
STATEMENT

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Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations
and Rural Development
Ministry of Jobs, Economic Recovery and Innovation

Ministers' statement on softwood lumber final ruling

VICTORIA – Katrine Conroy, Minister of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development, and Ravi Kahlon, Minister of Jobs, Economic Recovery and Innovation, have issued the following joint statement in response to the U.S. Department of Commerce's final determination in its second administrative review regarding countervailing and anti-dumping duties applied to Canada's softwood lumber exports to the United States:

"Today's announcement by the United States to increase unfair duties on B.C. and Canadian softwood lumber is unacceptable at any time, and even more so as both countries work together to emerge from the COVID-19 pandemic.

"We remain steadfast in our shared position with industry that B.C.'s forest policies are trade compliant, and these duties continue to harm B.C.'s forestry sector and the thousands of hard-working families who work in the industry.

"Since 2017, our government has been meeting with federal counterparts to amplify that reaching a fair settlement is a top priority for the Province. More recently, Minister Kahlon has held meetings with Canadian and American federal diplomats responsible for international trade to discuss the softwood lumber issue.

"We're dedicated to putting workers and their families first when it comes to the challenges facing the forest sector, and the last thing workers need are duties that will raise costs and hurt local businesses.

"As we build back from the COVID-19 pandemic and the recent devastating weather events, we're working hard to create a sustainable, inclusive and innovative economy that works for everyone. That includes creating a more diverse and resilient forest sector.

"Part of this work includes expanding growth in global markets for B.C. wood products, including mass timber, by investing in capacity and competitiveness in manufacturing, helping industry understand trends in products and markets, and funding industry-delivered market development activities in high-potential markets. Mass timber will play a vital role in the growth of the forestry, manufacturing and construction sectors, and translate into new jobs and investment in research, design, engineering, construction and forestry.

"B.C. is a fair and competitive trader. We will continue to defend B.C.'s interests and stand up for the 50,000 hard-working people in our forest industry against these unwarranted duties.

"We are urgently working with our counterparts in Ottawa to vigorously defend against this unfair U.S. trade action on softwood lumber through all of the dispute settlement processes

available to us.”

Contact:

Ministry of Jobs, Economic Recovery and
Innovation
Media Relations
778 587-3237

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