



To: Courtney Kirk, CAO

From: Louise Hopkins, RC

Meeting Date: November 18, 2021

Subject: 2022 Board Meeting Calendar

Recommendation:

THAT the Board of Directors of the Central Coast Regional District approve the 2022 board meeting calendar.

Issue/Background Summary:

Meetings are set a year in advance.

Policy, Bylaw or Legislation:

Policy A-2 Office Hours & Period of Closure
Policy A-29 5.04 Public Holidays

Financial/Budgetary Implications:

Time Requirements – Staff and Elected Officials:

Minimal.

Options to Consider:

1. Approve the 2022 Board Meeting Agenda
2. Amend the 2022 Board Meeting Calendar

Submitted by: _____
Louise Hopkins, Records Clerk

Reviewed by: _____
Courtney Kirk, Chief Administrative Officer

Board Meeting
 NOV 18 2021
 CORD ITEM (C)(1)

2022 - CCRD Board Meeting Calendar

January						
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						1
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30	31					

February						
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27	28					

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April						
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May						
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31						

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December						
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18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

Board Meetings
 Electoral Area Directors Forum February 8 & 9, 2022
 Jan 1 - New Year's Day
 Jun 21 - Nat. Ind. People's Day
 October 10, Thanksgiving Day

UBCM September 12-16, 2022
 AVICC April 1-3, 2022
 Jan 1 - Canada Day
 Nov 11 - Remembrance Day

Local Government Elections
 Apr 15 - Good Friday
 Aug 2 - BC Day
 Dec 25 - Christmas Day

May 23 - Victoria Day
 Sep 30 - Truth and Reconciliation Day



**Directors Remuneration & Expenses
Claim Form**

Please Attach All Original Receipts

Total expenses/remuneration claimed: \$ _____

Director's Name: _____

Signature: _____

(Please note: reimbursement for travel expenses and remuneration outside of regular board meetings shall only be made upon the submission of a signed expense form that is received by administration at least two days prior to the next cheque run day. Except for regular monthly Board meeting remuneration, all CCRD cheques, including director expenses and additional remuneration, are cut mid and end of month. Unnecessary travel costs (i.e. costs incurred outside what is necessary for regional district business) will not be reimbursed and extraordinary costs will be reimbursed on a case-by-case basis by way of resolution of the Board.)

1 Purpose of expense/remuneration claim:

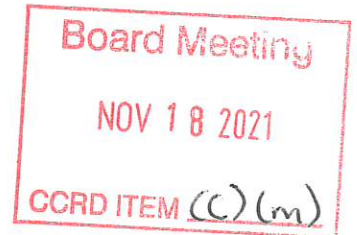
- Regular Board Meeting
- Special meeting of the Board
- Board approved committee meeting
- Convention/conference
- Board approved training
- Board approved work assignment

Committee name: _____

Convention or conference name: _____

Description of training: _____

Description of work assignment: _____



2 Date(s): _____

Location: _____

3 Is this Remuneration pre-approved by the bylaw? YES NO

If YES, please provide section(s): _____

If NO, has a resolution approving the expense/remuneration already been secured? YES NO

If YES please provide Resolution #: _____

If NO meeting date when your resolution will be sought : _____

(Attached is a blank Request for Decision)

4 Did you travel to attend? YES NO

If YES, mode of transportation: _____

(*note total ground travel expense remuneration not to exceed cost of single return flight to meeting destination)

Private/rental car: Total KM _____ km x \$.59 = \$ _____

Flight: \$ _____ Paid by CCRD: YES NO \$ _____

Taxi Cab: \$ _____ Paid by CCRD: YES NO \$ _____

Ferry: \$ _____ Paid by CCRD: YES NO \$ _____

Water Taxi: \$ _____ Paid by CCRD: YES NO \$ _____



REQUEST FOR DECISION

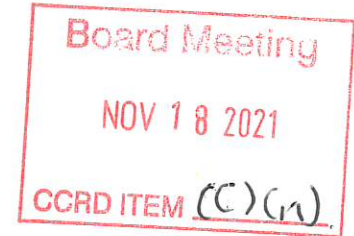
To: Courtney Kirk, CAO

CC: Board of Directors, CCRD

From: Yene Byun, Finance Manager and Ken McIlwain, Operations Manager

Meeting Date: November 18, 2021

Subject: Fire Tolls and Charges for non-taxable properties in Hagensborg and Bella Coola Town Site



Recommendation:

THAT the Board of Directors of the Central Coast Regional District request administration to present bylaws for Hagensborg and town site fire tolls as follows:

- 1. By using a rate per \$1,000 of assessed value of land and improvements in order to standardize the billing method for both service areas; and***
- 2. That all non-taxable properties within the boundaries of each service area be subject to the fire protection charges based on assessed value of land and improvements with the exception of churches and societies which will be billed a nominal flat annual fee.***

Issue/Background Summary:

Both the CCRD (for the Bella Coola town site local fire protection service area) and the previous Hagensborg Waterworks and Fire Protection District (HWD) (now a new service of the regional district) have bylaws for fixing charges and service tolls to properties/owners which are exempt from paying property taxes under provincial and federal legislation.

It is noted that despite the first recommendation above, the regional district has in the past resisted the method of billing (rate per assessed value) due to its resemblance of taxation. The view has been that these rates are for non-taxable properties and using an assessed value multiplied by a rate, would in appearance, fit the definition of taxation. However, it is also deemed to be the most equitable distribution of fire toll charges to the variety of ratepayers.

Administration intends to present a new rates and charges bylaw for each of the fire protection services at the December meeting of the board.

The current bylaws for fire protection charges are attached to this report for information.

