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AUGUST 2010

Minister Pat Bell

Welcome to the August edition of my e-newsletter.

The community of Mackenzie has a reason to celebrate this month with the restart of the Mackenzie pulp mill.

The reopening of the mill will generate approximately 700 direct and indirect jobs for workers and their families, providing a much needed uplift for the local economy.

It took many players to get to this point. Paper Excellence, the Province, municipal leaders, the McLeod Lake Indian Band, and people from many other sectors of the community are to thank for the resurrection of this mill.

The recent return of production represents the culmination of months of hard work, time and energy invested by a dedicated group of partners.

This mill restart is a positive sign that B.C.'s forest sector is on the road to recovery. We've got more work to do, but things are moving in the right direction.

Minister Pat Bell
Ministry of Forests and Range
and Minister Responsible for the
Integrated Land Management Bureau

INTERNATIONAL MARKETING

British Columbia is working to expand its overseas exports, particularly into the rapidly growing China market.

Student dorm and classroom building at earthquake reconstruction project in China

EARTHQUAKE RECONSTRUCTION PROJECT UPDATE - Wood framing work on the student dorm and classroom building at the Mianyang Special Education School for the Disabled is currently in progress. Construction is expected to be completed Fall 2010. *Photos*

IMPROVING UTILIZATION

British Columbia is working to maximize the economic opportunities from wood fibre previously considered waste or debris.

FOREST SAFETY

The ministry is committed to maintaining high safety standards to protect both forest workers and the public.

Fire in B.C.

FORESTS MINISTER'S STATEMENT ON AIR TANKER TRAGEDY - On behalf of all British Columbians Minister Bell would like to extend his sincere condolences to the families of pilots Tim Whiting and Brian Tilley who lost their lives in an air tanker crash near Lytton earlier this month. For information on sending condolences and/or donations click here.

FIREFIGHTING PERSONNEL FROM U.S. AND ACROSS CANADA ARRIVE IN B.C. - Firefighting personnel including over 730 firefighters, supervisors, specialists, initial attack and sustained action crews have arrived to assist B.C. fire crews with challenging wildfire activity in the Interior of the province.

PILOTS REMINDED TO KEEP AWAY FROM FOREST FIRES - As the Province is currently using about 200 fixed-wing aircraft and helicopters to fight forest fires, recreational pilots are reminded automatic airspace restrictions are in place within five nautical miles of all forest fires, and that flying over wildfires can interfere with firefighting efforts.

TWO OKANAGAN FOREST SERVICE ROADS TEMPORARILY CLOSED - Travellers are advised that the Aberdeen Haddo Forest Service Road from Aberdeen Plateau to Haddo Lake, and the North Fork Forest Service Road near Perry River will be closed August 6-25 inclusively as crews conduct maintance and bridge installation work.

Wood fibre close-up

NEW WOOD NETWORK LINKS BUYERS, SELLERS AND INVESTORS - Fibre Connections BC, a new government service, makes it possible to share fibre supply information in a direct and co-ordinated way through one of 72 fibre officers based in communities across the province.

GROWING TREES

By becoming a world leader in growing trees, British Columbia aims to maximize the growth potential of its forest resource.

LAKE BABINE NATION AND GRANISLE PURSUE COMMUNITY FOREST - Minister Bell and Nechako Lakes MLA John Rustad predict the Lake Babine Nation and Village of Granisle will benefit from new jobs and stronger relationships through the community forest they are working towards.

This is an Article Box Picture.

INTEGRATED LAND MANAGEMENT BUREAU

The ILMB is a stand-alone agency that provides service to the public and other government agencies by co-ordinating access to Crown land and natural resources.

Forests and Range Minister Pat Bell except a gift to the Province from Chief Shane Gottfriedson of the Tk'emlups First Nation

BUILDING WITH WOOD

Given its strength, versatility, and climate-friendly attributes, British Columbia is promoting greater use of wood in commercial and institutional construction.

Ladysmith RCMP Station

MIDWAY AND TERRACE BECOME 12th AND 13th WOOD FIRST MUNICIPALITIES - The Village of Midway and the City of Terrace have officially passed Wood First resolutions, joining Quesnel, Nakusp, Prince George, Castlegar, Fruitvale, Columbia Shuswap Regional District, Kelowna, Armstrong, Cariboo Regional District, Campbell River and Squamish in increasing the use of B.C. wood in provincially-funded projects.

$69.9M CANCER CENTRE TO USE WOOD IN CONSTRUCTION - A 54,000 square foot Cancer Treatment Centre in Prince George plans to use nearly 656,000 board feet of wood in its construction, helping showcase the durable, cost-effective and climate-friendly attributes of building with wood.

REVELSTOKE USES LOCAL WOOD IN SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS - Local wood will be used in roofing materials as well as in large timber supports in the entrance ways at local schools.

