

# The Future of Forestry on Vancouver Island and Coastal British Columbia



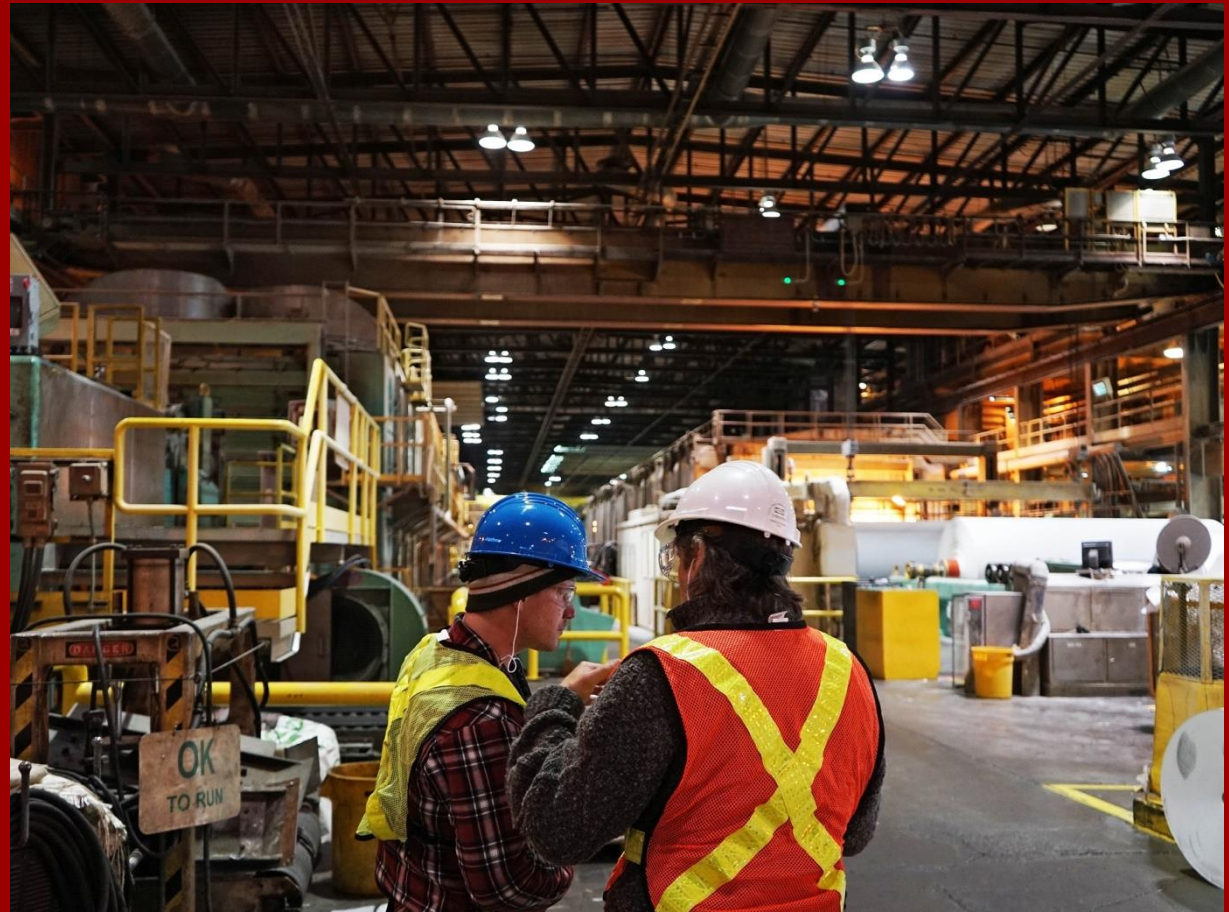
By Geoff Dawe

Government Relations and Policy Influencer

Former National President of Public and Private Workers of Canada

# What's at Stake

- Vibrant communities
- Good paying, long-term jobs
- Strong local economies
- Generational commitments to the forestry industry



# Current Reality

- Mill curtailments and job losses
- Fibre shortages and economic uncertainty
- Rising costs and uncompetitiveness
- Global pressures from unfair trade and tariffs



# Climate and Wildlife

- Increasing wildfire risk and environmental damage
- Fibre disruption
- Operational uncertainty

## **Bottom line:**

Workforce resilience =  
Climate resilience



# Raw Log Exports

- Thousands of good paying jobs leaving communities
- Lost value-added opportunities for high skilled workers in BC ready to contribute
- Fibre shortages in British Columbia



# The Tension

- False dichotomy between environmental protection vs. economy and jobs (when we can do both)
- Policy vs. reality
- Short-term vs. long-term

**“A transition without jobs is displacement.”**



# What Collaboration Means

- Workers at the decision table right from the beginning
- Align fibre and mills
- Decisions that put communities, workers and citizens first



# Opportunities

- Better fibre use that protects the environment and creates high value added jobs in BC
- Continued innovation
- Equal partnerships with Indigenous communities
- Skilled workforce development here in BC