For the purposes of considering how to standardize the two fire protection service areas, the table below shows the current differences:

		Bella Coola Town Site	Hagensborg
1	Charge method	An annual flat rate charge by specified categories (business, residence, church etc.)	Using a rate of \$1.92 per \$1,000 of assessed value of land and improvements
2	Vacant non-taxable properties	Vacant properties (without buildings) are exempt from charges	Vacant properties ("lands") are included in the assessed value as above (\$1.92 per \$1,000).
3	Community Charities	Subject to charges	Trustees have previously chosen to waive the charges in some years, but not in other years
4	Churches	Subject to charges	Trustees have previously chosen to waive the charges in some years but not in other years

Policy, Bylaw or Legislation:

- a) Policy A-31 – Rates and charges bylaws shall be reviewed by the Board of Directors every two years.
- b) Hagensborg Waterworks District Bylaw No. 241 "Fire Protection Charge Bylaw, 2021". The HWD bylaw has been reviewed annually, the last being in October 2020 which covered charges for the year 2021. This bylaw will have no effect beyond 2021, so it is not necessary to repeal or amend it.
- c) "Bella Coola Fire Suppression Tolls Amending Bylaw No. 462, 2016". The CCRD bylaw was last reviewed/amended in 2016.
- d) *Local Government Act s. 397* (1)A board may, by bylaw, impose a fee or charge payable in respect of
 - (a)all or part of a service of the regional district, or
 - (b)the use of regional district property.
- e) Order In Council 624, effective January 01, 2021 states:

- 4 The bylaws and resolutions of the Hagensborg Waterworks District continue in force as bylaws or resolutions, as the case may be, of the Central Coast Regional District applicable to the area of the Central Coast Regional District to which they applied as bylaws or resolutions of the Hagensborg Waterworks District until those bylaws or resolutions are amended or repealed by the board of directors of the Central Coast Regional District.

Financial/Budgetary Implications:

Budget implication to non-taxable property owners (federal or provincial governments or agencies, churches) has the potential to be serious. If we are looking to somewhat standardize the rates and make them fairly allocated, there will be a large increase to the non-taxable properties on the town site and a small reduction to the charges in the Hagensborg area.

The chart below shows the charges for non-taxable properties only.

For each parcel upon which is situated any:	Bella Coola Town Site	Hagensborg
Single family dwelling	\$60 (2)	\$329-\$488 depending on value
Multiple dwelling	\$110 (2)	n/a
Hospital	\$330 (1)	n/a
Per School	\$330 (1)	\$4,295-\$5,482 depending on value
School Bus Garage	\$60 (0)	\$245
Business	\$165	\$4,964
Wharf	\$330	n/a
Church or Society*	\$165 each	Waived
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • United Church • Pentecostal Church • Catholic Church • Community Support Society • Moose Hall 		(2) Churches waived. (3 properties) Societies & associations waived. (1) Cemetery waived. Also 2 properties waived that are partially exempt because they pay taxes on most of the value already.
Total charges 2021	\$3,475	\$18,658

As a matter of interest the table below shows the 2021 rates per \$1,000 of assessed property values for both taxable and non-taxable properties:

	Bella Coola Town Site	Hagensborg
Total Tax Levy	\$34,385	\$89,750
Charge rate per \$1,000 residential <u>non-taxable</u> property 2021 for land and improvements	\$0.26000 and \$.43000 (very low)	\$ 1.92000 (high or very high)
Tax rate per \$1,000 residential <u>taxable</u> property 2021 for land and improvements	\$1.74730	\$ 1.52612

Implications to the individual annual budgets may also be deemed to be significant, but that will depend largely on the rates to be charged when new bylaws are brought forward to the board in December. More financial impacts will be presented at that time.

Time Requirements – Staff and Elected Officials:

New or amended rates and charges will typically present issues from ratepayers and directors will expect to receive comments from the electorate, particularly with regard to those properties (churches and societies) in the Hagensborg area who have been exempted from charges in the last few years (exemptions were not granted in 2017, for instance but they were in 2020).

Depending on the outcome of board's deliberations, additional staff time (2 -2.5 days) will be required to draft new bylaws for presentation in December.

Changing the method of billing calculation will affect staff time because it will be necessary to consult the assessment roll for each individual property to be billed. Further the amounts will change annually, so prior years' information cannot be duplicated entirely. It is estimated that initially, the billing would take approximately 5 working days to prepare. Further time will be required to track the outstanding receivables for the amount of time they remain unpaid.

Options to Consider:

1. See recommendation #1 – The board may consider using a flat rate for different classes of property as is currently being used for the town site local service area, or they may consider using the BC Assessment Authority property classifications (residential, business, etc.). The board could also elect to use a rate per \$1,000 of assessed value plus a flat rate as is provided in the recommendations at the beginning of this report.
2. See recommendation #1 - If the board decides to charge tolls based on assessed values, the board may consider charging for vacant property or not. Fire protection services are provided on a different scale in terms of dealing with a house fire (improvements) versus a property fire (land). They may charge based on the value of improvements only, or land only or land and improvements. If the board decides to not charge the tolls on a rate per \$1,000 of assessed value and instead uses a flat rate approach, this section is not applicable.
3. See recommendation #2 -Directors should consider whether or not to provide exemptions to the fire protection tolls, or to treat all non-taxable properties in the same manner, either by using a flat rate, or a rate per \$1,000 of assessed value. The board may consider exempting churches and societies from the fire protection charge pursuant to the risk mitigation, below.

Board may elect to not exempt churches and societies but instead charge a nominal fee as recommended.

4. Board may elect to continue billings for each service area without changes. Keep them separate with no need or wish to standardize approaches.

Risk Management – Refer to Policy A-36:

The risks or potential risks have been evaluated by Administration and are deemed to have a low to medium risk level. Ratepayer dissatisfaction may be considered a medium to high likelihood but will have a relatively low impact.

There are currently no plans or controls that exist to minimize the risk to the regional district, although the board may elect to exempt churches and/or societies from future fire protection tolls as an additional mitigation step.

