



EnviroFor Reporter

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ENVIROFOR NEWS:

Legislative Assembly Resumes October 7th – Want to Stay Informed?

With the BC Legislative Assembly set to resume shortly, now is a great time to set up your own personal Keyword Alert that will notify you when new legislative debates (Hansard) or other legislative activity (such as Bills) references keywords or subject matter of your choosing. This [short video](#) will explain how easy it is to sign up to this alert – which is included with your subscription. We also recommend visiting the "[My Alerts](#)" page for more information on this and other customizable alerts you may find useful.

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FEDERAL LEGISLATION — For notification of federal amendments, we recommend you use our [Section Tracking](#)  tool.

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CATEGORIES

[ENERGY & MINES](#)

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[OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH & SAFETY](#)

ENERGY AND MINES NEWS

BCOGC Bulletin – Proposed Activities Must Be Considered within Established s. 16/17 Land Act Dispositions

[Updated September 9, 2019]

Applicants wishing to submit a new application or an amendment application through the BC Oil and Gas Commission's (Commission) Application Management System, must consider proposed activities, which fall within a [s. 16 or s. 17 Land Act](#) disposition established by the Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development (FLNRORD). For proposed activities, which will impact land subject to a s. 16 or s. 17 Land Act disposition, applicants must complete a FrontCounter BC Application Form for Proposed Activities within Established Section 16 or 17 Land Act Dispositions, which can be found [here](#). Read the full BC Oil & Gas Bulletin article. Visit the [BCOGC website](#) for a list of other industry bulletins published in September.

ENERGY AND MINES

Act or Regulation Affected

Effective
Date

Amendment Information

Conifex Power Exemption Regulation (199/2019)	NEW Sept. 16/19	see Reg 199/2019
quA-ymn Solar Limited Partnership Exemption Regulation (204/2019)	NEW Sept. 24/19	see Reg 204/2019

FORESTRY AND ENVIRONMENT NEWS

Resiliency & Change in BC Forests

from UBCM

BC's forests, forest industry and its forest dependent communities are in the midst of a transition that is unprecedented, delegates to the forests policy session heard on Tuesday afternoon [September 24th]. Presenters confirmed and described the present crisis and pointed to signs of hope for rural communities.

Forests Minister Doug Donaldson reminded attendees that BC's rural communities and its larger cities are all dependent on forestry.

At least 22 mills in BC's interior have either closed or curtailed their operations this year. "We need to manage our forests differently to create more resiliency in face of climate pressures, addressing carbon issues, water issues and many other issues," Donaldson said. Citing engineered wood and improved skills and training, he invited attendees to embrace his vision of a brighter future for forestry communities based on a newfound maturity focused on value rather than volume.

An expert forestry panel addressed the compounded issues and opportunities that forest-dependent communities face. All presenters acknowledged the commitment, talent and expertise of BC's professional foresters as an invaluable asset in face of the crisis. Read the UBCM [article](#).

Canada and BC Sign Impact Assessment Cooperation Agreement

On September 5, 2019, Canada's Minister of Environment and Climate Change and British Columbia's Minister of Environment and Climate Change Strategy announced they have signed an Impact Assessment Cooperation Agreement (the "Cooperation Agreement"). The Cooperation Agreement provides a framework for cooperation between Canada and British Columbia on environmental assessments under the new federal [Impact Assessment Act](#) ("IAA") and British Columbia's new [Environmental Assessment Act](#) ("BCEAA") and is intended to implement the principle of 'one project, one assessment'.

The Cooperation Agreement updates existing agreements to provide for cooperation under the new federal and provincial legislation. The IAA came into force on August 28, 2019. Read the [environmental bulletin](#) published by Fasken Martineau DuMoulin LLP.

Amendments to Code of Practice for Agricultural Management

The [Code of Practice for Agricultural Management Regulation](#) was amended on October 1, requiring a written risk assessment to be added as a condition for applying nutrient sources to land in a high-precipitation area during February, March or October.

Proposed Changes to Contaminated Sites Regulation

The Province is proposing amendments to the Contaminated Sites Regulation that align with Bill 17, [Environmental Management Amendment Act](#). Bill 17 was introduced and received royal assent in May 2019 and addressed changes to the provisions for site identification in the [Environmental Management Act](#). Read the UBCM [article](#).

