

NEWS RELEASE



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Forest Practices Board investigation into effects of logging on Port Alberni viewscapes highlights important role for forest professionals

(Vancouver, BC) The Forest Practices Board [investigation and subsequent report](#) on the effects of logging on viewscapes in Port Alberni highlights the changes in forestry practice and the continuous learning required of forest professionals, Christine Gelowitz, RPF and Chief Executive Officer of the Association of BC Forest Professionals, said today.

“We appreciate the work of the Forest Practices Board on the evolving issue of viewscapes. Visual management is a unique area within the forestry profession and the ABCFP recognizes that growing public interest in this issue requires all practising forest professionals to expand their knowledge and expertise in this area,” Gelowitz said.

“The ABCFP is currently developing professional practice guidance for visuals and we are refining a practice advisory offered to our members based on this report and other emerging information.”

Currently, under government regulations forest viewscapes are prescribed based on scenic categories that take into account the size, shape and location of forest harvest areas, including roads, within a landform.

The challenge for the forestry profession is that definitions of acceptable viewscapes can be subjective. This is increasingly apparent on the south coast and Vancouver Island where members of the public along with eco-tourist businesses are becoming more vocal about the effects of logging on viewscapes and are making their displeasure known to government bodies.

“Accounting for viewscapes and how they affect other aspects of our society and business such as tourism and community well-being is just one important aspect of how we manage forests,” Gelowitz said.

“While there are challenges with the viewscapes in this instance in Port Alberni, forest professionals successfully manage viewscapes in many parts of BC. Forest professionals continue to be at the forefront of sustainable forest management practices and finding ways to ensure viewscapes are managed with the public good in mind.”

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The Association of BC Forest Professionals is responsible for registering and regulating British Columbia's professional foresters and forest technologists. Today, it is the largest professional forestry association in Canada and the first to include forest technologists

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