifically the Old Growth Strategic Review, Coast Forest Sector Revitalization and interior Forest Sector Renewal have provided government with a clear path forward. To see we are now looking at the end of the first quarter of 2022 to complete another round of Engagement puts communities like the Northern Rockies Regional Municipality and District of Mackenzie at further risk. The time to move from dialogue to action must happen in a timely manner.

Governments swift movement on these changes amplifies governments understanding that the current system has been and is failing to meet the needs of a modern forest sector for British Columbians. Communities like the District of Mackenzie and the Northern Rockies Regional Municipality depend on the foundations of a healthy forest sector to ensure a sustainable economy. We encourage government once again to act swiftly on the implementation of the policies noted within the report.

Sincerely,



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Mayor Lori Ackerman  
City of Fort St John



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Mayor Rob Fraser  
District of Taylor

*Keith Bertrand*

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Mayor Keith Bertrand  
District of Tumbler Ridge



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Mayor Joan Atkinson  
District of Mackenzie



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Mayor Gary Foster  
Northern Rockies Regional Municipality



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Executive Director Mike Whalley  
Resource Municipalities Coalition

CC: Premier Horgan