

Ministry of Forests

2026/27 – 2028/29 Service Plan

February 2026



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Minister's Accountability Statement



The Ministry of Forests 2026/27 – 2028/29 Service Plan was prepared under my direction in accordance with the [Budget Transparency and Accountability Act](#). I am accountable for the basis on which the plan has been prepared.

A stylized, handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of several loops and a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Honourable Ravi Parmar
Minister of Forests
February 06, 2026

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Strategic Direction

In 2026/27, the Government of British Columbia will prioritize support for people by taking action to make life better for everyone.

Despite a challenging fiscal environment due to global uncertainty, trade relationship reordering, and low resource prices, over the past year Government made significant progress on efforts to reduce costs for British Columbians, hire more doctors and nurses, and build more homes, hospitals and schools, faster. Government will continue to advance these key priorities even as tariffs, trade policies, and instability outside of the province's borders continue to put pressure on the province's finances.

Ongoing fiscal pressure means all parts of Government must continue to do their part to maximize efficiencies and make sure every dollar counts.

To respond to these extraordinary times, Government will focus on expanding trade and investment both within Canada and abroad and delivering major projects that offer good jobs and opportunities for people and communities. This focus on economic growth and prosperity is critical to delivering the revenue needed to provide services and infrastructure.

Good relationships and mutually beneficial partnerships with First Nations are critical to building a better future for everyone in British Columbia. Government will continue working diligently to implement the [Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act Action Plan](#). Through collaboration and open dialogue, we aim to foster trust, stability and certainty for all.

This 2026/27 service plan outlines how the Ministry of Forests will support the Government's priorities and selected action items identified in the Minister's most recent [Mandate Letter](#).

Purpose of the Ministry

The Ministry of Forests (the Ministry) supports resiliency of the province's land base and economy by providing collaborative management of forest, range and archaeological resources, supporting a robust forest sector, and leading the Province's wildfire response and mitigation. With a commitment to sustainable natural resource management, the Ministry is managing forests to support healthy ecosystems and working to ensure greater value for B.C.'s resources through a strong primary sector and high-value wood manufacturing. The Ministry is continually pursuing ways to strengthen partnerships, collaboration, and engagement with First Nations, and is working closely with other government ministries in conducting this work.

The Ministry also supports the Minister in his governance responsibilities for the [Forest Enhancement Society of British Columbia](#) and [Forestry Innovation Investment](#). A complete list of Crown Agencies and Public Sector Organizations associated with the Ministry can be found in [Appendix A](#).

Economic Statement

B.C.'s economy saw mixed performance among sectors in 2025 amid U.S. tariffs and related global economic uncertainty and declining B.C. population growth. Consumer spending was strong through the first half of the year, supported by front-loaded spending ahead of U.S. tariffs (particularly for automobiles), lower inflation and interest rates, but spending has slowed in recent months. Residential construction remained above average in 2025 despite declining from the high levels of activity seen in recent years, and home sales were subdued in 2025. Meanwhile other investment indicators (such as public sector investment and commercial building permits) saw steady growth despite headwinds from economic uncertainty. B.C.'s exports have been resilient amid U.S. tariffs. The value of international exports was unchanged as lower forestry exports and coal prices offset higher values of natural gas and copper exports.

The Economic Forecast Council (EFC) estimates that B.C. real GDP grew by 1.5 per cent in 2025. In the near-term, the EFC expects B.C.'s economy to also grow by 1.5 per cent in 2026 and by 1.9 per cent in 2027, similar to the national average. For Canada, the EFC estimates growth of 1.6 per cent in 2025 and projects national real GDP growth of 1.3 per cent in 2026 and 1.9 per cent in 2027.

A volatile global trade conflict as well as immigration and population fluctuations are the main risks to the outlook. Other risks include commodity price instability, renewed inflationary pressures leading to elevated interest rates, prolonged housing market weakness, and climate change impacts.

