

Ideas At a Glance

Summarized from the Provincial Forums
held January 30-31 & February 6-7, 2023

MINISTRY OF FORESTS

MINISTRY OF WATER, LAND AND RESOURCE STEWARDSHIP

MINISTRY OF JOBS, ECONOMIC DIVERSIFICATION AND INNOVATION

About This Document

The Province has endorsed the report, *A New Future for Old Forests: A Strategic Review of How British Columbia Manages Old Forests within its Ancient Ecosystems* (Old Growth Strategic Review) and is committed to working with Indigenous leaders, communities and multiple stakeholders to deliver upon its 14 recommendations.

This document is an informal compilation of ideas shared during the two provincial forums held in early 2023 – the First Nations Collaboration Forum (Jan 30-31, 2023) and Multi-Sectoral Forum (Feb 6-7, 2023). The ideas shared by participants at the January First Nations Collaboration Forum were also captured graphically and are included at the end of this document.

Table 1 lists the report’s recommendations for ease of reference.

Table 2 summarizes the ideas shared during the forums by participants. Some ideas have been grouped by theme to reduce duplication; no further analysis has been undertaken at this time. Many ideas were raised at both Forums.

The Forums were designed to widely share ideas about the future management of our forests and ecosystems. Conversations focused on four topic areas: biodiversity and ecosystems health; forest management; information management; and community resiliency.

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Table 1 | For Reference: Recommendation of the Old Growth Strategic Review (OGSR)

1. Engage the full involvement of Indigenous leaders and organizations to review this report and any subsequent policy or strategy development and implementation.
2. Declare the conservation and management of ecosystem health and biodiversity of British Columbia's forests as an overarching priority and enact legislation that legally establishes this priority for all sectors.
3. Adopt a three-zone forest management framework to guide forest planning and decision-making.
4. Adopt a more inclusive and stable governance model that gives local communities and stakeholders a greater role in forest management decisions that affect them.
5. Provide the public with timely and objective information about forest conditions and trends.
6. Until a new strategy is implemented, defer development in old forests where ecosystems are at very high and near-term risk of irreversible biodiversity loss.
7. Bring management of old forests into compliance with existing provincial targets and guidelines for maintaining biological diversity.
8. Establish and fund a more robust monitoring and evaluation system for updating management of old forests.
9. Establish a standardized system and guidance that integrates provincial goals and priorities to local objectives and targets.
10. Update the targets for retention and management of old and ancient forest.
11. Improve the mapping and classification of old forests to recognize multiple values.
12. Create a silviculture innovation program aimed at developing harvesting alternatives to clearcutting that maintain old forest values.
13. Once developed, implement the new policies and strategies for the management of old forests through mandatory provincial and local transition plans that define, schedule and monitor the process.
14. Support forest sector workers and communities as they adapt to changes resulting from a new forest management system.

Table 2: Ideas Shared by Participants at the Provincial Forums

Theme: Co-management framework with First Nations.

Related OGSR Recommendation(s): 1, 4

Received during January 30-31 First Nations Forum:

- Need for decision making at the local/regional level with Nations.
- Integrate First Nations governance, rights and title in provincial decision-making. This may include working through processes to identify areas that are off limits to forestry.
- Respect First Nations sacred areas.
- Expand Shared Decision Making, co-management tables, and explore other tools to bring First Nations into decision making. Explore establishing further collaborative management agreements between First Nations and BCTS. Share resources at a regional level to increase capacity to collaborate and be decision makers.
- Move away from transactional referrals to land use planning.
- Undertake regular information sharing and meetings with First Nations and licensees. This system should occur early in planning stages, with a system to close the loop with chief and council.
- Create a better system for sharing information with First Nations, such as a shared server and co-created dataset.
- Shared information should be understandable to all audiences, as First Nations make consensus-based decisions with elders and knowledge keepers. Work with First Nations to create a “common language” so information can be more effectively shared.
- Fund capacity-building for First Nations, including long-term, stable funding.
- Work directly with First Nations to create mechanism for keeping confidential information protected to build trust (secret and sacred areas). Have conversations about what information can be shared.
- Forest policy should be aligned with DRIPA, traditional ecological knowledge, cultural practices, and First Nations law.
- Expand shared decision-making and co-management tables and explore other tools to bring First Nations into decision making.
- Work together with Nations on how to respect overlapping or shared territories.

