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VIA EMAIL: ben.geselbracht@nanaimo.ca

Ben Geselbracht, President
Association of Vancouver Island and Coastal Communities
PO Box 28058
Victoria, BC V9B 6K8

Dear Ben Geselbracht:

Thank you for your letter of June 20, 2025, regarding the Private Managed Forest Land (PMFL) Program review and activities on private managed forest lands.

As you know, registrants in the PMFL Program voluntarily commit to following the standards and requirements under the *Private Managed Forest Land Act* and are subject to the compliance and enforcement provisions of the Act and its regulations. Additionally, PMFL registrants, and all landowners, are subject to approximately 35 Acts and regulations, which provide additional protections including, but not limited to:

- *Heritage Conservation Act*
- *Drinking Water Protection Act*
- *Environmental Management Act*
- *Integrated Pest Management Act*
- *Land Act*
- *Water Sustainability Act*
- *Wildfire Act*

Following from the priorities set out in the [Premier's mandate letter](#) for the Ministry of Forests provided to Minister Parmar after the 2024 provincial election, the minister indicated that the PMFL Program Review, as initiated in 2019, is considered concluded.

Presently, the ministry does not intend to make legislative changes to the PMFL Act as a result of the review. However, the ministry recognizes that there is still work to be done to address the concerns that were brought forward through the 2019 PMFL Program Review, and that both provincial and local governments have a role to play in addressing public values that may be impacted by activities on private lands.

Although the PMFL Program Review is considered concluded, it is important to recognize that the provincial government and the ministry have advanced several initiatives to improve forest stewardship and address these issues where private and public forests interface. Many of the concerns raised during the review are being addressed through government actions that are not specific to amending the PMFL Act, including:

- continued work with communities to sustain and protect drinking water sources under the *Water Sustainability Act* and the *Drinking Water Protection Act*;
- the release of a provincial biodiversity framework for discussion;
- the Modernizing Forest Policy Initiative; and
- the Old Growth Strategic Review.

Staff with the Forest Tenures Branch continue to work closely with the Managed Forest Council and the Private Forest Landowners Association to support the delivery of the PMFL Program. The ministry also continues to liaise with the Ministry of Housing and Municipal Affairs to understand the role of local governments in the stewardship of private lands within their jurisdiction. I also encourage you to continue your work with the Ministry of Water, Land and Resource Stewardship regarding safe drinking water and watershed security.

Again, thank you for writing and sharing your association's continued interest in the PMFL Program and for supporting the resolutions that bring attention to these issues.

Sincerely,



Ravi Parmar
Minister

pc: Honourable Randene Neill, Minister of Water, Land and Resource Stewardship
Honourable Brittney Anderson, Minister of State for Local Governments and Rural Communities
Patrick Russell, Director, Forest Tenures Branch
Andrea Inwards, Timber Tenures Forester, Forest Tenures Branch