



**Forest
Practices
Board**

Strategic Priorities Survey

May 2019

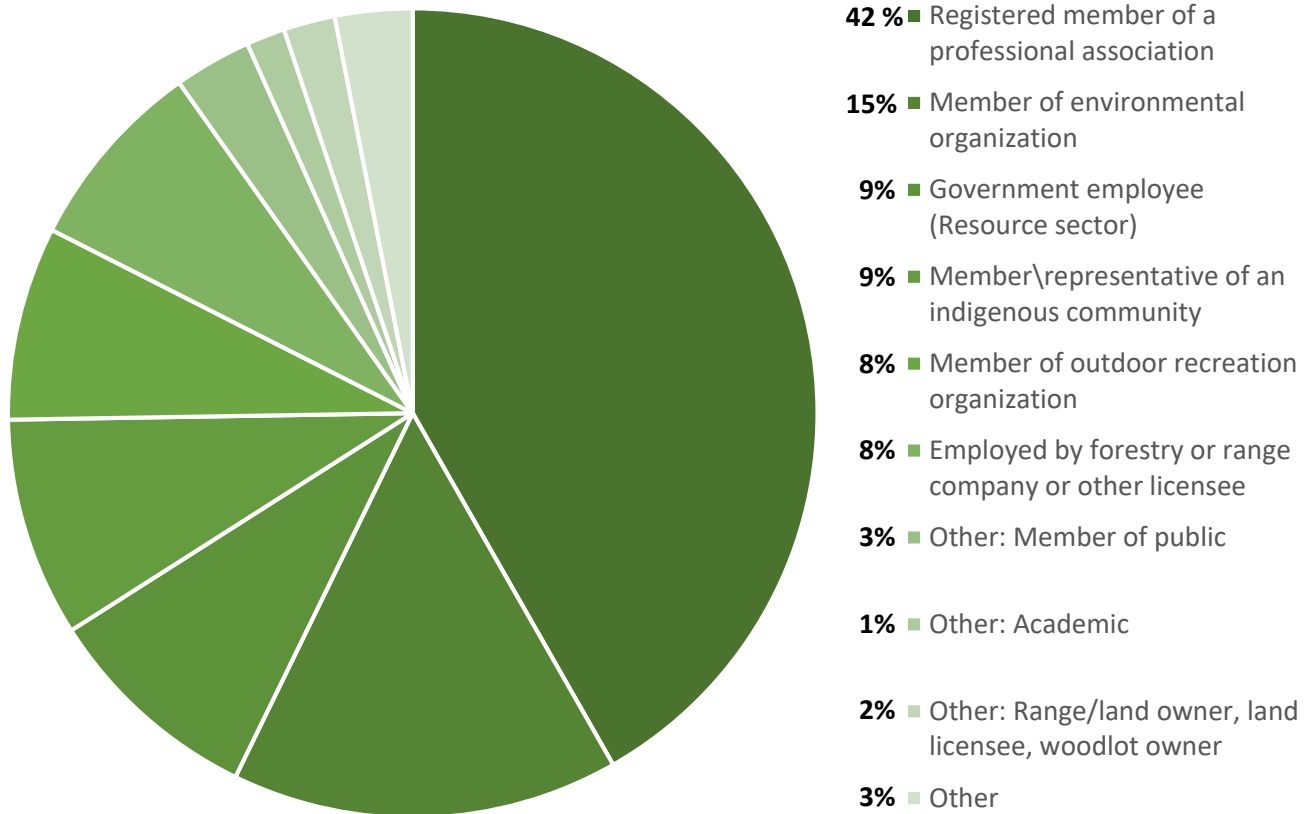
INTRODUCTION

In May 2019, the Board conducted a survey to gather public input to inform the Board’s strategic plan and to gather feedback on how we communicate our information. The survey consisted of seven questions concerning the importance of the Board, how it does its work, and the priorities respondents think the Board should focus on in the next few years. The survey was posted to the Board’s website and shared with email subscribers and on social media. The survey ran from May 8 to 26, 2019 and was completed by 185 respondents.

This survey is not a statistically valid sample and is not intended to represent public opinion. The survey is only an accurate representation of the views of the respondents.