Table 2: Ideas Shared by Participants at the Provincial Forums

Theme: Ecosystem Health and Resilience

Related OGSR Recommendation(s): 2

Received during January 30-31 First Nations Forum:

- Building trust in the process is an essential step going forward.
- Coordinate, connect and focus resources at local First Nations level, recognizing the diverse capacity needs and that each community has a different level of readiness.
- Co-governance needs investment, not only money, but time and respect. Needs to be orchestrated with a framework and structure.
- Build common language together as this is the foundation for mutual respect and trust, ensuring that it is inclusive (including what is meant by ecosystem health and biodiversity, that it's not just about old growth/forests and how we measure it).

Further ideas received during February 6-7 Multi Sectoral Forum:

- Recognize the importance of public education in the shift in government prioritization to biodiversity and ecosystem health, including what the change means, why it is needed and the intent of the tools to make the change.
- Recognize that there is a lot of change on top of change that is creating uncertainty and there is need to consider how to overcome this.
- Build on the good work already happening at the local community level and recognize shifts in industry are taking place.
- Readiness and recognition of existing work is important for all: within provincial government around how to coordinate initiatives and break down silos; readiness at First Nations level where there is diverse capacity needs for different Nations; local governments doing good work related to ecosystem health and jobs; industry shifts are happening; discussions on how can ENGOs can support data & inventory; and the potential for new partnerships with academia. For all groups – training, capacity and resource sharing is important.
- Multiple requests for additional participants within this process, including a larger representation from First Nations.
- Consider local community lens/scale, flexibility and recognition of impacts on communities.
- Emphasis of the importance of accessible and shared data and inventory.

Table 2: Ideas Shared by Participants at the Provincial Forums

Theme: Zonation approach to forest management.

Related OGSR Recommendation(s): 3

Received during January 30-31 First Nations Forum:

- Use existing land use plans, stewardship principles, etc. where they have already been developed by First Nations.
- Use Land Act Sec 16/17 reserves to create a pause to allow for development of long-term management objectives.
- Utilize Old Growth Management Areas, other effective area-based conservation measures and Indigenous Protected and Conserved Areas in the zonation framework.

Further ideas received during February 6-7 Multi Sectoral Forum:

- Create a protection zone first, in alignment with 30x30 framework (30% of each ecosystem), and then look at annual allowable cut for the remainder of the zones based on overarching objectives.
- Consider zonation already developed in the Biodiversity Guidebook.
- Use integrated resource management planning, indicator frameworks, and monitoring to identify pressures on and current conditions of important values.

Table 2: Ideas Shared by Participants at the Provincial Forums

Theme: Governance model that gives communities and stakeholders a greater role in forestry management decisions that affect them.

Related OGSR Recommendation(s): 4

Received during January 30-31 First Nations Forum:

- Expand shared decision-making and co-management tables and explore other tools to bring First Nations into provincial decision making.
- Consider broader planning rather than having multiple planning processes (Forest Landscape Planning, Land Use Planning, Watershed Security Planning etc.) to have a coordinated approach that reduces silos, resolves contradiction, moves things forward together, and requires commitments through long term, legal plans.
- Share resources at a regional level to increase capacity to collaborate and be decision makers.
- Use existing land use plans, stewardship principles, etc. where they have already been developed by First Nations.
- Consider First Nations' plans that have been developed when creating regional plans and in the Timber Supply Review. Ensure each First Nations voice is reflected in planning and is present from the very beginning of the process.
- Create a forests panel with all sectors and First Nations on a given landscape unit, which sets objectives with local level input and considerations, sharing of data, and cumulative effects considerations.

Further ideas received during February 6-7 Multi Sectoral Forum:

- Move towards information sharing at a regional level. Secretariat of data generators suggested, that goes out on the land together and uses a combination of western science and traditional ecological knowledge
- Create an interim system to set short term objectives to prioritize ecological integrity at a landscape scale while we do longer term planning. Transition successful pilot projects to becoming the status quo.

Table 2: Ideas Shared by Participants at the Provincial Forums

Theme: Public information on forest conditions and trends.

Related OGSR Recommendation(s): 5

Received during January 30-31 First Nations Forum:

- Create a shared server for government, industry, and First Nations to share info peer-to-peer while respecting valid confidentiality requirements.
- Create space for First Nations' voices and subject matter experts to teach public about Nations' role in forestry and foster public awareness.
- Invest in more education for recreational users on how to respect the land.
- Government should make data available on the importance of forestry for jobs, taxes, economy. Model economic impacts of decisions. Share timber pricing information.

