



## **BC Forest Inventory Panel Update**

### **The BC Forest Inventory Program Review Panel welcomes submissions**

May 26, 2018

Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development Minister Doug Donaldson announced<sup>1</sup> in February 2018 the Panel will review BC's Forest Inventory Program. The announcement stated that the Panel members are Clark Binkley, Bill Bourgeois, Valerie LeMay, Ian Moss and Nick Reynolds.

"We have a robust forest inventory program, but it has been 10 years since the program was last reviewed, and since that time, we've seen significant changes to our forests, most notably from the mountain pine beetle epidemic and wildfires", Donaldson said at the announcement. "Having a reliable inventory is important to garner public trust in how we manage our public forests."

The Panel began their work in earnest in April. The Panel is seeking answers to key questions:

- Does the existing Forest Inventory Program, including growth and yield models, provide suitable and reliable information to support the decisions required for sustainable, well-managed forests?
- What is working well? What is not be working well?
- How can the forest inventory be improved to provide more useful and reliable information?
- What benefits would be achieved with the suggested improvements to the forest inventory?

The Panel welcomes submissions from organizations and individuals. Submissions are to be sent to the Panel at [info@inventoryreview.ca](mailto:info@inventoryreview.ca) before June 30th, 2018.

Between May-July the Panel will conduct interviews with organizations and individuals, with possibly regional sessions with invitations to the primary inventory users. A final report from the Panel is expected in the fall of 2018.

The Panel has received assurance from the ministry's Forest Analysis and Inventory Branch that all submissions and interview comments are to be used solely by the Panel for its deliberations and will otherwise be held confidential.

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<sup>1</sup> Copy and paste this on your internet server to access the full announcement:  
<https://news.gov.bc.ca/releases/2018FLNR0002-000267>

The Panel would particularly like to hear from users of the forest inventory on how well the inventory is serving their needs, and their ideas on how the inventory can be improved.

The Panel process for reviewing the BC Forest Inventory Program is attached.

### **Panel Process for Reviewing the BC Forest Inventory Program**

Although there may be changes to the timeline of the following process, due to factors outside our control, the intent is to meet the interim schedule.

**April 23-24, 2018:** The Panel met with ministry staff to discuss various facets of the forest inventory program so the Panel has an understanding of the current program.

**May 26, 2018:** The Panel's Update welcomes submissions by June 30, 2018. The Panel contacts organizations and individuals that use the inventory, or are involved in inventory, welcoming submissions by June 30, 2018.

**late May 2018:** The Panel will interview some organizations and individuals to pilot test the interview process.

**June to July 2018:** The Panel intends to conduct further interviews to obtain additional information and clarity of some of the submissions received.

**July 2018:** The Panel may hold regional sessions with invitations provided to the primary inventory users (i.e., ministry staff, licensees, consultants, academia and First Nations).

**August 2018:** The Panel will review and summarize the feedback from the written submissions, interviews, and regional sessions (if held).

**September 2018:** The Panel will prepare its report with recommendations and submit the report to the ministry.

**October 2018:** The Panel expects its report will be publicly released by the ministry, and the ministry will respond to the recommendations.

**November 2018:** The Panel expects that the ministry will prepare an implementation plan to move forward on the recommendations that are accepted by the ministry and submit it to the Minister.