Forests and Lands News

BC Ministry of Forests and Lands

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The New Ministry of Forests and Lands

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MINISTRY OF FORESTS

Things have moved quickly in the new Ministry of Forests and Lands since the Honourable Jack Kempf assumed the portfolio in mid-August.

One of the minister's first moves was to appoint Bob Flitton as deputy minister. Mr. Kempf and Mr. Flitton worked together in the former Ministry of Lands, Parks and Housing and have developed a very compatible working style. Jack Kempf says he values the deputy minister's background and both men agree that private sector management practices have a role to play in the new ministry.

Wes Cheston will be the senior assistant deputy minister for the forest service, John Cuthbert retains his position as assistant deputy minister and chief forester, while Roy Cullen, assistant deputy minister, will be responsible for technical, economic and engineering services.

From the former Lands, Parks and Housing Ministry come Tom Lee as assistant deputy minister responsible for lands and Doug Ausman as executive director of management services.

Deputy Minister Bob Flitton stresses that the new organization is still interim while final assignment of responsibilities is worked out, but says that any changes now will be minimal.

Jim Bullen from the Forest Service will assume the position of Assistant Chief Forester in an acting capacity.

Flitton says that the forests side of the ministry will now be called the Forest Service, a return to an earlier name which represents the history of service in the forest sector. The lands branch has just gone through a major strategic planning process and the forest service is going through a similar mission review process. He says one of the ministry's major objectives in the next few months is to complete that process and pull it all together to ensure that there is a consistent message about ministry policies and direction.

Meet The New Minister

Forests and Lands minister Jack Kempf likes to think of himself as an ordinary guy. He says he's a lay person, born and raised in British Columbia with a lot of feeling for this province and its people. And that feeling shows.

But Jack Kempf also brings to the portfolio a background of fifteen years direct involvement in the forest industry. He began in the woods setting chokers and limbing trees and worked his way up to become logging superintendent for Bulkley Valley Forest Industries in Houston in northern British Columbia. Since then he has been involved with the industry through a log and lumber exporting business which he had until earlier this year.

The new minister calls the amalgamation of the forests and lands portfolios "a perfect marriage." As Minister of Lands, Parks and Housing since February, he was in a position to see the logic of a merger of the two areas of forests and lands. He says there have been problems of overlap in jurisdictions and that the best way to resolve these is to "have both areas

under one purview." He sees it as having a positive effect on the provision of service to the people of British Columbia.

Mr. Kempf is a man of action and intends to continue that trait in his new role. Within three weeks of assuming the portfolio, he called for a major review of the province's forest management policies. Although he believes that British Columbia's forest management and timber policies are fair and sound, he says a periodic review is called for.

"The review will include all forest management policies to ensure that the best interests of the forest sector and of British Columbians are being served," says Kempf.

Mr. Kempf is a man of ideas and action, and he is also willing to hear from others who have ideas for forests and land policies or who want to discuss issues.

"Unless I'm impossibly snowed under, I'll see anybody at any time. I feel that's an absolute necessity for someone in my position," he says.

He has served in the political arena for many years. He was first elected alderman in the District of Houston in 1972 and served as mayor of Houston from 1973 to 1976. He has been in the provincial legislature since 1975. His first cabinet position was with the Ministry of Lands, Parks and Housing and he was appointed Minister of Forests and Lands this August.

Mr. Kempf has some ideas for changes in the ministry's operation. He likens it to a business which should have service as its primary goal and he will be looking to his employees to take responsibility.

"I'd like to have a situation where everyone knows what his or her job is and feels free to make decisions to carry out that job," he says.

The minister sees a need for the ministry to make sure its activities are known and understood by all citizens as well as by visitors to B.C. "We have to educate them as to what it is we do, why we do it and what that does for our province."

"Forestry is our primary industry and it accounts for 50 per cent of every dollar generated in this province. I'm adamant that it should stay our primary industry and that all British Columbians will become proud of that industry and what it does for them."

LATE BREAKING NEWS

SILVICULTURE PROGRAMS GET MAJOR FUNDING BOOST

Details Inside

Reorganization Brings Fresh Management Approach

Deputy Minister Bob Flitton sees some changes in the operating style of the ministry resulting from the new management. In a recent interview he said, "We will be relying heavily on staff's professional direction and we intend to make input from client groups a priority."