SURVEY RESULTS

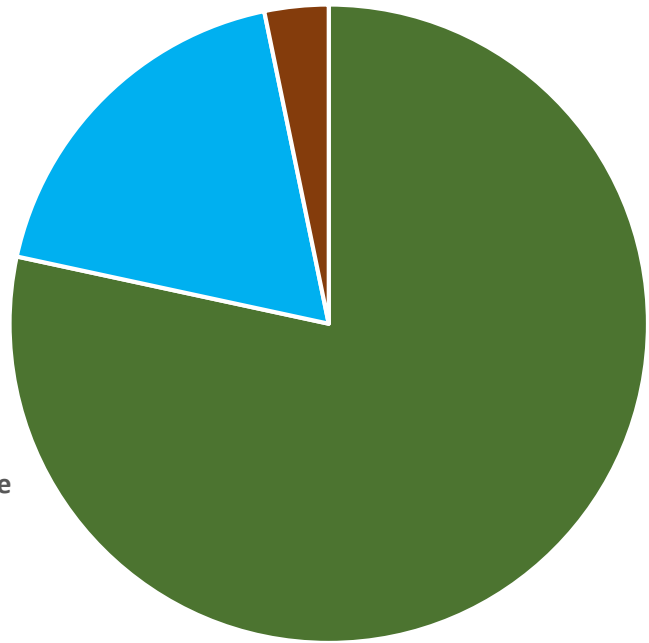
Respondent Demographics



QUESTION 1

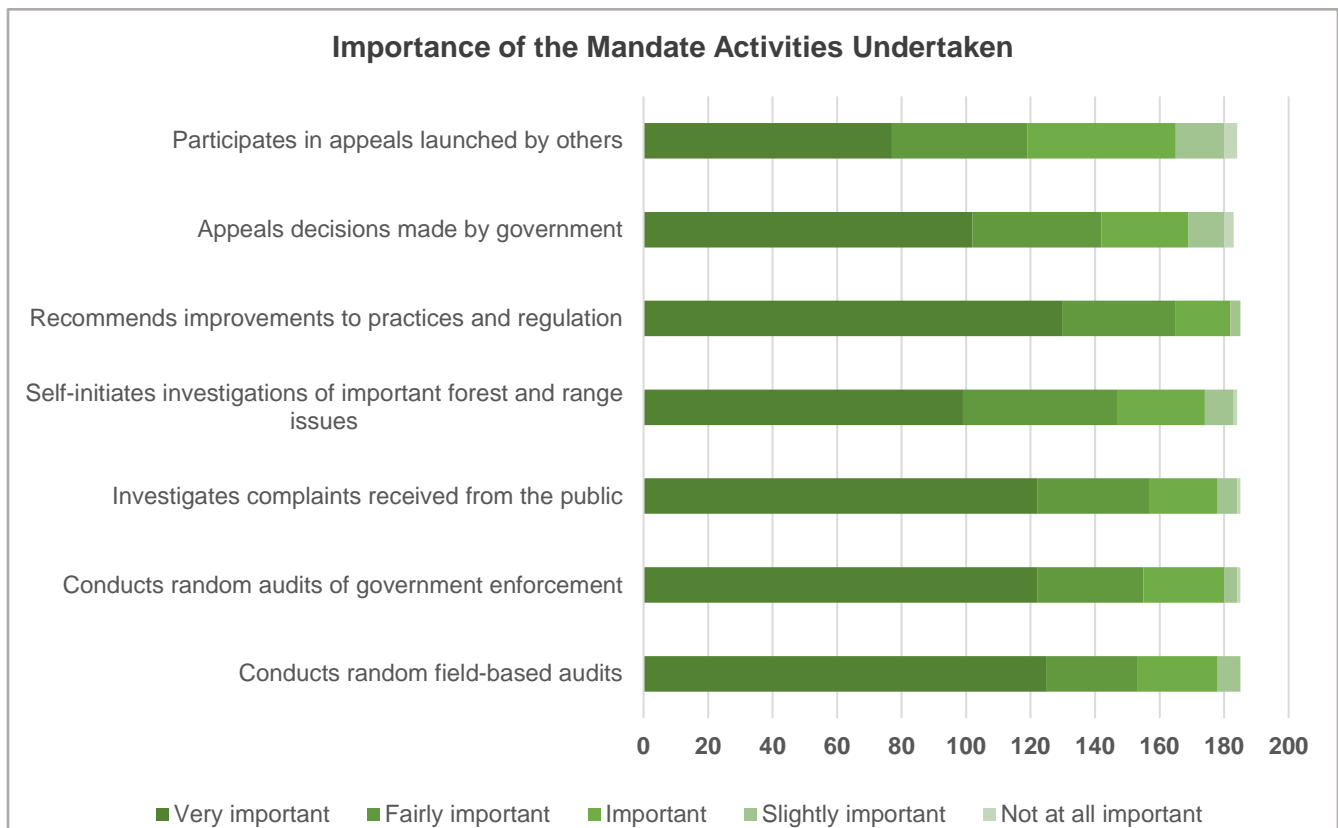
In the 24 years since the board was created, there have been major changes in BC, including changes to forestry legislation, more resource industries on the land base, mountain pine beetle, increasing wildfires, etc. Thinking about BC today, is the need for an independent watchdog for sound forest and range practices:

