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DEC 6 2005

Douglas J. Enns, Chair
Board of Directors
WorkSafe BC
PO Box 5350 Station Terminal
Vancouver, British Columbia
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Dear Douglas Enns:

As a fellow member of the BC Forest Safety Council, I am writing to thank you for your organization's considerable recent efforts to improve the safety of British Columbia forest workers. Your organization's announcement that additional officers will be added and enforcement protocols will be enhanced are welcomed by all members of the Council, as we work together to effect the cultural shift that "Unsafe is Unacceptable."

As you know, the contents of your Dec. 1, 2005 "Generic letter to presidents of BC forestry companies," deals with matters also being considered by the Council as part of the Qualified Companies Initiative. It also deals with matters actively under consideration by the Ministry of Forests and Range.

We recognize that the duties of the Ministry and BC Timber Sales as an "owner," "employer" and "prime contractor" under the *Workers Compensation Act* may be unclear. This is why we have begun a comprehensive review of our legislation, regulations and policies with regard to safety issues. We have engaged an independent occupational health and safety consultant to assist with this review, which will seek to determine if any gaps or conflicts exist between Ministry and WorkSafe regulations so that those issues can be addressed.

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**Ministry of Forests
and Range**

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Douglas J. Enns

The Ministry is committed to working with WorkSafe and all members of the Council to promote a safety culture. The efforts that have been made collectively to date are a strong endorsement of the Council's approach, and although there remains much to do, we are committed to the process.

Yours truly,

Original signed by
Doug Konkin,
Deputy Minister

Doug Konkin
Deputy Minister

pc: Jim Sheppard, Chair, BC Forest Safety Council
Tanner Elton, CEO, BC Forest Safety Council