"The minister is an individual who likes to communicate orally with both staff and client groups. He and I will go out of our way to meet with those who want to talk to us. We're prepared to meet, be it in Vancouver or Prince George or wherever it's most convenient."

He sees his primary function as an administrator, responsible for following up on the paper work and looking after the detail, but says at the same time he is going to have to take an increased role in developing policy and keeping close to the minister's activities to make sure that the best interests of the ministry and the public are well served.

"This means that we will have to experience the ultimate in delegation in that we will rely very heavily on senior staff to be responsible for the decision-making; not only the ADMs but also regional managers, directors and others."

He says that if in the past decisions were hard to come by, that will change. "But more important than that, there was a fear by people in the civil service to make decisions, because making a decision might lead to blame for the wrong decision. Minister Kempf and myself agree that that disincentive for making decisions should be removed. If there is to be a disincentive it should be for not making decisions. People will be encouraged to make decisions and provide quick answers."

"The mission review process and in fact most policy directions will be developed by our staff groups. We will be looking for them to give us recommendations as to where they think we should be heading."

"If an idea is well thought-out, we'll accept it and we'll make that recommendation. Our style will be to give staff a clear idea of what's expected of them, to make sure they understand that, and then to stand back and let them do the job. We're here to help them get the tools that are necessary to be productive, and I note that all ministry employees that I've met so far have a strong desire to do just that."

Crown Land for Sale

More than $100 million worth of public land is listed for sale in the Crown Land Marketing Catalogue published for the first time in May. Over 1,400 Crown and Crown Agency properties ranging from agricultural, commercial and industrial to recreational and residential are listed in the catalogue which is similar to the multiple-listings books used by the Real Estate industry.

This innovative new marketing program is designed to make the public aware of available Crown lands and to stimulate economic development.

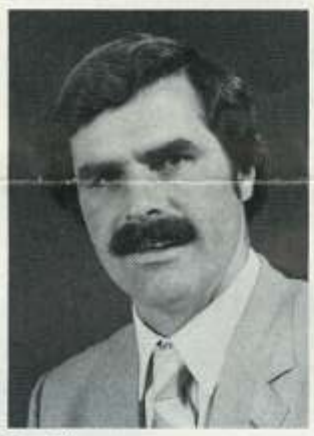
Crown lands catalogues are available at government agencies, municipalities and real estate boards for public inspection.

Bob Flitton

Tom Lee

Wes Cheston

John Cuthbert


Roy Cullen

Doug Ausman

Bob Flitton, *Deputy Minister of Forests and Lands*

Bob Flitton brings a strong private sector background to the position. Before his appointment as Deputy Minister of Lands, Parks and Housing 22 months ago, he had spent nearly 24 years in the private sector, primarily in the residential construction field, most in a management/administrative capacity. He is a past president of the Canadian Home Builders Association and has been involved in numerous community groups. He says that the offer of the position of deputy minister was "just too interesting an opportunity to pass up." Bob is well known across B.C. and has many friends and contacts in the forest industry.

Tom Lee, *Assistant Deputy Minister, Lands*

Tom Lee was assistant deputy minister responsible for lands in the former Ministry of Lands Parks and Housing for seven years. He is responsible for the managing and allocating public lands which constitute over 90% of the province's land mass. Crown lands are allocated for many uses including agriculture, housing, industry, commerce, recreation and wilderness. His role brings him into contact with major resource developments, conservation area proposals and individual land uses. Previously Mr. Lee held senior positions in B.C. Parks branch and with the Ontario Provincial Parks. He is also involved with recreation and conservation through community activities.

Wes Cheston, *Assistant Deputy Minister, Forest Service Operations*

Wes Cheston has 24 years of experience in the forest sector. During 17 years in the former Ministry of Forests he worked in a range of positions, culminating with his appointment to the five-member Forest Policy Advisory Committee which developed the province's new forest and range legislation. He also was special advisor to the deputy minister on matters of forest policy and legislation. In 1979, he became a private consultant, then returned to the provincial service as assistant deputy minister for operations in 1984. His educational background includes degrees in forestry and in public administration.

John Cuthbert, *Assistant Deputy Minister, Chief Forester*

As Chief Forester, John Cuthbert is responsible for the Forestry Division of the ministry, which includes resource planning, silviculture, research, protection planning and recreation. He is a graduate of UBC and a registered professional forester. He also has a diploma in Public Administration. His career with the Forest Service began in Terrace in 1961; he was appointed Chief Forester in April, 1985.