Submitted by: _____
Yene Byun, Finance Manager

Ken McIlwain, Operations Manager

Reviewed by: _____
Courtney Kirk, Chief Administrative Officer

0300

FA 3900

Central Coast Regional District
Bylaw No. 462

89,750 tax lev 34,385
\$ Per \$1,000

Being a Bylaw to establish the Fire Suppression Service Tolls payable to the Central Coast Regional District and to provide for a supplementary levy for late payment of tolls on properties not subject to property taxation by the Regional District.

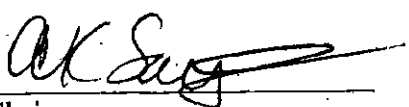
WHEREAS the Board of Directors of the Central Coast Regional District has established by Bylaw No. 175 a fire suppression service area and provision for property taxation in support of this service;

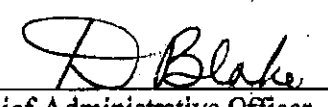
WHEREAS there are properties within the service area which benefit from the service, but which are not subject to the property taxation imposed by Bylaw No. 175;

NOW THEREFORE, the Board of Directors of the Central Coast Regional District, in open meeting assembled, enacts as follows:

1. This bylaw is applicable to those properties not subject to the provisions of Bylaw No. 175 or amendments thereto and are situated within the boundaries of the fire suppression service area or that benefit from the provision of fire suppression service provided by the Central Coast Regional District.
2. In this bylaw, "parcel" means any lot, block or other area which is subject to separate registration in the Land Title Office and shall include one or more contiguous lots registered in the name of the same person and used as one holding.
3. Annual tolls for fire protection service, as shown on Schedule A, attached to and forming part of this bylaw, are hereby fixed and made payable to the Central Coast Regional District, upon adoption of this bylaw.
4. Fire tolls shall be due and payable thirty (30) days after the billing date, and any tolls remaining unpaid after the said date shall have added thereto a percentage addition of 2% per month.
5. Bylaw No. 207 cited as "Bella Coola Fire Suppression Tolls Amending Bylaw No. 207, 1995" is hereby repealed.
6. This bylaw may be cited as the "Bella Coola Fire Suppression Tolls Amending Bylaw No. 462, 2016"

READ A FIRST TIME this 12th day of May, 2016
 READ A SECOND TIME this 12th day of May, 2016
 READ A THIRD TIME this 12th day of May, 2016
 RECONSIDERED AND FINALLY ADOPTED THIS 9th day of June, 2016


 Chair


 Chief Administrative Officer

I hereby certify this bylaw to be a true and correct copy of Bylaw No. 462, cited as the "Bella Coola Fire Suppression Tolls Amending Bylaw No. 462, 2016"

Chief Administrative Officer

CENTRAL COAST REGIONAL DISTRICT
BYLAW 462

SCHEDULE "A"

1. For each parcel upon which is situated any:

Single family dwelling	\$60
Multiple dwelling	\$110
Hospital	\$330
School	\$330
School Bus Garage	\$60
Church or Society*	\$165
Business	\$165
Wharf	\$330

2. For each vacant lot \$0

Note: *United Church - Lot 7, Block 5
Pentecostal Church - Lot 13/14, Block 9
Catholic Church - Lot 17/18, Block 7
Community Support Society - Lot 4, Block 2
Moose Hall - Lot 14, Block 10

HAGENSBORG WATERWORKS DISTRICT

BYLAW NO. 241

A Bylaw for fixing a charge upon land and improvements within the improvement district for fire protection purposes,

The Trustees of Hagensborg Waterworks Improvement District ENACT AS FOLLOWS:

1. For the year of 2021, a charge of **one dollar and ninety two cents (\$1.92)** for every One Thousand (\$1,000) of assessed value, is fixed for fire protection service by the District, on all parcels of land and buildings or improvements thereon, located within the Hagensborg Waterworks District, *which are exempt in legislation from paying property taxes*. The Trustees may choose to waive the charges for community charities and not-for-profit organizations.
2. That the assessed values will be determined for the current year by the British Columbia Assessment Authority.
3. The aforementioned charge shall be due and payable on or before the 31st day of December, 2020.
4. A percentage addition of five percent (5%) of the amount may be added to the current charges remaining unpaid after the 31st day of December, 2020, and an additional percentage addition of five percent (5%) may be added to any remaining unpaid balance after January 31st, 2021.
5. That the charge levied in Clause 1 is in addition to charges levied under the Waterworks District Tolls Bylaw for waterworks purposes.
6. That the sums of money collected under this bylaw shall be allocated to the District's Fire Protection Budget, and these sums shall be disbursed only for the provision of fire protection and items related thereto.
7. This bylaw may be cited as the "Fire Protection Charge Bylaw, 2021"

INTRODUCED and given first reading by the Trustees on the 22nd day of October, 2020.

RECONSIDERED and finally passed by the Trustees on the 22nd day of October, 2020.

Chair of the Board of Trustees

I certify this to be a true copy of Bylaw #241

Officer Responsible for Corporate Administration



Ministry of
Transportation
and Infrastructure

Improvements and Temporary Closure of the Hagensborg Bridge

Dear Residents,

Improvements to the Hagensborg (Bailey) Bridge across the Bella Coola River on Salloompt Road are being planned by the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure (MoTI) in **early 2022**.



The project will replace the two wooden spans at the south end of the bridge (shown here) with a single-span concrete girder that will connect to the 180-foot metal section. The improved crossing will serve safety and reliably for decades to come.

A tender will be posted on BC Bid in the coming weeks, for a contractor to construct the bridge according to the completed design.

The Hagensborg Bridge will be **CLOSED** to all **vehicle traffic** for approximately **four-weeks** starting **early 2022**.

A pedestrian crossing will be provided during construction. Occasional short-duration pedestrian closures will be required and will be announced to residents in advance.

MoTI is working with interested parties before construction begins, to ensure continued connectivity with the road network throughout the project.

Consultation has already begun with community representatives including:

- Central Coast Regional District
- School District #49
- BC Transit
- Bella Coola Community Forest
- Emergency Management BC.