Further ideas received during February 6-7 Multi Sectoral Forum:

- Create dataset and reporting products that are understandable to all audiences.
- Educate the public on forestry, old growth (all kinds) through public school and other programs.
- Create innovative tools for consultation with the public and educate at the same time.
- Increase understanding of different forest types and ecosystems and how they vary across the province.
- Create a better process to give public advanced notice when harvesting will occur.

Theme: Compliance, monitoring and evaluation.

Related OGSR Recommendation(s): 7, 8

Received during January 30-31 First Nations Forum:

- Provide long-term funding for Guardian (land stewardship/monitoring) programs to observe, record, and report concerns on the land as well as perform site visits, archaeology assessments, and habitat restoration.
- Align FREP and other compliance and enforcement teams to work with First Nation monitors.
- Support information collection through collaborative stewardship framework between the province and First Nations.

Further ideas received during February 6-7 Multi Sectoral Forum:

- Create standards for data collection, updating and formatting, create query-ability, e.g., monitoring and compliance reporting.
- Update FREP to better monitor and report on conditions of the land base and require compliance.
- Create compliance monitoring for Land Use Plans and require proper follow-up beyond traditional audit systems.

Table 2: Ideas Shared by Participants at the Provincial Forums

Theme: Biodiversity targets and guidance.

Related OGSR Recommendation(s): 9, 10

Received during January 30-31 First Nations Forum:

- Set management objectives at the watershed or eco-region level rather than by administrative boundaries and discuss at local levels how these management objectives can be achieved.
- Manage holistically for values that include water, timber, forest health, ecosystem health, unique species, medicines, culture, hunting, food, spiritual sites, language etc. Indicators include connectivity, road density, age class distribution, etc.

Further ideas received during February 6-7 Multi Sectoral Forum:

- Create trigger points/thresholds for indicators that are monitored - when the threshold is reached, address where the issue is coming from.
- New objectives and legally binding targets (such as 30% by 2030) need to be based on Western science and traditional ecological knowledge.

Table 2: Ideas Shared by Participants at the Provincial Forums

Theme: Changes to Forest Policy to support better management.

Related OGSR Recommendation(s): 9, 12

Received during January 30-31 First Nations Forum:

- Align legislation and statuses across different sectors and ministries to create consistency in land management objectives.
- Update the stumpage system and create ability to do atypical appraisals to remove incentive to build more roads and harvest old growth and increase incentives for higher standards of forest management such as partial cutting, selective logging, road deactivations, and restoration to align the appraisal system with the goals of government (DRIPA, ecosystem health etc.).
- Support innovation in forestry and value-added manufacturing.
- Create a predictable and fair stumpage and tabular rate and share stumpage benefits with First Nations.
- Provide incentives, or remove barriers to small, community-centered mills.
- Return to increased area-based tenures for long-term stewardship.
- Consider bringing back appurtenancy so that local resources support local communities and economies.

Further ideas received during February 6-7 Multi Sectoral Forum:

- Reform Private Managed Forests Act.
- Changes to stumpage/tax system to incentivize value-added and other use of fibre and investment in small communities.
- Integrate carbon economy into forest economy.
- Encourage investment in equipment that better meets needs as we transition to more selective and small-scale forestry.
- Focus harvesting on logs that support value-added products so that the highest number of jobs are supported per cubic meter of timber used.
- Remove government imposed financial/taxation barriers to value-added in B.C.
- Facilitate better use of residuals and under-utilized fibre (slash, waste, salvage, etc.) through policy and marketing. Create incentives to better utilize wood waste for pulp and paper products and the use of sawmill waste and debris in the bioeconomy (fertilizer, bioplastics, insulation etc.)

Table 2: Ideas Shared by Participants at the Provincial Forums

Theme: Robust definition or classification for all forests.

Related OGSR Recommendation(s): 11

Received during January 30-31 First Nations Forum:

- Employ LIDAR, hydrological studies, and other techniques to identify values requiring protection and improved management.
- Set baseline information and commit resources to upkeep of information, and schedule updates. Create process for acquisition and access to data.
- Incorporate traditional ecological knowledge and cultural principles in the development of practices, strategies, and policies and into research projects. Support traditional practices, and work with Elders to understand them.