Roy Cullen, *Assistant Deputy Minister, Technical, Economic and Engineering Services*

Roy Cullen was ADM in charge of finance and administration in the former Ministry of Forests for six years. His new responsibilities include technical services, strategic studies, engineering, valuation and range management. He is a chartered accountant with a background in business administration. Prior to joining the Ministry of Forests, Roy Cullen was senior analyst in the B.C. Treasury Board.

Doug Ausman, *Executive Director of Management Services*

Doug Ausman is responsible for co-ordinating support services to the other branches of the ministry and also for matters of finance. Management services provides support services in the areas of personnel, human resource development, public affairs, systems, finance, audit, legal services, and planning. It also ensures the ministry complies with the requirements and controls of government's central agencies. Ausman has been working in the provincial government service for nearly 10 years, the last three as executive director of management services in Lands, Parks and Housing, and before that as director of housing programs. His education and experience combine financial and program delivery expertise.

FRDA Spells Renewal for B.C.'s Forests

The forests of British Columbia have been the mainstay of our economy since the early part of the century, but the growth of the province has taken its toll on the forests. In the beginning they seemed endless. Today the vast, old growth forests are dwindling and the province is in the midst of a transition to younger forests with smaller trees.

The original trees were harvested in keeping with the economic growth of the province. Some of our forests were also devastated by fires, insects and disease. Many hectares of forest land were never replanted but were left to regenerate naturally. The process was a slow one; in the past it could take up to 40 years for new seedlings to establish themselves. In many cases, they never did. Today, modern silviculture practices still include managing some areas for natural regeneration, but with a helping hand from man in carefully planning harvesting, preparing the site and tending it once the trees are re-established. The situation in the past, however, has resulted in a substantial backlog of not-satisfactorily restocked (NSR) forest lands.

Cultural treatments improve quality of seedlings. Seen here, root pruning in Campbell River Nursery.

Recent studies in the Ministry of Lands and Forests have identified a backlog of more than 400,000 hectares of land in the Prince George region alone that are not satisfactorily restocked. There are an estimated 738,000 hectares of land in the province identified as good and medium-site backlog NSR lands.

Now major work is taking place in the Prince George region and in all areas of the province to restock and renew these sites. The work is being done under a Federal-Provincial agreement signed in May of 1985 which outlines a five-year resource development program designed to methodically improve the productivity of forest land in British Columbia.

Under the Forest Resource Development Agreement (FRDA), the federal and provincial governments will spend a total of $300 million on forestry in B.C. by 1990. The main thrust of the agreement is to tackle the problem of restocking NSR lands throughout the province. Close to $200 million will go to backlog reforestation projects which include surveys of forest land, expansion of seed processing and storage facilities, preparation of sites and tree planting.

A further $86 million is directed at intensive forest management projects aimed at increasing the yield of existing forests. This program calls for 180,000 hectares of land to benefit from intensive silvicultural work. Brushing, weeding and pest control, spacing of young trees, removal of deciduous trees which retard conifer growth and fertilization of existing stands of trees are underway as well as a variety of research and development projects.

FRDA is funding research into improving planting stock, managing forest vegetation, and developing new ways of handling the reforestation process. It also provides funds for communicating research information to foresters through demonstration projects, handbooks and workshops.

Now well into its second year, FRDA is already showing results. Larry Atherton, manager of planning and co-operative programs in the silviculture branch of the Ministry of Forests and Lands says FRDA has funded more than 1,100 projects to date. He estimates that $22 million was spent on projects in 1985-86, and the goal for this year is double that, with the bulk of the funding allocated to the final three years of the agreement.

"Construction of a new seed centre in Surrey is almost complete and the new Thornhill Nursery in Terrace which was substantially funded under FRDA will be producing its first crop of seedlings in 1986. Reports for the period from April to June of this year show 340 new projects creating an estimated 29,000 man-days of employment," says Atherton.

