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## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

### Minister Responds to Forest Practices Board Report on Forest Stewardship Plans

By Rich Coleman,  
Minister of Forests and Range

May 5, 2006

Letter sent to:

- Vancouver Sun
- The Province
- Times Colonist
- Prince George Citizen
- Chilliwack Progress
- Kamloops Daily News

Dear Editor,

Recently, the Forest Practices Board issued a report about B.C.'s new Forest and Range Practices Act and the requirements the act sets out to protect our forests.

Our government is committed to protecting our forests and the environment. With that goal in mind, we introduced the act in 2002, maintaining and improving the environmental protection in place under the old Forest Practices Code.

To that end, we will carefully review the board's report and make improvements where necessary. Unlike the old code before it, the new act is flexible, making regular improvements possible.

Some things won't change. The public, First Nations and stakeholders will continue to have the right to review and comment on forest licensee plans. We will still require licensees to rely on highly trained professionals to prepare those plans. And government will approve all plans before a single tree is felled, and make sure that every plan meets the requirements of the law.

Finally, we will conduct rigorous compliance and enforcement checks – over 15,000 a year – to ensure the environment and our forests are protected.

B.C. companies have some of the best and most sustainable forest practices in the world. Our job as government is to make sure that record of success continues and we will work with the board, the public and our stakeholders to achieve results.