Forest Practices Board Releases Annual Report

The Forest Practices Board has released its annual report for the fiscal year 2018-19, providing an overview of the board's performance and work from April 2018 to March 2019.

Each year, the board randomly selects forestry operations for audit. In 2018, it published the results of 15 audits.

"Our auditors evaluate whether forest licensees are in compliance with the [Forest and Range Practices Act](#) and the [Wildfire Act](#)," said Kevin Kriese, chair, Forest Practices Board. "This year, four audits found no problems at all, while 11 found issues ranging from failing to comply with requirements for roads and bridges, to not carrying out fire hazard assessments following logging." Read the [full news release](#) on the BC Forest Practices Board website.

Environmental Appeal Board Decisions

There were four Environmental Appeal Board decisions in the month of September:

[Environmental Management Act](#)

- [Canadian National Railway Company; Canadian Pacific Railway Company; BNSF Railway Company v. Delegate of the Director, Environmental Management Act](#) [Application for Confidentiality Order – Granted in Part]
- [Princeton Standard Pellet Corporation v. Delegate of the Director, Environmental Management Act](#) [Consent Order – Resolved]
- [Gibsons Alliance of Business and Community Society; Marcia Timbres v. Director, Environmental Management Act](#) [Application for Summary Dismissal – Granted]
- [MSP Transport Ltd. v. Director, Environmental Management Act](#) [Preliminary Issues of Jurisdiction – Allowed]

Visit the Environmental Appeal Board [website](#) for more information.

FORESTRY AND ENVIRONMENT

Act or Regulation Affected	Effective Date	Amendment Information
Administrative Penalties Regulation (Environmental Management Act) (133/2014)	Sept. 15/19	by Reg 153/2019
	Oct. 1/19	by Reg 7/2019
Code of Practice for Agricultural Environment Management (8/2019)	Oct. 1/19	by Reg 8/2019
Hunting Regulation (190/84)	Sept. 6/19	by Reg 192/2019
Motor Vehicle Prohibition Regulation (196/99)	Sept. 6/19	by Reg 192/2019
Open Burning Smoke Control Regulation (152/2019)	NEW Sept. 15/19	see Reg 152/2019
Open Burning Smoke Control Regulation (145/93)	REPEALED Sept. 15/19	by Reg 152/2019
Waste Discharge Regulation (320/2004)	Sept. 15/19	by Reg 154/2019
Wildlife Act Commercial Activities Regulation (338/82)	Sept. 6/19	by Reg 192/2019

OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH AND SAFETY NEWS

2019 Public Hearing on Proposed Regulatory Amendments to the Occupational Health and Safety Regulation

WorkSafeBC is holding public hearing sessions for proposed amendments to the definition of "fire department" in [Part 31, Firefighting, section 31.1](#) of the [Occupational Health and Safety Regulation](#). The public hearing sessions will also cover proposed [consequential amendments to the OHS Regulation and the Lower Maximum Administrative Penalties Regulation](#) needed as a result of the statutory revisions to the [Workers Compensation Act](#). For more information and dates, read the full WorkSafe BC [article](#).

2019 BC Construction Health & Safety Conference

Don't miss this year's BC Construction Health & Safety Conference (formerly known as Bridging the Gap) happening October 24–25 in downtown Vancouver. Participants at the conference, which is presented by the BC Construction Safety Alliance (BCCSA), will learn about the following topics:

- Practical strategies to improve emotional intelligence and leverage it to build leadership skills.
- Effective approaches to address mental health stigma in the workplace and how to adapt to the evolving technological landscape.
- A recent UBC study on the use of dust-extraction vacuums in the B.C. construction industry.
- The new Builders Code initiative.
- Criminal prosecution in workplace incidents and how to effectively demonstrate due diligence.
- How to build the framework to regulate the health and safety profession under law in BC
- Strategies and ideas to plan and conduct more effective safety inspections.

For more details, read the WorkSafe BC [announcement](#).

OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH AND SAFETY

Act or Regulation Affected	Effective Date	Amendment Information
Workers Compensation Act	Oct. 1/19	by 2018 Bill 48, c. 45, section 85 only (in force by Reg 158/2019), Temporary Foreign Worker Protection Act

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