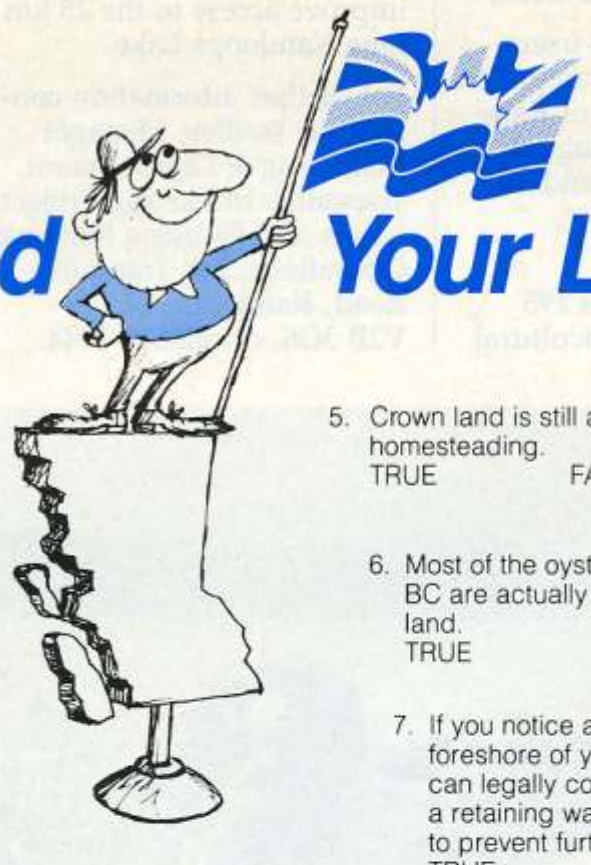
Employment in the forests is the other major benefit of the agreement. Estimates are that the forest renewal and management programs under FRDA will generate short-term employment for 15,000 people over the term of the agreement. And the long-term benefit will come from the enhanced forest resource that will significantly reduce unemployment in the forest industry.

All over the province, FRDA funded projects are underway. These can be identified by the red and white FRDA signs. Watch for them in your area. They are indicators of renewal in British Columbia's forest industry.

Further information about specific FRDA projects is available through a quarterly newsletter, *Renewal*. This newsletter gives details on FRDA's hundreds of projects as well as facts and figures about the program's goals. *Renewal* can be obtained by writing to:

The Editor, Renewal
P.O. Box 1025 Station A
Vancouver, B.C. V6C 2P1

Is This Land Your Land?



Almost all of us have some contact with Crown land each day of our lives; we work on it, drive on it and play on it. Over 90 per cent of British Columbia's land base, 86,563,195 hectares to be exact, consists of Crown land. Yet we know very little about it, and are often susceptible to myths that have grown over the years. Test your knowledge of Crown land by circling either True or False in response to the following statements.

1. Angie Dickinson, Sylvestor Stallone, and Gene Hackman have all made movies on BC Crown land.
   TRUE FALSE

2. The distance along the BC coastline is roughly the same as the distance from Vancouver to St. Johns, Nfld.
   TRUE FALSE

3. Between 5-10 per cent of Crown land is currently available for purchase.
   TRUE FALSE

4. When a river encroaches on your property, you have ownership rights to that part of the riverbed which lies on your side of the natural boundary.
   TRUE FALSE

5. Crown land is still available for homesteading.
   TRUE FALSE

6. Most of the oysters harvested in BC are actually grown on Crown land.
   TRUE FALSE

7. If you notice a river eroding the foreshore of your property, you can legally construct and backfill a retaining wall on the foreshore to prevent further erosion.
   TRUE FALSE

8. A squatter who occupies Crown land for a period of five years or longer gains ownership rights to one hectare which must also include his primary dwelling.
   TRUE FALSE

9. You may ask unwelcome guests to leave the foreshore of your lakefront property because you own the adjacent land.
   TRUE FALSE