Performance Planning

Goal 1: Economic Benefits and Resilience for All People in British Columbia

Performance Measures

Performance Measure	2025/26 Forecast	2026/27 Target	2027/28 Target ¹	2028/29 Target
1a Annual BCTS timber volume auctioned, targeted at the value-add sector	1,000,000 m ³	1,350,000 m ³	1,330,000 m ³	1,380,000 m ³

Data source: BC Timber Sales

¹The 2027/28 target (1,330,000 m³) reflects the most recent Rationalized Apportionment forecast issued January 2, 2026. Compared to the June 2025 forecast used in the [2025/26 Service Plan](#) (which projected 1,390,000 m³), the updated forecast includes lower Total Apportionment and a more refined, rationalized reduction related to land based exclusions, particularly First Nations exclusion types. As a result, the projected volume targeted for the value added sector in 2027/28 is lower than previously estimated.

Performance Measure	2025/26 Forecast	2026/27 Target	2027/28 Target	2028/29 Target
1b(i) Percentage of cutting permits issued within 25 business days (35 calendar days) of internal Ministry processing time	N/A ¹	90%	90%	90%
1b(ii) Average total cutting permit processing time from application submission to issuance	N/A ¹	Set Baseline	TBD	TBD

Data source: Forest Tenure Administration system, Tenures and Economics Division

¹This is a new performance measure for 2026-27 Service Plan.

Objective 1.1: Create the conditions for an innovative, diversified and competitive forest sector that supports a strong economy

Objective 1.2: Ensure a stable land base that provides a predictable fibre supply and supports a strong and sustainable forest economy

Objective 1.3: Provide integrated, coordinated and timely delivery of permitting services to citizens, clients and businesses

Discussion of Changes

Objective 1.2 is new to the 2026/27 – 2027/28 Service Plan. The Ministry recognizes that a stable, predictable fibre supply is essential to forest resiliency, strong communities, and a

thriving forest sector—and is actively working to improve fibre access while supporting a resilient, sustainable economy.

Performance measures 1b(i) and 1b(ii) are new to the 2026/27 - 2028/29 Service Plan. The ability for the Ministry to provide consistent, reliable and timely decisions on cutting permit applications supports a strong economy, a resilient forest sector, and job creation across the province. This new two-part measure tracks the time taken by the Ministry's portion of the cutting permit processing workflow, as well as the total overall time to reach a decision, from application to final permit issuance. The targets consider a number of factors such as historical cutting permit application processing time and implementation of improved process efficiencies.

Goal 2: Partnerships to Advance Reconciliation with Indigenous Peoples

Performance Measures

Performance Measure	2025/26 Forecast	2026/27 Target	2027/28 Target	2028/29 Target
2a Number of draft forest landscape plans completed ¹	N/A ²	4	4	TBD ³

Data source: Provincial Operations Division

¹A forest landscape plan is considered completed once public engagement has concluded and the draft plan is officially submitted to the Chief Forester for the establishment decision.

²This is a new performance measure for 2026/27 Service Plan.

³Target for 2028/29 will be determined over the course of 2026/27, based on resourcing and other criteria.

Objective 2.1: Strengthen partnerships and meaningful engagement with First Nations in the management of the land base and forest resources in B.C.

Objective 2.2: In partnership with First Nations, implement a new vision for forest management that prioritizes B.C.'s ecosystem health and community resiliency

Discussion of Changes

Performance measure 2a is new to the 2026/27 - 2028/29 Service Plan, replacing the previous performance measure reporting on number of forest landscape plans initiated with First Nations through government-to-government agreements. Since 2023/24, the Ministry has made significant progress developing forest landscape planning across B.C. with 15 plans now underway, representing approximately 41% of the provincial land base intended for a forest landscape plan. With this progress achieved, the Ministry is shifting its focus to the next phase of the work by measuring progress toward the completion of draft forest landscape plans.

Goal 3: Proactive and Collaborative Wildfire and Natural Hazard Management

Performance Measures

Performance Measure	2020/21 Baseline	2025/26 Forecast ²	2026/27 Target ²	2027/28 Target ²	2028/29 Target
3a Area treated with the priority objective of reducing wildfire risk in and around communities and critical infrastructure ¹	3,000 ha	5,000 ha	5,000 ha	5,000 ha	5,000 ha

Data source: BC Wildfire Service

¹Includes fuel management activities projected to be completed by the Forest Enhancement Society of BC (FESBC), as reported in the FESBC 2026/27-2028/29 Service Plan with 2,550 hectares in 2026/2027, 1,850 hectares in 2027/2028, and 1,850 hectares in 2028/2029.

