

Dear Regional District Chair,

The Ministry of Forests (FOR) and the Ministry of Water, Lands and Resource Stewardship (WLRS) are collaborating with First Nations and engaging with stakeholders across British Columbia to develop an action plan and a provincial declaration on ecosystem health and biodiversity, to support the implementation of the Old Growth Strategic Review recommendations.

In January and February, the province brought together more than 300 First Nations and multisector participants for a forum to share ideas and better understand the current state, opportunities for improvements and the future management of our forests and ecosystems. Building on those conversations, the province is organizing a series of in-person or virtual regional workshops in the coming weeks for more opportunities to continue the discussions.

SAVE THE DATE

A series of dedicated sessions are being held specifically with First Nations across the southern interior. Additionally, the following regional workshops will be offered to First Nations and select stakeholders together:

- **Wednesday April 5th, 9:00 am to 4:00 pm (PST) in Kelowna (in person)**
- **Thursday April 6th, 9:00 am to 4:00 pm (PST) VIRTUAL session**

You are invited to send one representative of your regional district to attend either of the multi-sectoral workshops to share your voice and hear directly from others.

Both workshops will have a similar format. When you register, please choose the one that works best for your calendar.

The workshops will be facilitated to allow for ideas to be shared and discussed between workshop participants and ministry staff in a respectful and collaborative way. Your insights will help shape the content of the old growth strategic action plan and will contribute to future regional planning efforts to implement changes from the Old Growth Strategic Review.

Please note that we are also working to organize a dedicated session for local governments and will be following up with more information shortly. That will provide the opportunity for broader participation from your Regional District board.

Registration

A registration invitation will follow from the Castleman Group who is organizing these workshops on behalf of the British Columbia Ministry of Forests. Registration is free, and your business information will be required to ensure participation. Once your registration has been collected, background information will be shared in advance of the meeting to support meaningful and informed participation. For virtual workshop, a link to attend the session will also be provided. For now, we ask you to save the date in your calendar and keep an eye out for the registration details that will follow shortly.

If you have any questions regarding the content, please email Brenda Hartley at Brenda.Hartley@gov.bc.ca

Thank you for your interest. We hope you or a designate from your regional district will attend these sessions with us.

Sincerely,

Norah White
Executive Director, Provincial Old Growth Strategy
Office of the Chief Forester
Ministry of Forests