10. Kitty litter is obtained from Crown land.
    TRUE FALSE

See next page for answers

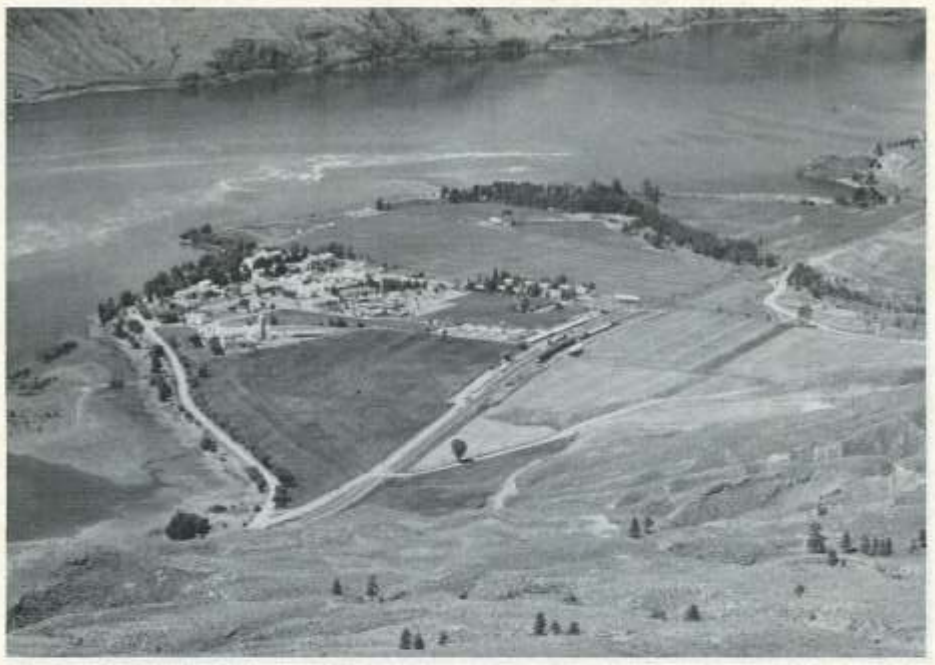
Private Land Ownership

In three quarters of the world, private land ownership does not exist. In many other regions, the right to own land privately is being lost.

In most cases where land cannot be privately owned there is no system which creates legal boundaries and descriptions of plots of land, no land titling and no policy for making it available to private owners. Often allowances for roads and utilities do not exist.

Is This Land Your Land? Answers

1. TRUE. Stallone's *First Blood* was filmed on Crown land in the Fraser Canyon, Hackman made *Eureka* in Barkerville and Dickinson made *Klondike Fever* at Harrison Hot Springs. Among many others, Darryl Hannah graced Cathedral Park while filming *Clan of the Cave Bear*, and George Segal disgraced himself in *Russian Roulette*, filmed in Vancouver and the Fraser Valley.
2. FALSE. The distance along the BC coastline is about 27,000 km with all its inlets and fiords, almost four times the distance from Vancouver to St. Johns (7,400 km).
3. FALSE. Only .0006 per cent (5,000 hectares) of Crown land base is presently available for sale. Recently a Crown Land Marketing Catalogue was published, offering more information about this land, valued in excess of $100 million.
4. TRUE. When a waterbody or watercourse encroaches upon a property owner's side of the natural boundary, the owner maintains ownership of his submerged land, as long as he does not impede marine navigation.
5. FALSE. Homesteading ended 1970.
6. TRUE. Aquatic Crown lands support many commercial activities such as fish farming and oyster culture, as well as recreational and industrial uses.
7. FALSE. In British Columbia the waterfront owner may only build protective improvements on his side of the surveyed natural boundary. The permission of the Crown is required for any foreshore improvements.
8. FALSE. There is no legal basis for squatters' rights.
9. FALSE. You have no right to restrict other's access to the foreshore simply because you own the adjacent land.
10. TRUE. Kitty litter is made from diatomaceous earth, which is light, flaky, and absorbent.



Tranquille Seeks New Ownership

From 1907 to 1950 Tranquille was the BC Tuberculosis Sanitorium, and from 1958 to 1984 it was a care and training facility for the mentally handicapped. It was closed in 1985, and was passed to Lands, Parks and Housing for disposition. Lands officials believe there is room on site for a regional park and associated commercial development and for at least one new farm unit. Intensive redevelopment of the institution area could include a destination resort, an executive training retreat, a human development or rehabilitation centre, a retirement community offering high quality care for senior citizens, or some other combination of compatible uses.

Somewhere there are users for the 280 hectare Tranquille property 18 km west of Kamloops, and in early August the site went out to tenders in the marketplace.

The property includes 195 hectares of prime agricultural and pasture land, three kilometres of lakeshore and a 34-hectare institutional enclave. The "institutional" area has several hospital buildings, staff residences, meeting and training centers, a cafeteria, laundry, community hall, fire hall, a central heating plant and numerous other improvements. The agricultural area includes a dairy production centre, a beef production/processing/shipping centre, a piggery, and other buildings associated with vegetable and forage production.

Ministry officials say their objectives are to achieve economic and social benefits for Kamloops and the Thompson-Okanagan Region and to improve access to the 25 km long Kamloops Lake.