²Forecast and Targets have changed from [2025/26 Service Plan](#) due to adjustments related to available funding, operational capacity, updated risk assessments, and evolving priorities based on wildfire conditions.

Performance Measure	2025/26 Forecast	2026/27 Target	2027/28 Target	2028/29 Target
3b Percent of prescribed rehabilitation treatments implemented within 30 months of wildfire occurrence	90%	90%	90%	90%

Data source: BC Wildfire Service

Performance Measure	2020/21 Baseline	2025/26 Forecast	2026/27 Target	2027/28 Target	2028/29 Target
3c Number of cultural and prescribed fire projects with an approved burn plan, or which fall under an agreement with an Indigenous governing body ¹	5	70	70	90	100

Data source: BC Wildfire Service prescribed fire provincial project data tracking spreadsheet

¹The reporting period for this performance measure is January 1 to December 31.

Objective 3.1: Improve community resiliency including reducing wildfire risk

Objective 3.2: Deliver excellence in wildfire and natural hazard incident management and support collaborative wildfire land-based recovery

Goal 4: Sustainable Forest Stewardship for All Values

Performance Measures

Performance Measure	2025/26 Forecast	2026/27 Target	2027/28 Target	2028/29 Target
4a(i) Number of trees planted per year through the Ministry's Forest Investment Program	43,000,000	45,000,000	TBD ¹	TBD ¹
4a(ii) Provincial forest area with nutrients applied per year through the Ministry's Forest Investment Program	25,000 ha	25,000 ha	25,000 ha	TBD ²

Data source: RESULTS Database, Provincial Operations Division

¹Targets for 4a(i) 2027/28 and 2028/29 will be determined over the course of 2026/27, based on resourcing and other criteria.

²Targets for 4a(ii) 2028/29 will be determined over the course of 2026/27, based on resourcing and other criteria.

Objective 4.1: Revitalize and protect B.C.'s forests, and strengthen climate change mitigation and adaptation activities

Objective 4.2: Deliver exceptional research and scientific analysis to sustainably manage B.C.'s forests and natural resources

Financial Summary

(\$000s)	2025/26 Restated Estimates ¹	2026/27 Estimates	2027/28 Plan	2028/29 Plan
Operating Expenses				
Provincial Operations	115,822	113,653	113,653	113,653
Office of the Chief Forester	48,806	47,433	47,433	47,433
Tenures and Economics	21,205	16,483	16,483	16,483
Fire Preparedness	49,290	47,291	47,229	47,229
Regional Operations	101,032	98,851	98,486	98,486
Transfers to Crown Corporations and Agencies	40,366	39,736	39,736	39,736
Executive and Support Services	43,529	42,951	42,951	42,951
Fire Management	238,047	235,702	235,702	235,702
BC Timber Sales Account	240,147	267,506	218,411	226,194
Total	898,244	909,606	860,084	867,867
Capital Expenditures				
Executive and Support Services	54,903	39,178	33,078	34,678
Fire Management	14,762	11,001	2,575	2,575
BC Timber Sales Account	48,843	43,716	42,113	43,487
Total	118,508	93,895	77,766	80,740
Other Financing Transactions				
BC Timber Sales Account Disbursements				
Disbursements	91,419	88,748	81,318	82,878
Receipts	-	-	-	-
Total Net Cash Requirements (Source)	91,419	88,748	81,318	82,878

¹For comparative purposes, amounts shown for 2025/26 have been restated to be consistent with the presentation of the 2026/27 Estimates.

*Further information on program funding and vote recoveries is available in the [Estimates and Supplement to the Estimates](#).

