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January 26, 2024

Dear Mayor and Barriere (District) Council,

In January 2023 at the Truck Logger's Association convention, Premier David Eby announced that the Forest Enhancement Society of BC (FESBC) would be entrusted to administer \$50 million of funding for forest enhancement projects. These projects would have two specific purposes: to utilize more waste wood from the forest and to reduce wildfire risks for communities.

Our team at FESBC got to work right away and by late spring, that same year, rolled out a funding intake for First Nations, community forests, and communities throughout the province to apply to for funding. Just one year after the Premier's announcement, 66 projects have been approved valued at \$47.9 million and the work on the ground is active now. The enclosed report shares an overview of these newly funded projects in regions all throughout the province.

We are very proud of the various project partners who have stepped forward with creative and thoughtful projects which not only utilize more waste wood or reduce wildfire risk, but have additional benefits such as improving wildlife habitat, developing recreational opportunities, creating or maintaining forestry-related jobs often in rural communities, and improving the health and resilience of our forests.

Additionally, 39 of these 66 projects are either led by, or involve, First Nations.

The enclosed Accomplishments Update showcases three of these newly funded forest enhancement projects. Industry leaders Gordon Murray, Executive Director of the Wood Pellet Association of Canada, and Joe Nemeth, General Manager of BC Pulp & Paper Coalition, share how critical this funding has been to help address some of their members' needs to keep people working, harness innovation to help B.C.'s bioeconomy, and take action on climate change.

FESBC projects show there doesn't need to be a trade-off between the environment or the economy – it can be a win for both.

Steven F. Kozuki, RPF
Executive Director, FESBC

P.S. Keep up to date on FESBC funding and funded projects. Visit www.fesbc.ca and sign up for our monthly newsletter.

(320) MC