Further ideas received during February 6-7 Multi Sectoral Forum:

- Improve data on which forest stands have old forest characteristics to create a common understanding of where the most at-risk old growth is located. Suggested to use artificial intelligence to interpret forest stand types. Create or expand a program for significant field verification of modelled data.

Theme: Forest inventory.

Related OGSR Recommendation(s): 11

Received during January 30-31 First Nations Forum:

- Invest in province-wide LIDAR/satellite imagery and share it with all users, with a collective agreement. Create a place to house shared Lidar data.
- Inventory understory plants in addition to trees to recognize their importance.

Further ideas received during February 6-7 Multi Sectoral Forum:

- Create or expand a program for field verification of modelled data.
- Increase resources allocated to collecting and sharing forest information such as forest health, ecosystem health, non-timber values, cultural values, water quality, traditional ecological knowledge, etc.

Table 2: Ideas Shared by Participants at the Provincial Forums

Theme: Innovative Forest practices.

Related OGSR Recommendation(s): 12

Received during January 30-31 First Nations Forum:

- Encourage forestry practices that maintain ecosystem health and address the climate emergency such as: no spray, smaller and irregular sized cut blocks, maintain understory plants, commercial thinning, maintain seral stages based on natural ranges of variability, prescribed burns, techniques to reduce risk of forest pests, disease, and wildfire, improve connectivity, and increase levels of block and landscape-level retention.
- Examine the effectiveness and role the BCTS plays in forest practices; consider having increased First Nations involvement in BCTS as the stumpage appraisal system drives forest practices. Encourage of direct award of contracts to First Nations. Consider changing the model so that BCTS sells logs instead of standing timber (i.e. Vernon log sort) to enable BCTS to engage in more innovative practices.
- Improve the availability of seedlings, including deciduous seedlings. Ensure any failed plantations are restocked.
- Use seed sources from warmer locations and expand natural regeneration which can bring biodiversity.

Further ideas received during February 6-7 Multi Sectoral Forum:

- Prioritize reduced visual impacts.
- Better share information of current innovative practices so others can learn from them and implement (e.g., Ecological Based Management)

Table 2: Ideas Shared by Participants at the Provincial Forums

Theme: Program needs to support transition.

Related OGSR Recommendation(s): 14

Received during January 30-31 First Nations Forum:

- Prioritize keeping jobs and training within the affected communities - workers don't want to have to uproot to stay employed.
- Support workers and communities to buy out mills (i.e., Harmac).
- Support First Nations and communities in exploring new economic opportunities
- Use revenues to create a wealth fund (like Norway did with oil) to bring wealth back to the local communities that produce the resources.
- Look into conservation financing, e.g., coastal opportunities fund. Invest in restoration.

Further ideas received during February 6-7 Multi Sectoral Forum:

- Provide re-training support for those who want to leave their current industry, including on the job training, and basic training courses such as grade 12 equivalent.
- Suggestions for retraining: wildfire mitigation and response, ecosystem restoration, forest health programs, compliance, forest inventory, innovative silviculture, seedling centers, stewarding of protected areas, and emergency management.

Theme: Long-term community transition plan.

Related OGSR Recommendation(s): 14

Received during January 30-31 First Nations Forum:

- Create plans that allow for predictability to allow nations, businesses, and communities to plan for themselves accordingly.
- Support community asset management, e.g., Look at opportunities created by closed mills such as the significant power and infrastructure, road, and rail access for repurposing.
- Develop custom supports for each community as their situations are unique.
- Create a position or tools for assisting First Nations to access funding opportunities easily and efficiently.

Further ideas received during February 6-7 Multi Sectoral Forum:

- Provide information to communities so they understand the impacts they are going to experience. Also collect feedback from communities that have faced change previously.
- Create a transition plan to reduce uncertainty for industry and communities.
- Support communities with identity and cultural transition as well as economic transition.
- Invest in attractors to communities (recreation, infrastructure) to capture interest from work-from-home migrants.

Graphic Recordings of the January 30-31 First Nations Collaboration Forum.