Forest Practices Board Resource Summary

The Forest Practices Board (the board) independently monitors and reviews forest and range practices in B.C.'s public forests and rangelands. The Board audits both tenure holders and government ministries for compliance with forest and range practices legislation, carries out special investigations and issues reports as appropriate, investigates concerns and complaints from the public, and participates in appeals to the [Forest Appeals Commission](#). It informs both the B.C. public and the international marketplace of forest and range licensees' performance in carrying out sound practices and complying with legal requirements.

The Board's mandate is provided by the [Forest and Range Practices Act](#) and the [Wildfire Act](#). While the Board operates independently from the Ministry of Forests, its budget vote is the responsibility of the Minister. The Board reports its accomplishments and priorities through an annual report that can be at: www.bcfpb.ca.

Forest Practices Board	2025/26 Restated Estimates¹	2026/27 Estimates	2027/28 Plan	2028/29 Plan
Operating Expenses (\$000)				
Total	4,162	4,062	3,962	3,962

¹For comparative purposes, amounts shown for 2025/26 have been restated to be consistent with the presentation of the 2026/27 Estimates.

*Further information on program funding and vote recoveries is available in the [Estimates and Supplement to the Estimates](#).

Appendix A: Public Sector Organizations

As of February 2026, the Minister of Forests is responsible and accountable for the following organizations:

Forest Enhancement Society of British Columbia

The purpose of the Forest Enhancement Society of British Columbia (FESBC) is to identify and fund projects that advance the environmental and resource stewardship of B.C.'s forests.

Forestry Innovation Investment

Forestry Innovation Investment (FII) is B.C.'s market development agency for forest products. FII helps to develop and diversify markets for B.C. forest products to ensure the forest sector continues to be a key contributor to the provincial economy.

Forest Practices Board

The Forest Practices Board provides independent oversight of tenure holders' and government ministries' compliance with the Forest and Range Practices Act and the Wildfire Act through monitoring and reviewing forest and range practices in B.C.'s public forests and rangelands.

Managed Forest Land Council

The Managed Forest Council is an independent provincial agency established under the [Private Managed Forest Land Act](#). The objective of the Council is to encourage forest management practices on private managed forest land in B.C., taking into account the social, environmental, and economic benefits of those practices.

Timber Export Advisory Committee

The Timber Export Advisory Committee provides recommendations to the Minister regarding the export of timber originating from lands within British Columbia that is regulated for manufacture in British Columbia by the Government of British Columbia.

Wildfire Reduction Equipment Support Trust

The purpose of the Wildfire Reduction Equipment Support Trust (WREST) is to help eligible contractors purchase specified equipment that can be used to reduce fire risk by harvesting understory material, that, if left unharvested, would be potential for new wildfires.

Appendix B: Minister Mandate Letter



January 16, 2025

Honourable Ravi Parmar
Minister of Forests
Parliament Buildings
Victoria, BC V8V 1X4

Dear Minister Parmar:

Congratulations on your appointment as Minister of Forests at a critical time for our province. Serving as a member of the executive council is a privilege and responsibility which I am confident you will fulfill with integrity and a commitment to the people of our province.

British Columbians have trusted us with a mandate to deliver for them in ways that make a tangible difference in their daily lives. They expect us to listen and learn from people of different perspectives – and work together to make things better for everyone.

Specifically, we will tackle the challenges people worry about at the kitchen table:

- **Grow the economy by creating good jobs across British Columbia.** We will collaborate with businesses, workers, and communities to attract investments in both new and traditional sectors as well as emerging sectors of the economy. This approach will bring certainty for business, security for workers, and generate the wealth needed to support the essential services British Columbians rely on.
- **Reduce costs for families** including by helping people access homes they can afford through support for first-time homebuyers, increasing the supply of rental housing stock, and stronger measures to crack down on housing speculation.

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- **Strengthen health care** by expanding access to family doctors and recruiting and training more health professionals, ensuring that every British Columbian can access the care they need, no matter where they live. We will also increase access to addictions treatment and provide help for people whose struggles require intensive supports.
- **Make our neighbourhoods and communities safer** by working with law enforcement and social agencies to address street disorder, crack down on organized crime, and do all we can to ensure repeat offenders stay behind bars.

Our commitment to take action on climate change remains foundational and will be key to a healthy and prosperous BC for future generations.