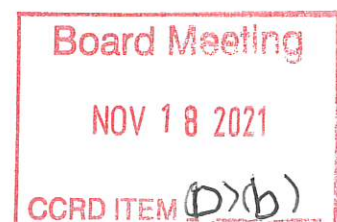
Due to your location on the North side of the river, you will be directly impacted by the closure of the bridge. We are reaching out to share specific ways to connect to the information relating to construction and closures.

For details and updates on construction, road closures, or to provide feedback, please visit the project website at: <https://www2.qa.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/transportation-projects/other-transportation-projects/hagensborg-bridge>

Updates or events related to construction will also be shared to the community through the CCRD and posted to the community calendar as well as through the Bella Coola Facebook page.

For further information, or should you have any questions, please contact:

Brian Taylor, Project Manager
Email: brianm.taylor@gov.bc.ca



Evangeline Hanuse

From: Courtney Kirk <cao@ccrd.ca>
Sent: October 29, 2021 1:56 PM
To: 'Evangeline Hanuse'
Cc: ea@ccrd.ca
Subject: AGENDA NOV FW: Register for November 3 or 5 AVICC sessions on Modernizing Forest Policy
Attachments: 20211019 Fall 2021 Policy Intention Background Materials - Modernizing Forest Policy.pdf

From: AVICC <avicc@ubcm.ca>
Sent: October 29, 2021 10:44 AM
To: AVICC <avicc@ubcm.ca>
Subject: Register for November 3 or 5 AVICC sessions on Modernizing Forest Policy

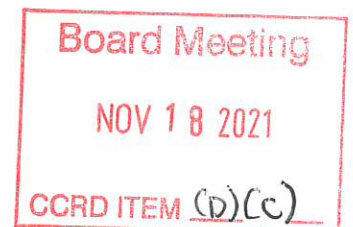
Please forward to Mayor and Council, and to Chair and Directors.

Hello,

Local government input is being sought as the Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development works to design and implement policy change to modernize the forest sector through sessions designed for mayors and councillors, regional district chairs and electoral area directors, and senior level local government staff.

The Ministry, in partnership with UBCM, is hosting several regionally focused, virtual engagement sessions for local governments in November. The Fall sessions mark the second phase of engagement on Modernizing Forest Policy and will focus on the following topics:

1. Minimization of slash burning
2. Reintegration of prescribed and cultural fire into wildfire management
3. Area-based tenure pricing
4. Enhanced compliance and enforcement
5. A revised the BCTS 3-sale max policy, and
6. A program for value-added wood manufacturers



The links to register for the regional sessions for AVICC local governments are as follows:

1. Wednesday November 3rd @ 2-4pm (West Coast, Option 1) -
2. Friday November 5th @ 9-11am (West Coast, Option 2) -

Attached for reference is the policy backgrounder that was sent to all local governments on Oct 19th/20th to support the Fall engagement sessions. It provides detailed information on the policy topics listed above.

For more information on Modernizing Forest Policy, a summary slide deck of the policy intentions and goal the Province has set out can be found here - [MODERNIZING FOREST POLICY IN BRITISH COLUMBIA \(gov.bc.ca\)](#), and the Intentions Paper can be found [here](#).

Laura Patterson, R.P.Bio

Project Manager, Strategic Priorities – Deputy Ministers Office

Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development

| Office –

October 19, 2021

Modernizing Forest Policy: Policy Backgrounders & Engagement Options for Fall 2021

This information package is to support local government engagement on Modernizing Forest Policy. It intends to inform you of ongoing forest policy work, outline engagement options, and provide background information to support such engagement.

This follows the invitation you should have received on October 13, 2021 for a virtual engagement session, specific for your region, hosted by the Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development (the Ministry) and UBCM.

Policy engagement is occurring in a phased approach to align the policy design and implementation work over the next few years (see Figure 1 below).

Modernizing Forest Policy

On June 2, 2021, the Honourable Katrine Conroy, Minister of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development sent a letter to local government leaders introducing government’s intentions for [Modernizing Forest Policy in British Columbia](#) (*‘Intentions Paper’*). These 20 policy intentions were developed based on extensive consultation and engagement on forest policy changes over the last few years.

The upcoming engagement sessions are the second of three phases of engagement. The first phase happened over the summer. A recap of the summer engagement will be provided in our upcoming sessions, and an overview of the phase one topics from the summer are available [here](#).

Figure 1: Modernizing Forest Policy Engagement Topics and Timing

Engagement Timeline and Topics			
	Spring / Summer June to August 2021	Fall Sept to Dec 2021	Winter Jan to March 2022
Policy Intentions*	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create future tenure opportunities (IP1) • Provide clarity on compensation (IP2) • Create flexibility when forest licenses need to be reduced (IP3) • Revise tenure disposition considerations (IP4) • Enhance revenue oversight for log export (IP5) • Continue to improve the Forest and Range Practices Act (FRPA) (IP8) • Advance apportionment (IP10) • Improve accountability in tenure management (IP12) • Increase discretion in authorizing activities (IP13) • Support silviculture management and innovation investments (IP14) • Modernize tenure replaceability conditions (IP15) • Initiate a higher value product and innovation sector-ministry working group (IP16a) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evolve BC Timber Sales (BCTS) policy for max sales restrictions (IP6) • Re-integrate prescribes and cultural fire into forest management (IP9) • Initiate process to minimize slash burning (IP16b) • Develop a timber sales program focused on value added manufacturers (IP16c) • Revise area-based tenure-specific pricing policy (IP18) • Strengthen compliance and enforcement (IP19) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review the cut control process (IP11) • Improve accountability in tenure management (IP12) • Promote the use of wood and mass timber (IP17)

*Numbering is as per the Modernizing Forest Policy Intentions Paper

This Fall's focus is on six policy topics (see table below). A detailed policy backgrounder for each of these topics is provided in Appendix 1.

