2026 Provincial Election Member Toolkit

Help Put Community Forestry on the Election Agenda

The provincial election is an important opportunity to make sure candidates across the province understand the value community forests bring to British Columbia through locally led forest management and collaborative approaches.

The BCCFA is asking our members to help raise community forestry with candidates in their local ridings. This could be at an all-candidates forum, during a community event, through an email or phone call, or in a direct conversation with a candidate.

The goal is simple.

Make sure candidates know what community forests are delivering and ask whether they will support community forestry if elected.

The BCCFA's Two Election Priorities

1. Expand the Community Forest Program and protect its viability

The BCCFA is asking parties and candidates to support the creation of new community forest agreements and expansion of existing ones where First Nations and communities support them, while maintaining the policies that allow community forests to successfully manage for multiple values and reinvest locally.

2. Invest in prevention through stable, long-term funding for wildfire resilience

The BCCFA is asking for reliable, multi-year provincial funding for proactive wildfire management, including wildfire risk reduction, resilience planning, and implementation in and around community forests.

Questions to Ask Your Local Candidates

BCCFA members don't need to ask every question. Choose one or two most relevant to your community.

Community Forest Expansion | Community forests keep forest decision-making and benefits closer to home. If elected, will you support expanding B.C.'s Community Forest Program while protecting the policies that allow existing community forests to remain viable?

Wildfire Resilience | Community forests are doing significant wildfire risk reduction work in and around their communities. If elected, will you support stable, multi-year provincial funding for proactive wildfire prevention and resilience?

Local Community Forestry | What role do you see community forests playing in the future of forestry in B.C., particularly for rural and First Nations communities?

A Few Facts You Can Share

Our BCCFA members can reinforce their local experience with a few provincial facts:

- B.C. has 62 operating community forests with a combined allowable annual cut of approximately 2.31 million cubic metres.
- More than half of all community forests in B.C. are held by First Nations or in partnership with First Nations.
- In 2025, 37 reporting community forests generated more than $129 million in economic activity while investing in their forests and communities.
- Over the past decade, community forests have treated more than 9,000 hectares and invested $10.9 million of their own resources in wildfire-related initiatives.
- Community forests support local jobs and contractors, fibre supply and value-added opportunities, wildfire resilience, forest stewardship, and reinvestment in rural and First Nations communities.

Make It Local

Your local story is the most important part. When speaking with a candidate, consider sharing one concrete example of what your community forest delivers locally:

- How many people or contractors your community forest employs.
- Wildfire risk reduction work your community forest has completed to date.
- Examples of First Nations leadership, collaborative partnerships, or community involvement in your community forest.
- Revenue reinvested into your community through community forest revenues.
- Recreation, stewardship, or other forest values your community forest manages for.
- A local challenge that supportive provincial policy could help address.

Share the story of what community forestry means in your community.

After You Connect

If you speak with a candidate, please let the BCCFA know. Share who you connected with, what you discussed, and any commitments or questions that came from the conversation. This will help the BCCFA understand where there is support for community forestry across the province and where follow-up may be helpful.

Learn More

The BCCFA has additional information and resources available, including the 2026 Indicators Report and our 'Rooted Together' film showing community forestry in action.

Sincerely,



Jennifer Gunter, Executive Director
BC Community Forest Association