# BC Community Forest Association's Priorities for 2026 Provincial Election Platforms

**October 2026**

Community forests give British Columbians a stronger say in how their local forests are managed. They support locally led forest stewardship, local jobs, fibre supply, value-added opportunities, wildfire resilience, and reinvestment in communities. More than half are held directly by First Nations or through partnerships, creating tangible opportunities for collaboration.

The BC Community Forest Association (BCCFA) asks every provincial party to make two clear commitments in its 2026 election platform
(1) expand community forestry while protecting the policies that make community forests viable, and
(2) invest in prevention by providing stable, long-term funding for wildfire resilience.

## Current Context

B.C. has 62 operating community forests with a combined allowable annual cut of approximately 2.31 million cubic metres. More than half are held by First Nations or in partnership with First Nations, demonstrating how the model supports collaborative forest management. In 2025, 37 reporting community forests generated more than $129 million in economic activity while investing in wildfire resilience, forest stewardship, and their communities. These results show that community forestry is an established, successful model that can be expanded.

In 2026, the Province worked with the BCCFA Board and staff to update the community forest program goals. The new goals recognize community forests' important role in advancing local priorities, diverse forest uses and values, thriving communities, sustainable fibre supply, partnerships, stewardship, climate and wildfire resilience, inclusive governance, relationships with First Nations, innovation, learning, safety, and respect.

These two commitments will help B.C. achieve those goals.

## Proposed Platform Commitments

### 1. Expand the Community Forest Program and Protect Its Viability

Commit to expanding the Community Forest Program by creating new community forest agreements (CFAs) and expanding existing ones where First Nations and communities support them. Prioritize areas where locally accountable, area-based management can strengthen wildfire resilience, local economic development, recreation, and long-term stewardship. Build on the Province's 2024 commitment to expand the program and maintain the supportive policies that have made community forests successful. Those policies must recognize the unique mandate, scale, and operating conditions of CFAs so they can continue managing for multiple values and reinvesting locally.

### 2. Invest in Prevention by Providing Stable, Long-Term Funding for Wildfire Resilience

Commit to reliable, multi-year provincial funding for proactive wildfire management, including wildfire risk reduction, resilience planning, and implementation in and around community forests. Community forests are proven local partners that can plan and deliver this work effectively: over the past decade, they have treated more than 9,000 hectares and invested $10.9 million of their own resources in wildfire-related initiatives, alongside significant external funding from sources such as the Forest Enhancement Society of BC. Work with the BCCFA to remove barriers to effective fuel management and strengthen community forests' role in mitigation, preparedness, response, and recovery.

## What Expansion Can Deliver

Community forests are a practical vehicle for local influence and rural economic resilience, keeping decision-making closer to home and forest revenues working locally. They can also create opportunities for reconciliation by supporting First Nations participation in forest governance, long-term partnerships, and shared benefits from local forest management. Their long-term planning horizon supports stewardship beyond short-term industry pressures. The public benefits are tangible: local jobs and contracts, community revenue, safer communities, healthier forests, and stronger opportunities for First Nations, small businesses, and rural services.

An expanded community forest program can:

- strengthen locally accountable forest stewardship and collaborative partnerships;
- support local employment, contractors, fibre supply and value-added opportunities;
- increase capacity for wildfire risk reduction and climate adaptation; and
- retain and reinvest more forest revenues in rural and First Nations communities and local land bases.

## The BCCFA's Role

The BCCFA is a member-driven non-profit society representing more than 100 rural and First Nations communities across British Columbia. As the provincial voice for community forestry, the BCCFA brings community perspectives to provincial policy, equips practitioners with education and practical support, and assists communities seeking to establish community forest initiatives. The BCCFA also works to ensure community forests have a meaningful voice in provincial forestry discussions.

The BCCFA is ready to work with all provincial parties on practical platform commitments that respond to First Nations and community priorities, strengthen wildfire resilience and rural economies, and support the long-term viability and expansion of locally led forest stewardship.

## Learn More

Watch our film Rooted Together and see community forestry in action.
Explore the 2026 Indicators Report and learn what community forests are delivering for B.C.
Visit www.bccfa.ca