October 19, 2021

Fall Policy Topic ¹	Intention
Minimizing slash burning	The Ministry intends to advance a process to minimize the burning of slash piles created after timber harvesting, to reduce emissions and make available this fibre for manufacturing. <i>Based on what we have heard from communities, this topic is important to communities, such as how slash burning impacts community airsheds.</i>
Re-integrating prescribed and cultural fire into land management	The Ministry intends to work with Indigenous partners and stakeholders to re-integrate prescribed and cultural fire as a core part of our forest management toolkit. This policy change will contribute to meaningful reductions in wildfire risk and effective provincial-level climate adaptation. <i>Based on what we have heard from communities, the use of fire as a tool to manage risk and ecosystem health is important.</i>
Harmonizing area-based tenure pricing	Currently there is a disparity between stumpage rates applied to Woodlot Licences, Community Forest Agreements, and First Nation Woodland Licences. The Ministry intends to take steps toward harmonizing rate structures while being consistent with the market-based pricing system and recognizing economies of scale for smaller forest tenures. <i>Based on what we have heard from communities who hold forest tenure, this topic is important to you.</i>
Strengthening compliance and enforcement (in forestry)	Compliance and enforcement are important elements of the forest management framework. The Ministry intends to examine policy changes, around penalties, and other measures, that will strengthen compliance and enforcement and deter undesirable behaviour or poor practices. <i>Based on what we have heard from communities, compliance and enforcement is a significant topic of interest.</i>
Revising BC Timber Sales' 3-sale maximum policy	BC Timber Sales (BCTS) sells Crown timber through competitive auction. Currently a business can hold no more than three timber sale licences at any time, to support a competitive marketplace. The Ministry intends to examine a new approach to allow for more sale opportunities at smaller volumes. <i>Based on what we have heard from communities, this topic is not likely of interest, as it focuses more on manufacturers and log purchasers, but we are pleased to discuss it with you if there is interest.</i>
Creating a fibre access program for value-added wood manufacturers	The Ministry intends to modify part of its BCTS program to improve fibre access for value-added manufacturers, as fibre access is an important investment factor. <i>Based on what we have heard from communities, this will be a topic of interest if there are value-added manufacturers in your communities, or prospective future investments.</i>

¹ Forest policy topic heading may be shortened from topic headings found in Appendix 1

Options for Engaging on Modernizing Forest Policy This Fall

The Ministry is seeking your insight and input on these policy changes. There are two avenues for you to engage:

1. Via the virtual engagement sessions for the West Coast Region on either November 3rd @ 2pm (Register [here](#)) or November 5th @9am (Register [here](#)), or
2. By providing written feedback on the Fall policy topics via our [on-line engagement portal](#). The portal will remain open until December 10th, 2021.

Thank you in advance for your consideration and feedback on this phase of Modernizing Forest Policy. If you have specific questions or concerns related to this Fall's engagement opportunities, please feel free to contact us via forest.policy@gov.bc.ca.

Appendix 1: Fall 2021 Modernizing Forest Policy Intention Background Information

Fall 2021 Policy Intention Background Information

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- B. Re-introducing prescribed and cultural fire as a land and forest management tool – Intentions Paper topic #9 6
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- F. Developing a timber sales program for value added manufacturers – Intentions Paper topic #16c15

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A. Initiating a process to minimize slash pile burning - Intentions Paper topic #16b

Background on policy

Slash pile burning is used widely by forest sector licensees to meet hazard abatement obligations under the *Wildfire Act*. Open burning is currently regulated under the *Wildfire Act* and the *Open Burning Smoke Control Regulation*. Slash pile burning releases greenhouse gases and impacts air quality. By advancing a process to minimize the burning of slash piles created after timber harvesting without relaxing hazard abatement obligations, residual fibre will be available for manufacturing and the reduced greenhouse gas emission will benefit our climate as part of CleanBC.

What we have heard regarding this topic

- It was estimated that, conservatively, over the last ten years an average of approximately 5.5 million tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent was released annually from slash pile burning, accounting for about 8% of the emissions in B.C., excluding that from wildfires.
- Some of the fibre from slash piles can be used to make forest products.
- As new markets are developed there may be more economic opportunities available for utilizing residual fibre from timber harvesting.
- There are localized concerns from the public about slash pile burning, fibre utilization and air quality.

Intentions and future state

- Intention established by the Province in the Intentions Paper: Increasing fibre access for value-added domestic manufacturers: In support of our vision to diversify manufacturing and increase value, we intend to:
 - ...
 - Advance a process to minimize the burning of slash piles created after timber harvesting, so this fibre is available for manufacturing, and that reduced emissions benefit our climate as part of CleanBC.
 - ...
- Our future state should:
 - Shift to an environment where either slash is not created or it is used in a different manner to reduce slash pile burning, which could include:
 - Reduce the creation of residual fibre from harvesting activities by exercising forest management best practices.
 - Increase the use of residual fibre created from timber harvesting to reduce the need for slash pile burning and diversify manufacturing.
 - Include tools other than slash pile burning to meet hazard abatement obligations.
 - Provide options or exemptions for limited slash pile burning under special circumstances.
 - Incorporate the cost of carbon emissions as part of the economic consideration of slash pile burning.

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Principles and Considerations

Key principles and considerations important for policy changes regarding minimizing slash burning:

PRINCIPLES

- Fire hazard abatement obligations under the *Wildfire Act* and obligations under the *Open Burning Smoke Control Regulation* must be met.
- Leaving avoidable waste is not acceptable in B.C.
- Sound stewardship practices are used to reduce creation of timber harvesting residue and to minimize slash pile burning. For example, leave trees standing if they are not going to be utilized.

CONSIDERATIONS

- Prescribed and cultural burning are separate topics from slash pile burning.
- A phasing out period and targets for implementation, or limited allowable burning, are needed for the forest sector to adjust their practices.
- Ongoing monitoring is needed to track progress and to ensure this transition does not result in increased wildfire risk on the land base.
- Social, economic, and environmental implications of minimizing slash pile burning need to be considered.
- New local value-added processing and manufacturing facilities are needed to process the residual fibre.