For further information contact Jim Yardley, Manager Marketing & Development, Tranquille Marketing Project, Lands and Housing Regional Operations, 348 Tranquille Road, Kamloops, BC, V2B 3G6, or call 554-3144.

Forests and Lands Minister Jack Kempf and ADM Wes Cheston on the beach at Toquart Bay, a ministry recreation area between Port Alberni and Ucluelet on Vancouver Island. All summer long dozens of recreational vehicles are parked here while visitors enjoy the area's natural beauty and excellent fishing. Studies show a need for more destination campgrounds on this part of Vancouver Island and government is reviewing the area's potential for a provincial park.

Thrills and Danger Inherent in Skiing

Ski season is fast approaching. For skiers, this brings the thrill of skiing the powder slopes above the tree line or the experience of cross country skiing through the silent forests. Each year, more skiers are trying heli-skiing on mountain tops and using the trails developed by the Ministry of Forests and Lands on Crown lands.

With this increased use comes the increased risk of accident. There have been a number of lawsuits by individuals who have been injured while heli-skiing, hence the ministry is seeking government approval of an inherent liability act that will clarify individual responsibility in case of accident where an individual has pursued an action with inherent risks.

Skiers associations are promoting skier responsibility and awareness. Skiers must be aware of the risks inherent in the sport of skiing. It is the responsibility of each skier to control speed and course at all times to avoid harm to self or others. The following examples are recommended for all who ski:

SKIERS CODE

- Ski under control and in such a manner that you can stop and avoid other skiers or objects.
- When skiing downhill or overtaking another skier, you must avoid the skier below you.
- Do not stop where you obstruct a trail or are not visible from above.
- When entering a trail or starting downhill, yield to other skiers.
- Always wear retention straps or other devices to prevent runaway skis.
- Keep off closed trails and posted areas and ski within area boundaries.

A Perspective on the American Countervailing Duties Petition

American lumber producers are again calling for countervailing duties on Canadian lumber, claiming that British Columbia's stumpage rates are too low and give Canadian lumber an unfair advantage in American markets. This is the latest move in a U.S.-Canada lumber dispute that has been simmering since the 1980 slump in world-wide lumber markets.

The impact on duties, such as were imposed on shakes and shingles earlier this year, would have a very serious effect on our lumber industry. British Columbia is putting a major effort into resolving this matter.

This is not the first time that a countervailing duty on lumber has been called for. In 1982, a group of U.S. producers filed a petition with American trade authorities claiming that Canadian lumber producers receive unfair benefits from government. Their argument was based on the claim that Canadian policies for setting the prices paid on standing timber (stumpage rates) were a form of subsidy.

In May of 1983 the U.S. Commerce Department ruled that timber pricing policies in Canada do not provide a subsidy for a large number of reasons. Amongst others, they noted differences between types of trees, size, quality, density and accessibility of timber between the U.S. and Canada as affecting the stumpage rates charged.

In fact the success of Canadian softwood exports to the U.S. is based not on subsidies, but on several other factors: the advantage of the lower Canadian dollar, the superior productivity of Canadian producers over the past decade and the customer preference for Canadian lumber.

The countervailing duty issue is a complex one and relates directly to the free trade negotiations between Canada and the United States. British Columbia maintains its position that there are no government subsidies on lumber and continues to put effort into resolving the threat of countervailing duties through bilateral initiatives that will encourage two-way trade flow between Canada and the United States.

Forests and Lands Minister Jack Kempf says that Canadian lumber is in the American market for one good reason: it's needed. For many years Canadian lumber has filled the gap between U.S. demand and U.S. production. When markets are good Canada is encouraged to produce and export lumber to meet the American need. When the market is tight, the U.S. tries to stop Canadian imports which compete with American production.

But Jack Kempf believes that tariffs won't stop the flow of lumber to American markets.

"You're not going to diminish that demand, in my estimation, by any kind of tariff or duty. Because our lumber is the kind that is in demand by homebuilders in the United States. It's strong, it's nice-looking, it's easy to use. It's got all of the qualities that homebuilders are looking for. There's going to be a demand no matter what happens in the political arena," he says.

"Meanwhile," Kempf says, "it is in British Columbia's best interests to ensure that our forest management practices are in good shape. The current review of B.C.'s forest management policies is a first step. If the review finds that B.C.'s stumpage system should be adjusted to provide a better system, then this move will be made. It may also help the current situation regarding the American countervailing duties petition but that's not the motive."

