

# BC'S OLD GROWTH FORESTS

## GROWTH WITH FOREVER IN MIND

### BC IS A LEADER IN CONSERVATION AND SUSTAINABILITY

BC is recognized globally for its expansive forests, natural beauty and biodiversity. BC is a leader in conservation, with more than 52% of the provincial land base either protected or under some form of conservation designation. Protected areas alone total more than 14.5 million hectares, which is more than 4.5 times the size of Vancouver Island. Further, over 98% of forests have been 3rd-party certified for high sustainability and forest management standards — more than in Finland, Australia, Norway and France combined. BC's independent Chief Forester ensures forests are sustainably managed to support a healthy environment, biodiversity, Indigenous cultural uses, good jobs for British Columbians and more.

### OLD GROWTH FOR GENERATIONS

It is important to note that over 75% of the province's old growth forests — or 8.5 million hectares — are outside areas where harvesting is allowed and will not be logged. In addition, in areas where harvesting is permitted, special large trees are registered in a provincial database and protected.



**BC LEADS WORLD FOR SUSTAINABLY-MANAGED, CERTIFIED FORESTS**



**OVER 75% OF OLD GROWTH FORESTS WILL NOT BE HARVESTED**



**MODEST OLD GROWTH HARVEST SUPPORTS 38,000 JOBS & \$3.5B IN GDP**



**3 TREES PLANTED FOR EVERY TREE HARVESTED**

Each year, less than 1% of the area the Chief Forester designates for harvesting is sustainably harvested, and of that, about a quarter is considered to be old growth. This modest old growth harvest supports 38,000 jobs and contributes \$3.5 billion to BC's GDP, supporting healthcare, affordable housing and other services people count on.

### SUSTAINABLE FORESTS FOR THE FUTURE

In BC, three seedlings are planted for each tree harvested. 300 million trees were planted in BC in 2020. This is important because as young trees grow, they capture a large amount of carbon from the air. This carbon is stored for the life of the tree or the wood product made from it. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change recognizes sustainable forest management as part of the climate change solution.

### PRODUCTS THAT ARE A GOOD CHOICE FOR THE PLANET

When we make forest products, they store carbon for their lifetime. This includes products made from mature trees like shakes and shingles used to build homes and buildings. These carbon-storing products are increasingly playing a role in the global fight against climate change and achieving net-zero emissions.

COFI.ORG