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B. Re-introducing prescribed and cultural fire as a land and forest management tool – Intentions Paper topic #9

Background on policy

Wildfires are one of the most significant climate-related threat to British Columbians, and this threat is growing⁹⁵. Climate resilience will require preparedness and risk-reduction strategies at the community and landscape levels. Expanding the use of well-planned, safe prescribed and cultural fire into forest management has a central role in protecting communities and ensuring the future of B.C.'s forest resources against the impacts of climate change.

The Province has committed to expanding the use of cultural and prescribed fire through its Intentions Paper to Modernize Forest Policy, draft *Declaration Act* Action Plan, and draft Climate Preparedness and Adaptation Strategy. The Province intends to take a partnership-based approach with Indigenous peoples, and with forest licencees, local governments and other stakeholders, to implement these commitments.

What we have heard regarding this topic

- In the 1990's, approximately 100,000 to 150,000 hectares of prescribed burning took place in B.C. every year. Broadcast burning was a common forestry practice, and at that time a major component of overall forest management practices after timber harvesting. Since 2010, approximately 5,000 to 10,000 hectares of prescribed burning has taken place annually.
- Over 75% of those surveyed during the development of *Addressing the New Normal: 21st Century Disaster Management in British Columbia* (the 2018 "Abbott Chapman Report") supported the expanded use of cultural and prescribed fire as a strategy to mitigate the risk of catastrophic wildfires and support ecosystem health. Traditional burning practices was the top consideration for Indigenous respondents.
- The Abbott Chapman Report made several specific recommendations about prescribed and cultural fire, including integrating traditional Indigenous knowledge and contemporary burning practices, exploring options to expand liability protection for responsible burners, reviewing smoke management policies, and re-building capacity.
- To date, the Province has heard that many forest licencees have strong relationships with Indigenous Nations that could support the expanded use cultural and prescribed fire in their planning and operations, and they understand the value of prescribed fire as a forest management tool to support multiple objectives.
- The Province has heard that some forest licencees view liability concerns, smoke management requirements, and cost as obstacles to re-integrating prescribed fire into their operations.

Intentions and future state

- Intention established by the Province in the Intentions Paper: Forests are a conservation resource and an economic resource, as well as a source of wildfire fuel. Climate change creates the conditions for more frequent and intense wildfires, including mega-wildfires like those triggering widespread evacuations. Wildfires have disrupted local economies and led to an

⁹⁵ [Preliminary strategic climate risk assessment - Province of British Columbia \(gov.bc.ca\)](https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/soc/strat/strat-climate-risk-assessment)

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unplanned loss of habitat, including old-growth forests. Fire is a natural process and important for ecosystem health and habitat value. The Ministry will work in cooperation, coordination and collaboration with Indigenous partners and stakeholders to re-integrate prescribed and cultural fire as a core part of our forest management toolkit.

- Our future state should:
 - Integrate a range of strategies for wildfire resilience, including cultural and prescribed fire, as a core part of the toolkit that forestry professionals use in everyday forest management planning and operations in B.C.
 - Apply cultural and prescribed fire at a scale that contributes to meaningful reductions in wildfire risk and effective climate adaptation at the provincial level.
 - Bring together Indigenous partners, provincial agencies, forest licencees, local governments and other stakeholders to leverage their respective knowledge and capacity through collaborative processes.
 - Expand the cohort of skilled professionals and cultural fire practitioners from across Indigenous governments and organizations, government agencies, forest licencees, and other partners, who actively share knowledge and offer mentorship opportunities to build further capacity.
 - Build public understanding of the benefits of cultural and prescribed fire and maintain support for responsible burning.

Principles and Considerations

Key principles and considerations for expanding the use of cultural and prescribed fire.

PRINCIPLES

- Health and safety are paramount. This includes the safety of cultural and prescribed fire practitioners, communities, and the public at large.
- Many Indigenous Nations have used fire as a stewardship practices since time immemorial. Re-introducing cultural and prescribed fire on the land base is a key opportunity to incorporate Indigenous knowledge and advance land-based reconciliation with Indigenous Nations.
- Climate adaptation and community resilience are everyone's business. Expanding the use of cultural and prescribed fire in B.C. requires an all-of-society, partnership-based approach.

CONSIDERATIONS

- Cultural and prescribed fire is a strategic forest management tool as well as a site-level silviculture⁹⁶ practice. A landscape-level lens guides the use of cultural and prescribed fire in locations and configurations that reduce landscape-level risks to communities, critical infrastructure, natural resource and cultural values and the timber resource.
- Like other wildfire risk reduction strategies, cultural and prescribed fire is not simply an incremental cost to current operations. It is an insurance policy on the future of our forest resources and the benefits that these resources provide to many, including Indigenous Nations, communities, and the forest sector.

⁹⁶ Broadly defined as the growing and caring of trees and forests

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- As climate change drives increasingly severe wildfire seasons, there is no “fireless/smokeless” future scenario for B.C. Fire has always been and will always be present in B.C. ecosystems; the question is what kind of fire occurs the land base. The risks and benefits of expanding the use of cultural and prescribed fire must be compared against the anticipated impacts of the future fire regime under climate change and in the context of current forest fuel conditions on the land base.

