

- 1) renew the land and keep the forests healthy,
- 2) invest in the forest lands which generate much of our wealth,
- 3) ensure sustainable use and enjoyment of our forests,
- 4) ensure the continued availability of good forest jobs, and
- 5) ensure the long term stability of communities that rely on the forests.²³

These goals are to be pursued through two major efforts: renewing forest health, and increasing the value added to forest products in provincial industry. Renewing forest health focuses on replanting of harvested areas; improving the thinning, spacing, pruning, and fertilization of trees; planting marginal agricultural and other lands with trees; and increasing research on improving timber yields. About half of the projected spending on the plan is aimed at these efforts. The investments promise to offset the projected decline in timber cuts and perhaps even increase future harvest levels, protect timber jobs and create new jobs in forest renewal, and stabilize timber communities. The plan also calls for investments in cleaning up rivers and streams damaged by logging, restoring watersheds and hillsides marred by roads, protecting fisheries and wildlife, research on more environmentally-sensitive logging practices, and greater sharing of responsibility for management of the forests with other stakeholders. Forest output is to be increased by creating incentives for cutting less commercially desirable types of timber and salvaging more of the residual material left in harvested areas and selective harvesting rather than clearcutting in some areas.²⁴

The second priority, adding more value to the province's timber resources, includes financial assistance to new and existing companies that add value to timber, research and development funding for new wood manufacturing technologies and products, and investments in forest worker training for new harvesting techniques and new jobs in forest renewal and environmental restoration. The ultimate purpose here is to reverse the trend towards fewer and fewer jobs for each unit of timber harvested. Every program is to include special initiatives to encourage the participation of First Peoples, such as joint ventures with First Nations' companies; training and employment opportunities; and resource management efforts. Forest communities are to be strengthened through economic development planning grants, assistance in diversifying local economies, and additional funding under other economic development programs.²⁵

The Forest Renewal Plan is financed by an increase in the stumpage fees that companies pay for the opportunity to harvest timber on provincial lands. These fees are expected to produce, on average, some \$400 million a year to fund the plan. Funding is expected to remain constant despite fluctuating timber revenue; excess revenues from some years will be saved for spending during other, lower-revenue years. Implementation of the plan is the responsibility of Forest Renewal BC, a new agency made up of representatives from government, industry, workers, communities, First Nations, and environmental groups. The agency reports to the Minister of Forests and the provincial legislature.²⁶