DESIGNING a PATH FORWARD

CO-DEVELOPMENT OF A COLLABORATION PROCESS ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OLD GROWTH STRATEGIC REVIEW

THIS IS AN EVOLUTIONARY PROCESS

AN EVOLVING LIVING DOCUMENT A TOOL AMONG MANY IN THIS COMPLEX PROCESS

FRAMEWORK ON ECOSYSTEM HEALTH & BIODIVERSITY

ACTION PLAN TO ENACT THE 14 RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE OLD GROWTH STRATEGIC REVIEW

JOINT RESPONSIBILITY
JOINT ACCOUNTABILITY

EMACTING A PARADIGM SHIFT ON LAND HEALTH
(HOLD-POWER DECISION MAKING)

aligning our VISION & STRATEGY through SOLUTION-BASED ACTION

NATION to NATION DECISION-MAKING
EMERGENT, EVOLVING & RESPONSIVE, CENTERING FIRST NATIONS LEADERSHIP

JOINT READINESS A COMMITMENT TO ACT
CLARITY ON THE EXPECTATION FOR ALL PARTIES INVOLVED

ACROSS SECTORS
(GENERAL PUBLIC, INDUSTRY, ALL LEVELS OF GOVERNMENT)

FOUNDATIONAL Knowledge Sharing
TO EXPAND SUPPORT FOR THIS VISION & PARADIGM SHIFT

THE TIME HAS COME TO WALK TOGETHER & FORMULATE SOLUTIONS TO THE COMPLEX ISSUES WE FACE

WE ARE TIRED OF BEING TICK BOXED IN PLANNING PROCESSES. DIALOGUE & COLLABORATION WILL HELP US TO MOVE FORWARD

SHIFT POWER
TO GUARANTEE THAT FIRST NATIONS CAN ADVANCE THEIR VISION FURTHER

HOLDING OUR ancestors' descendants IN OUR MINDS & HEARTS THROUGHOUT THIS PROCESS

BUILDING DEEP & LASTING RELATIONSHIPS

BUILDING BRIDGES - CO-GOVERNANCE & SHARED AUTHORITY

BEYOND ELECTION CYCLES
(BREAKING POWER SLIPS)

“We don't inherit the Land from our ancestors; we borrow it from our children”

MANAGING for LIFE NOT FOR RESOURCE EXPLOITATION

caring for THE OVERALL ECOSYSTEM THE HEALTH OF THE LAND AS EVERYONE'S CENTRAL PRIORITY

BRITISH COLUMBIA | FIRST NATIONS COLLABORATION ON THE OLD GROWTH STRATEGIC REVIEW | JANUARY 2023 | LIVE GRAPHIC RECORDING ADRIANA CONTRERAS CORREAL

DEVELOPING a FRAMEWORK on ECOSYSTEM HEALTH & BIODIVERSITY

AS A PRIORITY FOR ALL SECTORS

WHAT ARE our DRIVING VALUES?

WHAT IS THE GOAL FOR THE PROVINCE?

HOW DO WE HEAL BROKEN TRUST?

WE NEED TIME & SPACE TO CO-CREATE OUR VISION & INVOLVE OUR COMMUNITIES IN MEANINGFUL WAYS

UPLIFT LOCAL EXPERTISE

WE NEED TO ACCOUNT FOR THE DIVERSITY OF EXPERIENCES & NEEDS ACROSS REGIONS & SECTORS

THE Health of the ECOSYSTEM

LOOKING TOWARDS THE FUTURE BUT ADDRESSING ISSUES WE CURRENTLY FACE

LONG-TERM FUNDING BEYOND ELECTION & FUNDING

“Give us the tools to build the house, not just one nail at a time”

EMPOWER REGIONAL TEAMS & INITIATIVES

WE WILL CO-CREATE a LIVING DOCUMENT, AN EVOLVING, CONCISE & FLEXIBLE TOOL, ALIGNING PRIORITIES & HIGHLIGHTING PATHWAYS FOR FUTURE ENGAGEMENT & ACTION

RESEARCH → ACTION → REPORT

DRIVEN BY FIRST NATIONS VALUES SPECIFIC TO EACH NATION NOT A MONOLITH

BROUGHT TO LIFE BY LOCAL COMMUNITIES

GUARANTEE INFORMED DECISION-MAKING

PRIORITIZE CAPACITY-BUILDING & LONG-TERM SUSTAINABILITY

RECOGNIZE THAT ONE-SIZE-FITS-ALL APPROACHES WON'T WORK

TO ADVANCE THIS WORK FURTHER WE NEED...

TRUE COLLABORATION WILL INVOLVE THE CO-DEVELOPMENT OF PROCESSES BEFORE PRODUCTS

INFORMED INVOLVEMENT - WHAT WILL BE IMPACTED? BY WHO? WHERE?