British Columbia is putting a great deal of effort into dealing with the American position. On August 13th, Canada filed a 7,000 page response to a U.S. Department of Commerce questionnaire aimed at determining whether a duty should be imposed on Canadian lumber exports. The Ministry of Forests and Lands put hundreds of days of work into this response and is continuing to provide information for the Canadian case. The ruling is scheduled to come down on October 9th.

"We will continue to press for fair trade agreements that will ensure that British Columbia maintains its rightful access to the North American market," says Jack Kempf.

Silviculture Programs Get Major Funding Boost

Government will spend $30.6 million more next year on silviculture under a new Steady State Program which will increase the ministry's planting goals and reforestation efforts and create an additional 275,000 person-days of employment. The announcement was made September 24th by Forests and Lands Minister Jack Kempf.

The Steady State Program funding combined with FRDA funding *(see story this issue)* will bring the ministry's budget for silviculture in 1987-88 to more than $250 million — about half of the total forestry budget. The additional funds will enable the ministry to increase its planting goals for areas in the province that are logged or devastated by forest fires, insects or disease.

The minister explained that the ministry is now able to

reforest 60 per cent of these areas and that a further 25 per cent is reforested naturally with assistance from foresters in planning harvesting operations and preparing sites, leaving a backlog of 15 per cent.

"Under the new program, 75% of cleared areas will be planted and reforestation will be undertaken on areas burned by wildfire in 1985 and on sites presently being harvested," said Kempf.

The program also includes construction of nurseries, increased capital investments in seed orchards, and protection of plantation investments through brushing and weeding and intensive forestry practices.

Kempf said that during the first year of the program, 53,000 person-days of employment will be created in nursery construction alone, and that when the nursery seedlings come on line in 1988, an additional 64,000 person-days of employment in planting will be created.

"By 1988, the ministry will be planting 241 million seedlings on 198,000 hectares annually," the minister said.

Minister's Datebook

JACK KEMPF

Minister's Datebook

The following list includes only some of the highlights of Jack Kempf's busy schedule. In addition to three days a week of formal ministry and government meetings, the minister travels around the province to meet with client groups, addresses meetings, and visits his Omineca constituency. The balance of his time is spent in dealing with ministry matters, receiving visitors at his office and responding to letters and inquiries. In all, it's a seven-day-a-week job. As an example, the following is an itinerary of the last several weeks.

September 12-14 **Visits the Queen Charlotte Islands and South Moresby wilderness area.**

September 16 **Guest speaker** — Gold River Chamber of Commerce.

September 17 **Guest speaker** — Kitimat Royal Bank Forestry Seminar.

September 18-19 **Union of B.C. Municipalities Conference** — Vernon.

September 20 **Represents Premier at Variety Club Dinner** — Vancouver.

September 21 **Meets with forestry groups** — Vanderhoof and Burns Lake.

September 22 **Opens Canadian Institute of Forestry** with Honourable Gerald Merrithew, Federal Minister of State (Forestry & Mines) and Honourable Robert G. Rogers, Lieutenant Governor — Victoria.

September 24 **Canadian Institute of Forestry Barbeque**, Duncan Forest Museum.

September 26 **Guest speaker at Wood Expo 86**, B.C. Place.

October 6 **Western States Legislative Forestry Task Force meeting** — Vancouver.

October 9 **Opens museum and tourist complex** — Granisle. **Submerged lands Management Conference banquet** — Victoria.

Indian Land Claims

The shaded portion of the map represents Indian land claims accepted by the federal government for negotiation. Much of the land is claimed by more than one native group, and some of it by as many as four.

Indian land issues are among the most difficult and controversial questions facing British Columbia today. More than 70 per cent of Canada's 2,242 Indian reserves are located in this province and these reserves are home to 195 of 575 Canadian Indian bands.

Forests and Lands Minister Jack Kempf believes the provincial government and Indians must continue to perpetuate a cooperative atmosphere.

"We are prepared to deal with the issues at hand and to find amicable solutions to our common problems," said Kempf. "For many years we have favored self-sufficiency for Indian bands and have supported their cultural enhancement programs."

In BC, natives and government cooperate in many land transactions each year; most are relatively straightforward in nature and are completed by the ministry's Land Services. A lively and welcome demand exists among natives who, like any other British Columbians, want Crown land for commercial and industrial purposes. Yet the core question of aboriginal title may threaten that cooperative atmosphere.

