



INFORMATION BULLETIN

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Ministry of Forests

SQUAMISH MAN CONVICTED OF TIMBER CHARGE

VICTORIA – Robert Cory Kerr of Squamish was fined \$1,000 in provincial court for violating timber laws, following an investigation by Ministry of Forests Compliance and Enforcement officers.

Kerr pled guilty to transporting Crown timber without authority following the discovery of 273 cedar shake blocks at his residence.

Compliance and Enforcement officials from the Squamish Forest District began the investigation in June 2003 following a public tip about possible cedar theft. Forest officials discovered that five large cedar trees had been illegally felled in Tree Farm Licence 38 near Squamish. Officials were able to match the felled cedar to shake blocks that were later found on Kerr's property. The cedar blocks were valued at \$3,200.

Kerr was convicted under the Forest Act of transporting timber without proper documentation. Other charges against Kerr included possession of stolen property.

Compliance and Enforcement officials routinely patrol Crown forests to detect and deter timber theft, which can have a major impact on provincial revenues.

Compliance and Enforcement staff are responsible for enforcing forest management laws and combating forest crimes such as theft, arson and mischief. Officials conduct more than 16,000 inspections a year to assess compliance with forest laws. Where there is evidence of a contravention, an investigation is conducted, which may lead to the issuance of a violation ticket, penalty or other enforcement action. The most serious forest crimes are prosecuted through the court system.

If you have any information about a suspected forestry contravention or crime, call your local Ministry of Forests office, or Crime Stoppers toll-free at 1-800-222-8477 (callers may remain anonymous).

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For a listing of your nearest Ministry of Forests office, visit <http://www.for.gov.bc.ca/mof/regdis.htm> online.

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