

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

GETTING TO THE BOTTOM OF THE CARBON SINK

By Rich Coleman,
Minister of Forests and Range

Nov. 1, 2005
Times Colonist (Victoria)

Climate change is a significant issue for B.C.'s forests, and in light of this our government is taking a number of steps that were absent from Les Leyne's Oct. 27 column ("Nothing to say about climate change").

Because, as Leyne writes, "climate change is so vast and overwhelming that it's difficult to comprehend how far-reaching the implications are," the Ministry of Forests and Range is taking steps now to better understand climate change and its implications. Ministry research scientists are working with the federal government, universities and the Canadian Centre for Climate Studies on research to evaluate the impacts of climate change on our forest and rangelands. A climate change working group from the ministry will be presenting an analysis of its findings in early 2006.

As well, the province's chief forester is hosting a symposium in early December, The Future Forest Ecosystems of B.C. The symposium will look specifically at future forest management options, in light of climate change and other natural events. This work is part of our government's 40-point climate change action plan, co-ordinated by the Ministry of Environment. A central part of that plan involves sustainable forest and carbon-sink management.