Indians claim that the vast majority of land and resources in British Columbia belongs to them and that it should be either returned or they should be compensated for the loss of it.

The federal government appears willing to contribute its "fair share" of resources necessary to settle aboriginal land claims but provides no specific indication what that "fair share" might be. In BC, 22 comprehensive land claims have been submitted, and the federal government has accepted 14 claims for negotiation. These claims cover 79 per cent of the province's land surface and embrace cities and other developed areas. Most of the land claimed is presently subject to third party interests and ownership.

"It is almost impossible to place a dollar value on these claims in terms of lands and resources," Kempf said. "And, at this point, we can't even begin to predict with any accuracy the burden these alleged aboriginal interests might place on individual taxpayers."

While the federal position on land claims has been unclear, British Columbia's position is firm and unequivocal: aboriginal title does not exist in British Columbia, and if it ever did exist, it was extinguished prior to the union of BC with Canada in 1871. Further, the government of Canada has the sole responsibility for compensating outstanding native land claims. BC has held this position for more than a century.

Kempf added: "For the Province to take any other position or to lead negotiations in place of the federal government has the potential of placing the cost of solution entirely on the people of BC and we cannot place ourselves in that position."

Indians believe they established title to the lands they claim by historic occupation and use, by performing "kind acts" such as burials, and by conquest of neighbouring territories. They say the fact that hunting territories and fishing sites are described in their songs and legends, and in the totem pole, is evidence that title still exists today.

Despite the federal government's suggestion not to rest on strict legal positions, but to negotiate, it seems litigation is the only available option to resolve the land claim issue.

The Ministry of Forests and Lands plays an important technical support role to the Attorney General's ministry as it responds to the current litigation. Litigation also severely hampers this ministry since it is not able to complete the sale of certain Crown lands while cases are before the courts and decisions are pending.

Native Self-Government

This ministry supports self-government for individual native bands on their reserves. At present, the Sechelt Band is the only band in the province to take full responsibility for its own affairs in this way. The Sechelt model of self-government could result in a new and different era of relations between natives and government, an era this ministry approaches with a positive and cooperative outlook. "It is also something we can achieve outside the spectrum of land claims," said Kempf.

The Neilson Task Force on Indians and Natives reports that:

- it will cost an estimated $8 billion to settle all outstanding native land claims.
- to date, 280 of an estimated 1,500 to 2,000 specific claims have been filed.
- resolution of claims may require the contribution of land, services and money by the provinces.
- 113 federal and federal-provincial programs delivered by 11 federal departments cost $2.2 billion in 1984-85.
- the federal government will spend more than $15 billion in the next five years on aboriginal programming. Treaties or Indian Act obligations only account for about 25 per cent of that spending.
- the federal government spent $237 million ($6,274 per capita) for Indians living on British Columbia reserves in 1984-85.
- an independent national Indian heritage trust company should be created to administer the $1 billion held in federal government trust accounts on behalf of Indians.
- settlement of specific claims should be accelerated and settlement of comprehensive claims deferred until Indian self-government is implemented.
- the federal and provincial governments should agree on which level of government is responsible for which programs.

Gordon Erlandson to Co-ordinate Forest Management Review

Forests and Lands Minister Jack Kempf has appointed Gordon Erlandson to co-ordinate a review of forest management programs and policies. Erlandson, a registered forester, is public involvement co-ordinator in the Ministry of Forests and Lands. He says that the review will cover many aspects of the ministry's programs and policies to see "how well we are doing and where we should be going."

"It will identify the major issues relating to British Columbia's forest industry and suggest ways to resolve them."

Topics will include lumber pricing policies, export policies, integrated resource management as well as silviculture issues.

Although the review is "largely an internal process," the ministry has already received input from client groups about issues that concern them. Submissions are not being formally requested, but will be received from groups or individuals impacted by the forest industry who wish to make suggestions.

Province-wide cone collection programs use helicopters and cone rakes for high efficiency.

Make Us A Famous Name

This newsletter is distributed to spotlight the Ministry's policies, programs and people. We've called it, 'Forests and Lands News', but we think you might be able to suggest a better name. So think of some names that represent both Forests and Lands and send them to Laura Stringer, Director, Information Services, Ministry of Forests and Lands, 1450 Government St., Victoria, B.C. V8W 3E7. Some suggestions to get you started are Focus, Impact, Dialogue, Directions, Forsite and Resource.

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