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C. Revising area-based tenure-specific pricing policy - Intentions Paper topic #18

Background on policy

- Community Forest Agreements (CFA) and Woodlot Licences (WL) are two forms of smaller area-based tenures.
- Smaller area-based tenures have less flexibility around harvesting and are negatively impacted by the economies of scale. Tabular stumpage rates recognize these additional costs, providing a discount relative to full stumpage for CFAs and WL.
- Tabular rates also support alternative approaches to the traditional industrial forest model that include encouraging broader societal goals like unique environmental management approaches and greater incorporation of and benefits to local communities.
- However, over time these tabular rates have led to inequities and other challenges in the system, including:
 - Discriminatory pricing: Holders of First Nation Woodland Licences (FNWL) have sought the tabular approach available under CFAs and WLs. It has been government policy to not expand the tabular rate program to FNWL, creating a system that is seen as discriminatory to Indigenous Nations.
 - Inadequate disincentive: Due to tabular rates, penalties for exceeding annual harvest (set at three times the rate of stumpage) do not provide an effective deterrent for overharvesting.
- The size of tenures held under these tenures include:
 - Community Forest Agreements with an AAC of 860 m³/yr to 194,000 m³/yr
 - Woodlot Licences with an AAC of 29 m³/yr to 18,000 m³/yr
 - First Nation Woodland Licences, AAC of 5,000 m³/yr to 100,000 m³/yr

What we have heard regarding this topic

- Existing pricing structure is a disincentive to holding a FNWL relative to a CFA or WL
- All three of these area-based tenures (FNWL, CFAs and WL) have increased costs due to reduced economies of scale
- There are greater social objectives associated with these tenures
- Current CFA and WL holders, and communities who benefit from these tenures, support the existing policy
- Any change should be phased in

Intentions and future state

- Intention established by the Province in the Intentions Paper: Currently there is a disparity between stumpage rates applied to Woodlot Licences, Community Forest Agreements, and First nation Woodland Licences issued to Indigenous communities.
- Our future state should:
 - Harmonize rate structures
 - Maintain integrity of the Market Pricing System (MPS)
 - Recognize economies of scale for these smaller tenures

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Principles and Considerations

Key principles and considerations important for pricing policy changes for area-based forest tenures:

PRINCIPLES

- Address disparity between FNWL and CFAs/WL
- Recognize economies of scale
- Pricing model should be as cost effective to implement
- Maintain integrity of the Market Pricing System (MPS)
- A transition period is likely required

CONSIDERATIONS

- Stumpage policy could consider a graduated or sliding scale approach, based on tenure size
- Alternative approaches to supporting economies of scale and MPS integrity could include grants or other programs
- Tenure conversion or blending, such as between CFAs and FNWLs, could be considered
- Overharvest penalties will be examined, and considered to shift to full stumpage for all tenure types going forward

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D. Strengthening compliance and enforcement in forestry - Intentions Paper topic #19

Background on policy

Compliance and enforcement is a foundational element of the legislative framework for managing B.C.'s forest sector. Strong compliance and enforcement is critical to ensure public safety, protect the environment, ensure that B.C.'s forests provide social and economic benefits to all British Columbians, and maintain British Columbia's confidence in the management of their forest resources. As interests and pressures increase on the land base and become more complex, our compliance and enforcement framework must evolve to meet this changing reality.

What we have heard regarding this topic

- Engagement over the past few years (e.g., *Forest and Range Practices Act* Improvement Initiative) has generated comments related to the level of compliance monitoring, a perception that fines and penalties are insufficient to deter future contraventions and raised questions regarding public transparency about compliance and contraventions. All these factors are resulting in a strong interest in strengthening compliance and enforcement in the forest sector.
- The Forest Practices Board has published several reports focussing on compliance and enforcement, and concluded that "the public cannot be confident that government's C&E framework is achieving the intended result of promoting licensee compliance with legislation" ([News Release: Changes needed to compliance and enforcement program \(bcfpb.ca\)](https://www.bcfpb.ca/news-releases/changes-needed-to-compliance-and-enforcement-program)).
- Indigenous peoples have highlighted the importance of strengthening compliance programs and enforcement of natural resource legislation. The Ministry has heard from Indigenous peoples and Indigenous Nations that monitoring and enforcement are critical to implementing the *Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act* and advancing reconciliation and have a strong interest in collaborating on compliance and enforcement with the Province.

Intentions and future state

- Intention established by the Province in the Intentions Paper: The public has a right to know which licensees are fulfilling the public's trust, and which are not. When there are violations, penalties need to be sufficient that they act as a deterrent and not merely treated as the "price of doing business." We intend to reinforce our ability to address issues around poor practices and behaviour. This includes public reporting of infractions and reviewing existing fine and penalty amounts to ensure effective enforcement commensurate to the nature of the violation.
- A future state will:
 - Ensure a strong and effective compliance and enforcement framework with appropriate consequences, holding responsible parties accountable for infractions and encouraging compliance and excellent performance.
 - Provide transparency to the public about licensee performance in managing public forest resources.
 - Support reconciliation with Indigenous peoples through strong collaboration and partnership with respect to compliance and enforcement activities.

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Principles and Considerations

Key principles and considerations important for policy changes regarding compliance and enforcement:

PRINCIPLES

- Support reconciliation with Indigenous Nations and Indigenous peoples and implementation of the *Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act*.
- Increase compliance across the forest sector with legislation and regulations.
- Improve existing forestry practices on the ground to support healthy, resilient forests and the long-term sustainability of the forest sector.
- Enhance public trust and confidence in the management of B.C.'s forests.

CONSIDERATIONS

- Changes to the Province's compliance and enforcement program needs to support collaboration and cooperation with Indigenous Nations.
- While legislation changes may support achieving the future state, many necessary changes can be achieved through (non-legal) policies and guidance.
- Consequences for violations must be sufficient to remove incentive and deter future offences to ensure they are not just the cost of doing business.

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E. Evolving BC Timber Sales (BCTS) policy for maximum sales restrictions – Intentions Paper topic #6

Background on policy

- BCTS registrants bid on timber sales through a competitive auction model. Successful bidders can hold up to three timber sales at any one time. This is notionally referred to as the three-sale limit. This is long standing provincial policy.
- The three-sale limit is a pro-competitive measure which promotes increased participation in the market.
- Restricting the number of timber sales one entity can hold serves to avoid possible concentration of timber volume control by a few entities, increase the number of potential bidders in the auctions, and hence further increase auction competition.
- The competitive auction system, and the three-sale limit, function well with respect to its primary purpose (i.e., setting and establishing a competitive and market-based price for timber). However the three-sale limit doesn't sufficiently consider how smaller sector participants seeking smaller sales overall may be limited by this limit, while the market remains competitive. In essence, an entity holding three timber sale licences of 5,000 m³ is treated the same as one holding three of 50,000 m³.
- This policy review is particularly relevant and important to smaller BCTS registrants and those with smaller facilities.