ACKNOWLEDGE THE WORK THAT FIRST NATIONS ARE LEADING & HAVE LED FOR DECADES

IMPROVING THEIR EXPERTISE WILL HELP ADVANCE THIS WORK FASTER

FUND RESEARCH & RUDIST COMMUNICATION STRATEGIES

SUPPORT PARTICIPATION OF KEY REPRESENTATIVES BY GIVING ADVANCED NOTICE & ENOUGH TIME TO PLAN

DEFINE THE LEVELS OF INFLUENCE OF THE FRAMEWORK

“Top-down approaches have never worked”

THE FRAMEWORK MUST CLEARLY ADDRESS TRUTH, REDRESS, REPARATION & RECONCILIATION

WE ARE ALL IN THIS TOGETHER, EVEN THROUGH OUR DIFFERENCES

OUR SUCCESS DEPENDS ON OUR COMMITMENT TO CO-GOVERNANCE

NURTURE RESPECTFUL, TRANSPARENT ONE-ON-ONE RELATIONSHIPS BETWEEN GOVERNMENT(S) & FIRST NATIONS

BREAK DOWN SILOS & ARBITRARY ADMINISTRATIVE BORDER LINES

IMPLEMENT HOLISTIC APPROACHES INVOLVING ALL MINISTRIES

RESPECTING FIRST NATIONS PROTOCOLS & SACRED SITES

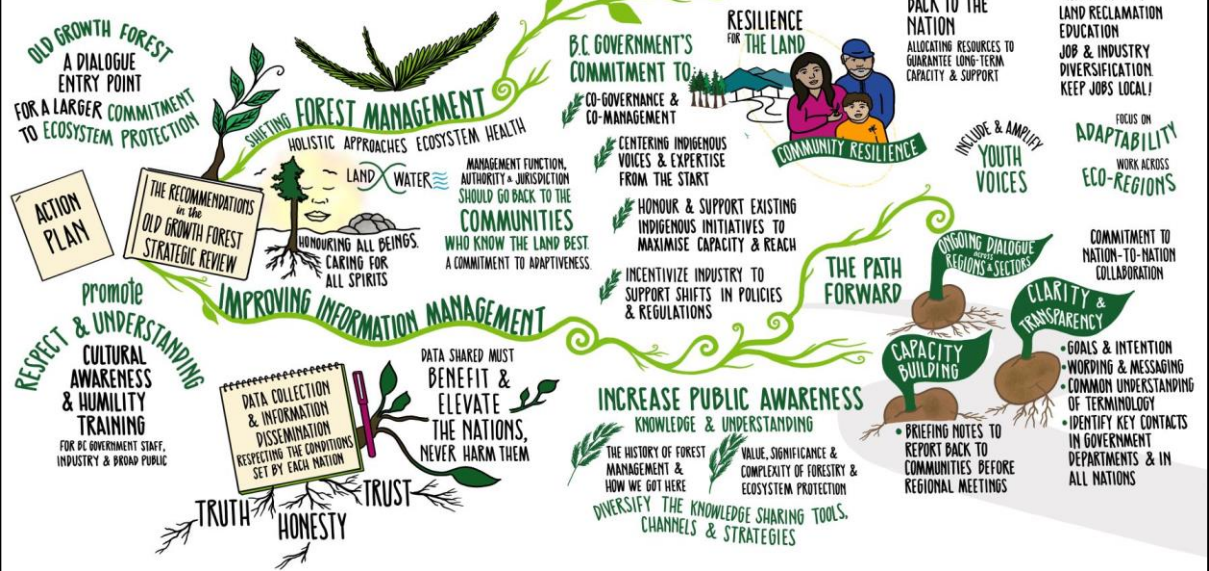
CENTERING INDIGENOUS KNOWLEDGE

WE NEED A LAND TASK FORCE

PEOPLE ON THE GROUND WITH THE POWER & AUTHORITY TO ENFORCE POLICIES & LAWS & SAY NO TO EXPLOITATION

BRITISH COLUMBIA | FIRST NATIONS COLLABORATION ON THE OLD GROWTH STRATEGIC REVIEW | JANUARY 2023 | LIVE GRAPHIC RECORDING ADRIANA CONTRERAS CORREAL

DESIGNING an ACTION PLAN for OLD GROWTH FROM THE GROUND UP



FIRST NATIONS COLLABORATION ON THE OLD GROWTH STRATEGIC REVIEW | JANUARY 2023

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