

Dear Chair and Directors, and Chief Administrative Officer,

I would like to draw your attention to a special report recently released by the Forest Practices Board, *Forest and Fire Management in BC: Toward Landscape Resilience*. The report highlights an urgent need to change how BC's forests and landscapes are managed to reduce the risk of catastrophic wildfire. Over 39 million hectares of public land in BC are at high or extreme threat of wildfire, and the negative effects on health, the environment and the economy affect all British Columbians. The Board is calling for urgent action by the provincial government to create a province-wide vision and action plan to improve landscape resilience and reduce the risk of catastrophic wildfire.

This report aims to raise public and policymaker awareness about the broad negative consequences of catastrophic wildfire, the impacts of climate change, and the inability of current forest and fire management policies to solve this problem. The Board recognizes that the level of action required to address catastrophic wildfire will require coordination and cooperation across all levels of government. We encourage you to read the report, consider how a change in how landscapes are managed could benefit your community, and consider your role in effecting this change.

The Forest Practices Board will be a participant in the 2023 UBCM Convention and tradeshow. Please visit our booth to learn more about the Board's work, including the recommendations in the report.

The Forest Practices Board is BC's independent watchdog for sound forest and range practices, reporting its findings and recommendations directly to the public and government. The board audits forest and range practices on public lands and the appropriateness of government enforcement. It can also make recommendations for improvement to practices and legislation. To find out more, please visit our website at <https://www.bcfpb.ca/>

Sincerely,

Keith Atkinson  
Chair, BC Forest Practices Board