What we have heard regarding this topic

- The majority of BCTS Timber Sale Licences (TSLs) sizes range between 15,000 m³ to 75,000 m³ with an average of sale size of about 35,000 m³
- Through discussions associated with the various initiatives undertaken over the last few years (e.g., Coast Forest Sector Revitalization, Interior Forest Sector Renewal, and the Timber Sales Advisory Committee (ministry-industry committee called TSAC)), points have been raised that smaller entities such as market loggers or smaller processing facilities would appreciate smaller timber sales for purchase, and/or more flexibility in obtaining TSLs.
- However, smaller TSLs have a higher tendency to have no bids received after auctioning with the feedback being that these sales can have higher mobilization and administrative costs and can be an impediment due to the potential removal of opportunity to bid on larger sales due to the three-sale limit.

Intentions and future state

- Intention established by the Province in the Intentions Paper: BCTS sells about 10-12 million m³ of Crown timber annually through competitive auction. This timber is available to businesses registered in the program. Current limitations to participating businesses limit any entity to holding no more than three timber sale licence (regardless of size) at any time. The system functions well with respect to its primary purpose (setting and establishing a competitive and market-based price for timber), but license holders are not all the same. The Province will consider an alternate approach to allow for more sale opportunities at smaller volumes to smaller or value-added manufacturers.
- Our future state should:

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- Increase opportunities for small market-loggers and small processing facilities in BCTS auctions.

Principles and Considerations

Key principles and considerations important to shifting maximum sales policy for the sector and BCTS registrants:

PRINCIPLES

- Maintain integrity of the Market Pricing System (MPS)
- Have application across all BCTS Business Areas
- Easy to understand and administratively simple to implement
- Not be more restrictive than the current three-sale policy
- Increased opportunities for smaller volume sales

CONSIDERATIONS

- Defining a threshold
 - a volume limit/floor before the three-sale limit is applied
 - a volume maximum in addition to the three-sale limit
- Potential exemptions from the three-sale limit
 - decked sales,
 - salvage,
 - other

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F. Developing a timber sales program for value added manufacturers – Intentions Paper topic #16c

Background on policy

- The Province has indicated that increasing value-added manufacturing is part of their forest sector transformation vision.
- BC Timber Sales' (BCTS) Category 2 (CAT2) program was originally established to provide access to fibre to untenured or minimally tenured (<10,000 m³) wood processing facilities. Untenured facilities refer to wood products manufacturers who don't hold a forest tenure agreement with the Province.
- Many wood processing facilities, including smaller facilities or value-added facilities, must source wood from the open market such as through BCTS competitive auctions.
- Value-added and smaller mills supported by this timber flow from BCTS provide a significant contribution to rural economies and communities, such as employment and economic activity.
- Current CAT2 timber volume is generated from the BCTS volume (apportionment) assigned to run the Category 1 (CAT1) BCTS program, which is what informs the Market Pricing System (MPS). CAT2 Timber Sale Licences (TSLs) account for about 10% or 1.1 million m³ per year across B.C.
- While not quantified, volume flows between tenured and untenured mills as one mill is often not able to process all the timber from a given stand.

What we have heard regarding this topic

- The provision of specific fibre to untenured or minimally tenured processing facilities has been reviewed several times over the last 30 years. These reviews resulted in a couple different approaches under both the former Small Business Forest Enterprise Program (SBFEP) and current BCTS structure.
- The diversity of potential value-added products produced by CAT2 registrants has expanded to include the full range of various feedstocks including products reliant on residual fibre from primary harvest or milling to engineered forest products produced from the outputs of primary sawmilling facilities.
- Meeting the demand for diverse fibre types is constrained by the BCTS business requirement to support MPS through competitive auctions across a wide variety of stands types.
- In response to this variety, a complex network of private business arrangements between a diversity of forest sector participants has evolved over time.

Intentions and future state

- Intention established by the Province in the Intentions Paper: Increasing fibre access for value-added domestic manufacturers: In support of our vision to diversify manufacturing and increase value, we intend to:
 - ...
 - Develop a program for timber sales with a focus on the value-added sector.
- A future state:
 - A robust stable value-added sector that ensures that timber and fibre flow to the appropriate facility with the goal of achieving the highest value return from each of these sources.

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Principles and Considerations

Key principles and considerations important for policy changes regarding a fibre access program for value added manufacturers:

PRINCIPLES

The Program:

- Maintain integrity of the Market Pricing System (MPS)
- Must be transparent and open to qualified registrants
- Must be able to operate across the province depending on need
- Must not favour certain participants over others
- Must allow opportunities for new entrants
- Must not interfere with or restrict legitimate business arrangements
- Should foster the development of private business arrangement to effectively supply appropriate feedstocks (i.e., "right log to right mill")
- Must have a robust auditing and monitoring provisions to ensure public accountability

CONSIDERATIONS

- Spectrum of value-added definitions to support a re-designed program:
 - Any untenured or minimally tenured processing facility, or
 - Processing facilities that produce a defined value-added product, or
 - Value-added program with 2 sub-components: Value-added and fibre recovery
- Potential award structure:
 - Highest Bid, or
 - Bid-proposal
- Program administration:
 - A focused sub-program within BCTS with a separate AAC apportionment, or
 - A distinct program within the Ministry's Forest Tenures Branch or another branch (existing or net new) with a separate AAC apportionment, or
 - A separate from government established society to evaluate, allocate, and administer the value-added program AAC apportionment