

NEWS RELEASE

MINISTRY OF FORESTS HON. DAVE PARKER, MINISTER FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

1989:04

January 18, 1969

PUBLIC INFORMATION SESSIONS SET ON FOREST LICENCE CONVERSIONS HEARINGS ON APPLICATIONS POSTPONED BY FORESTS MINISTER

VICTORIA -- Forests Minister Dave Parker announced today he will personally chair eight public information sessions on the provincial government's program to convert forest licences to tree farm licences.

All hearings on applications for converting forest licences will be postponed until after the public information sessions, which begin next month.

Last fall, Parker postponed a public hearing on a joint application by Finlay Forest Industries Ltd. and Fletcher Challenge Ltd. to convert their forest licences in the Mackenzie timber supply area of B.C.'s northern interior.

Today, he postponed a second public hearing, set for February 2, on an application by Canadian Pacific Forest Products Ltd. to-convert its forest licence in the Gold River-Tahsis area on Vancouver Island.

"These two applications were made before September, 1987, when we announced the new conversion program, which will increase significantly the number of tree farm licences in the province," the minister said.

"Last fall, we circulated a discussion paper on the program. The initial response was relatively muted, but more recently we have received comments indicating that many people, associations and groups want more information before we proceed with the program.

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public information sessions . "I firmly believe the best policies and procedures are ť. developed after a well-informed public has provided sound and practical suggestions. "Therefore, before we proceed with the hearings on the two applications, and before we schedule hearings on the approximately 100 more applications we have received. I want to hear the views of British Columbians," Parker said. "At these public sessions we will inform the people of the program's objectives and our proposed policies and procedures. We will identify and clear up the many myths and fallacies being circulated about the program. We will listen to the public's views on whether the conversion program should proceed and, if so, how it can be improved." The minister urged all interested persons to attend the public information sessions that will be held from mid-February to mid-March in Vancouver, Kamloops, Welson, Williams Lake, Prince George, Smithers, Fort St. John and Victoria. Specific dates will be advertised widely in the news media. -30-Contact: Was Chaston Assistant Deputy Minister, Operations Phone: 387-1236 Julius J. Juhasz Director, Timber Harvesting Branch 387-5291 Phone:

FOREST LICENCE CONVERSIONS TO TREE FARM LICENCES

Public Information Sessions

Forests Minister Dave Parker will chair a series of information sessions throughout the province on the policies and procedures for the conversion of Forest Licences to Tree Farm Licences.

Each session will include an information presentation by the Forest Service and an opportunity for public presentations and comment.

If you wish to make a presentation, please:

contact the local Ministry office as indicated below to book a presentation time. Times will be allocated on a first come first served basis.

provide the local Ministry office with a copy of your presentation remarks at least one working day in advance of the information session in which you will participate.

limit your presentation to 15 minutes.

An information package about the program will be available from all Ministry offices.

All sessions will be held from 2:00 to 4:30 p.m. and from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. in each centre.

Date	Sessions	Local Contact
Feb. 13	SMITHERS Hudson Bay Lodge Main Ballroom 3251 E. Highway 16	Regional Manager's Office, Prince Rupert Forest Region Bag 5000 (3726 Alfred Ave.) Smithers, B.C. VOJ 2N0 Phone: 847-7544
Feb. 15	FT. \$T. JOHN The Alexander Mackenzie Inn Peace Rooms 1 & 2 9223 - 100 Street	District Manager's Office Ft. St. John Forest Office 10716 - 100th Avenue Ft. St. John, B.C. V1J 1Z3 Phone 787-3301
Feb. 20	PRINCE GEORGE Holiday Inn Cranbrook Room 2/3 444 Georgia Street	Regional Manager's Office Prince George Forest Region 1011 - 4th Avenue Prince George, B.C. V2L 3H9 Phone: 565-6102
Feb. 23	WILLIAMS LAKE Sacred Heart Church Parish Hall 455 Pidgeon Street	Regional Manager's Office Cariboo Forest Region 540 Borland Street Williams Lake, B.C. V2G 1R8 Phone: 398-4389
Feb. 27	KAMLOOPS Stockman's Motor Inn Thompson Room 540 Victoria Ave.	Regional Manager's Office Kamloops Forest Region 515 Columbia Street Kamloops B.C. V2C 2T7 Phone: 828-4120
Mar. 6	NELSON Heritage Inn Hume Room 422 Vernon Street	Regional Manager's Office Nelson Forest Region 518 Lake Street Nelson, B.C. V1L 4C6 Phone: 354-6203
Mar. 8	VANCOUVER The Westin Bayshore Stanley Room 1601 W. Georgia St.	Regional Manager's Office Vancouver Forest Region 4595 Canada Way Burnaby, B.C. V5G 4L9 Phone: 660-7626
Mar. 10	PARKSVILLE Island Hall Beach Resort Hotel Hall #1 181 Island Highway	Director's Office Timber Harvesting Branch 1450 Government Street Victoria, B.C. V8W 3E7 Phone 387-5291



Ministry of Forests

PUBLIC INFORMATION SESSIONS

ON PROPOSED POLICY AND PROCEDURES
FOR THE REPLACEMENT OF MAJOR VOLUME-BASED TENURES
WITH TREE FARM LICENCES

Chaired By
The Honourable Dave Parker
Minister of Forests

Hudson Bay Lodge Smithers, British Columbia

FEBRUARY 13, 1989

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Chaired By
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Minister of Forests

Alexander Mackenzie Inn Fort St. John, British Columbia

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FEBRUARY 20, 1989

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Chaired By
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Minister of Forests

Sacred Heart Parish Hall Williams Lake, British Columbia

FEBRUARY 23, 1989

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Chaired By
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Minister of Forests

Stockman's Motor Inn Kamloops, British Columbia

FEBRUARY 27, 1989

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Heritage Inn Nelson, British Columbia

MARCH 6, 1989

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