Underlying all this work is our partnership with Indigenous peoples. Advancing reconciliation, implementing the *Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act* and working in partnership with First Nations rights-holders to advance shared interests is the responsibility of every Minister.

Over this mandate I expect you to prioritize making progress on the following:

- In order to protect key services that British Columbians rely on, work with the Minister of Finance to review all existing Ministry of Forests programs and initiatives to ensure programs remain relevant, are efficient, support the connection between forests and jobs in our province, and help keep costs low for British Columbians. This is important in the context of current Provincial budget constraints, the crisis in the sector, and the threat of expanded American tariffs.
- In light of the threat of American tariffs, the existing softwood lumber tariffs, the price crisis in the timber sector, and the reduction in available annual allowable cut, work with communities, labour, forestry and forest product companies, and Indigenous governments to review BC Timber Sales to ensure that the model is responsive to the new realities of the industry and the need for a strong connection between our forests and sustainable jobs for British Columbians for generations to come.
- Continue to bring together industry, First Nations, and communities through forest landscape planning tables – to chart a path forward for the stewardship of BC's forests and forest industry.
- Work to increase value from BC's forests by supporting value-added and innovative forest products, creating good local jobs and diversifying BC's wood products for local and international markets.

- Work with your ministerial colleagues and First Nations to ensure the prompt, efficient, and effective delivery of permits required by industry while maintaining our world-leading environmental standards.
- Work with all partners, including Indigenous governments, toward ensuring a sustainable land base to enable harvest of 45,000,000 cubic meters per year, while fulfilling our commitment to protect old growth.
- Work to secure a more sustainable future for First Nations and communities that depend on local forests for their economic strength by expanding the community forest program.
- With support from the Minister of State for Trade, continue work to protect and create jobs by fighting for a fair deal for BC wood products in softwood lumber negotiations and other tariff challenges with the United States.

As you are aware, we have established an accord with the BC Green Caucus that supports our shared commitment to ensuring stable governance focused on delivering progress and tangible outcomes for British Columbians. The commitments in that accord complement the direction in these mandate letters.

As a Cabinet, we will uphold the highest standards of ethics, collaboration, and good conduct in service of the public, and as a Minister of the Crown, you are expected to review, understand, and act according to the *Members' Conflict of Interest Act*. You will establish a collaborative working relationship with your Deputy Minister and the public servants under their direction, who provide the professional, non-partisan advice that is fundamental to delivering on our government's priorities. Your Minister's Office must meet the highest standards for integrity and provide a respectful, rewarding environment for all staff.

The work we have ahead takes place in a profoundly challenging geopolitical environment. Close friends and neighbours to our south are contemplating imposing draconian tariffs on our products that would hurt both Americans and Canadians. Our allies internationally face governmental instability. Hate and racism are on the rise around the world. Artificial intelligence breakthroughs with unclear implications and astonishing potential are announced daily. Global inflation, snarled supply chains, and war are threatening global economic growth and prosperity as well as the transition to a low-carbon economy.

We have an obligation to protect and defend British Columbians, as well as seize opportunities, in these uncertain times.

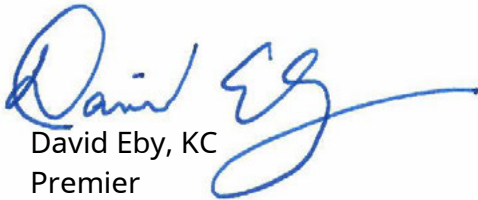
The good news is that we have everything we need to succeed, and we will succeed. British Columbia's people – our workers, entrepreneurs, business leaders, artists, and

innovators – are among the most talented in the world. We are home to world-class educational institutions and public services. Our natural beauty is unmatched, we have internationally envied resources, and we are one of the most diverse places on the planet. Your job is to help us leverage these advantages in perilous times.

Use this mandate letter to guide your work, and do not be afraid to challenge assumptions, or be innovative, bold and aggressive in achieving the goals set out for you and your Ministry by the people of this province.

Thank you for joining me in the work ahead.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "David Eby", with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.

David Eby, KC
Premier