



BCCFA 2026 Conference Notes - Session #1

Community Forests in a Changing Sector: Growth, Governance and Accountability

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Moderator: Randy Spyksma (BCCFA)

Session Summary

This opening session examined the future of the Community Forest Program within the context of broader forestry sector transformation. Presenters outlined provincial priorities related to forest sector stability, sustainable fibre supply, pricing harmonization, and Community Forest Agreement (CFA) expansion. Discussion highlighted the government's commitment to expanding community forestry while balancing fiscal realities, tenure reform, and evolving accountability expectations. The session also marked the formal introduction of ten updated Community Forest Program goals that will help guide future expansion, management planning, and reporting.

Key Discussion Points

- BC's forest sector continues to face significant pressures including fibre supply constraints, wildfire impacts, mill closures, and ongoing trade disputes.
- Government is pursuing several major initiatives including Forest Landscape Planning (FLP), the Working Forest/Three Zone Model, BCTS modernization, and cutting permit reform.
- Expansion of community forests remains a provincial priority, but future growth will likely occur through partnerships, tenure conversions, business-to-business arrangements, and available apportionments rather than large-scale volume reallocations.
- Pricing harmonization is a significant issue to resolve prior to expansion of the program and remains under review. Government recognizes that Community Forests, Woodlots, and First Nations Woodland Licences operate under different



- pricing structures and that any future approach must be equitable, transparent, and principles based.
- Community forests and FNWLs are increasingly being recognized for the social, cultural, stewardship, and economic benefits they provide beyond traditional revenue measures.
 - The newly adopted Community Forest Program goals expand from eight to ten goals, adding greater emphasis on stewardship, wildfire resilience, innovation, Indigenous relationships, governance, safety, and community well-being.

Key Takeaways

- Predictability, sustainability, and long-term fibre supply are central drivers of current forest policy discussions.
- Community forest expansion remains a priority but will proceed within government fiscal constraints and evolving policy frameworks.
- Pricing harmonization discussions are active, although no new pricing model has been announced.
- Strong data collection is becoming increasingly important. Government identified the BCCFA Indicators Report as a critical source of information for demonstrating community forest benefits and informing policy decisions.
- The new Community Forest Program goals will serve as an important foundation for future expansion criteria, accountability frameworks, management plans, and reporting requirements.
- BCTS is expected to play a more collaborative role in future tenure partnerships and community-based forestry opportunities.

Actions / Follow-Up

Government / Ministry

- Continue work on pricing harmonization with BCCFA, BC Woodlots, and the First Nations Forestry Council.
- Develop criteria and processes for future CFA expansion.
- Release updated guidance on One Cutting Permit implementation.



- Consider how tenure types will integrate with the emerging Working Forest framework.

Community Forests / BCCFA

- Encourage comprehensive completion of the Indicators Survey, particularly financial and cost structure information.
- Explore partnership opportunities with local BCTS business areas.
- Begin integrating the new Community Forest Program goals into planning and reporting processes.
- Continue documenting and communicating community forest benefits beyond stumpage revenues.

Notable Quotes

- "Equitable doesn't necessarily mean identical, but it needs to be principle-based and transparent."
- "The gap between licences should be addressed by lifting FNWL up, not pulling community forest licences down."
- "We just don't have the same kind of information from community forests and woodlots (like the Ministry has about the major forest licensees) —we need your help."
- "Community forests are shaped by the knowledge, values, and vision of each community."

Note Taker's Observations

- The Indicators Report is increasingly viewed as a strategic policy tool rather than simply a reporting requirement.
- Pricing harmonization, tenure reform, and community forest expansion are becoming more closely linked within broader sector transformation discussions.
- The updated Community Forest Program goals represent a significant milestone and are likely to influence future policy, funding opportunities, accountability measures, and expansion decisions.



- BCTS modernization could create new partnership opportunities for community forests but may also introduce new operational considerations.
- The Working Forest concept has the potential to influence future access to fibre, tenure design, and landscape-level planning.