OTHER MINISTRY NEWS

Abandoned vehicle

Abandoned equipment

FOREST DISTRICT TARGETS ABANDONED VEHICLES AND EQUIPMENT - The Province posted notices on about 60 vehicles and pieces of industrial equipment deemed abandoned

REVENUE SHARING WITH FIRST NATIONS EXPANDED - The Province and the Stk'emlupsemc of the Secwepemc Nation (SSN) signed a historic mining agreement that will allow the SSN to share in the direct economic benefits of the New Afton mine near Kamloops.

Ministers of State of Mining Randy Hawes and Minister Responsible for the Integrated Land Management Bureau Pat Bell attend an agreement signing between the

FIRST NATION TO SHARE BENEFITS OF MT. MILLIGAN MINE - This revenue-sharing agreement between the Province and the McLeod Lake Indian Band showcases how First Nations, government and industry are working together to diversify and build the regional and provincial economy.

COMMENTS REQUESTED FOR SEA-TO-SKY LAND USE - The public is invited to review and provide comments on the proposed objectives contained in the draft Sea-to-Sky Land Use Order until Oct. 17.

BE CAREFUL WHEN ENJOYING THE OUTDOORS - The Integrated Land Management Bureau and the City of Campbell River encourage the public and tourists to enjoy B.C.'s vast recreational opportunities, but want to remind people to please be careful and stay safe when enjoying the outdoors.

39,000 HECTARES PROTECTED FOR OLD GROWTH CONSERVATION - The Province has nearly doubled the old-growth management areas on Vancouver Island and is demonstrating B.C.'s leadership in sustainable forest management.

1,598 HECTARES OF COASTAL DOUGLAS-FIR TO BE

on Crown land around Revelstoke and Golden stipulating Wednesday, Sept. 15 as the deadline for their removal.

KOOTENAY LAKE TSA AAC DOWN SLIGHTLY - Effective immediately the allowable annual cut for the Kootenay Lake timber supply area will be 640,000 cubic metres, which is about six per cent lower than the previous cut of 681,300 cubic metres.

TREE FARM LICENCE 19 AAC DECREASED TO 730,000 CUBIC METRES - The decrease in the Tree Farm Licence 19 allowable annual cut reflects new practices resulting from Western Forest Products forest strategy and new wildlife habitat areas.

ANALYSIS REVEALS CAUSE OF BRIDGE RIVER WATER CHANGE - Aerial and ground surveys conducted by the ministry concluded large amounts of sediment, organic matter and charcoal were responsible for the darkened water due to an intense rainstorm and subsequent erosion in an area burned by a 2009 forest fire.

$1.3 MILLION HELPS LINK WORKERS WITH ISLAND JOBS - The Job Opportunities Program and the Island Coastal Economic Trust is providing approximately $1.3 million in funding to assist Vancouver Island communities by providing jobs and improvements to area trails and recreation sites.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Sept. 9-10
BC Wood Global Buyers Mission
Whistler
**Minister Bell speaking on Sept. 10*

Sept. 16-18
Federation of B.C. Woodlot Associations' AGM
Quesnel
**Minister Bell speaking on Sept. 18*

Sept. 19-25
National Forest Week

Sept. 27-Oct. 1
UBCM 2010
Whistler

For more information on ministry announcements and events, visit the Ministry of Forests and Range Media Room .

PROTECTED - Under a new land use order, B.C. will increase the protection of the Coastal Douglas-fir ecosystem on provincial Crown land to almost 40 per cent.

INDUSTRY NEWS

Minister Bell joined Premier Gordon Campbell to celebrate the restart of the Mackenzie pulp mill

MACKENZIE CELEBRATES RETURN OF PULP MILL - Minister Bell joined Premier Gordon Campbell to celebrate the restart of the Mackenzie pulp mill and to welcome Paper Excellence B.V. as the new owners. The re-opening of the mill has generated about 220 direct jobs, 500 indirect jobs and provided an economic uplift to the entire Mackenzie community. ***VIDEO***

WESTERN FOREST PRODUCTS SIGNS DEAL WITH WORKERS - Western Forest Products and the United Steekworkers Local 1-1937 have signed a four-year deal, helping secure jobs for more than 2,400 sawmill and woodlands employees on Vancouver Island.

TEMBEC PRAISED FOR ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP - The UNESCO World Heritage Committee has given Tembec a "thumbs up" for their forest practices in the Flathead Valley. Tembec has extremely high standards of environmental stewardship and operates under forest stewardship council certification.

WEB RESOURCES

The ministry's websites provide a wide range of services and a wealth of information regarding B. C.'s land management and forest sector.

Check out the ministry's new **FireSafeBC.ca** website, as well as our **Facebook** and **Twitter** pages, for quick access and updates on current fire condiitions and bans, evacuations and alerts, and preparedness and prevention.

FORESTRY FACTS

- So far this year, the province has spent $170.7 million fighting 1,556 wildfires that have resulted in 322,360 hectares burned.