78 % ■ Stronger
 19 % ■ About the same
 3% ■ Lower



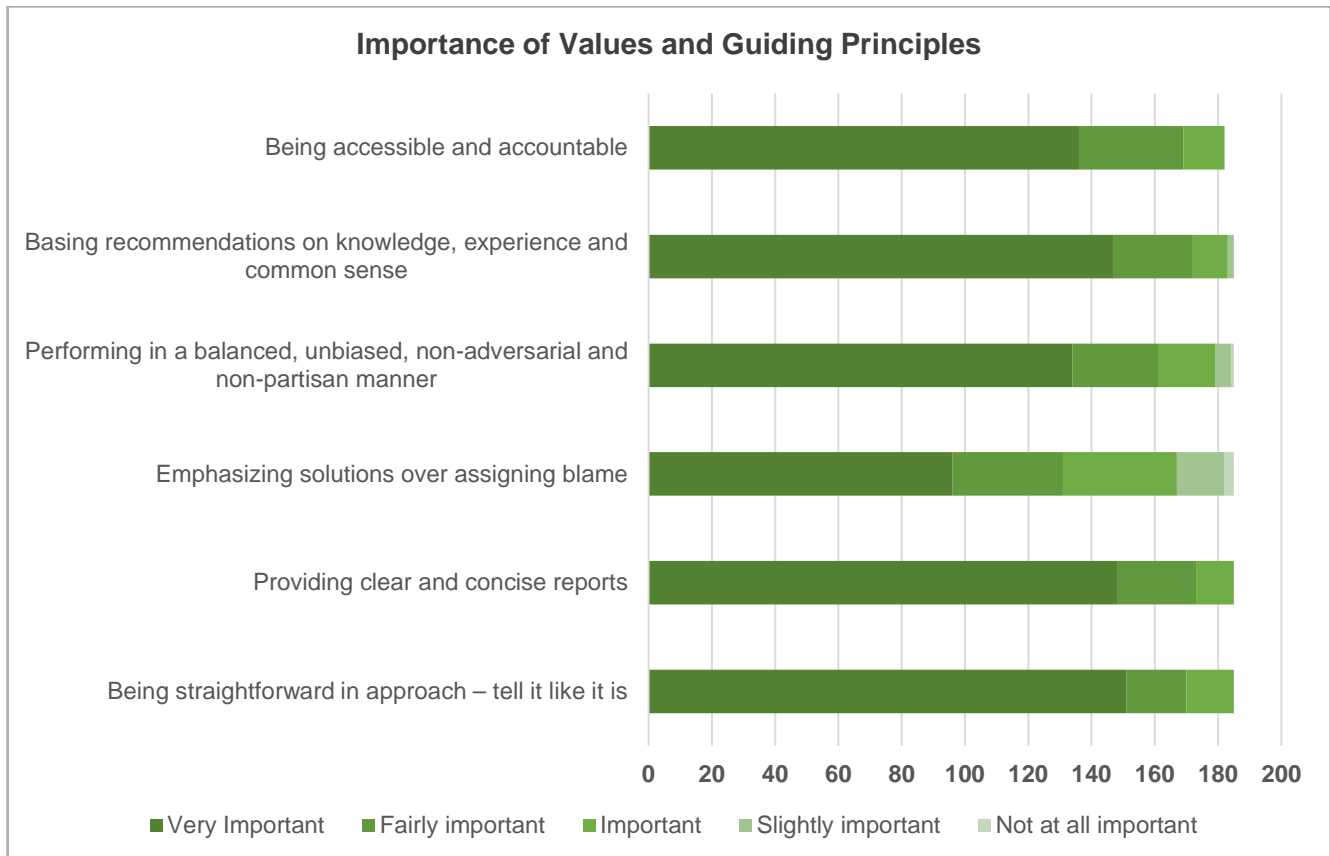
QUESTION 2

The official mission of the Forest Practices Board is to “serve the public interest as the independent watchdog for sound forest and range practices in BC”. In fulfilling this mission, please indicate the importance of the specific activities undertaken:



QUESTION 3

When thinking about how the Forest Practices Board conducts its work, please rate the importance of the following values and guiding principles:



QUESTION 4

Where do you believe the Board should focus its efforts and resources over the next several years? What issues are most important to you?

Out of 185 responses, the comments can be generally grouped into **28 categories**. The three categories with the most comments are:

1. Sustainability/Conservation/Restoration (**31 mentions**)
2. Landscape issues/planning (**21 mentions**), and
3. Protecting watersheds and streams (**19 mentions**).

This indicates most survey respondents considered ensuring qualities like forest health and resource renewability are a high priority for the board to focus its efforts on.

Question 4 Response Examples

- “Are the protection measure (regulations) adequate?”
- “Ensuring that the forest industry and professionals are responding to and managing forests sustainably following large scale disturbances and assessing the effectiveness of changes to legislation such as the Forest and Range Practices Act.”
- “Maintaining biodiversity in our forest ecosystems.”
- “I would like to see the BCFPB call for a BC Old-Growth Protection Strategy that would ensure comprehensive, legislated protection for BC’s old growth forests on public/Crown lands.”
- “Study and address Impacts to forest and range from climate change. How do we prepare and adjust practices to sustain a healthy ecosystem in the forest.”
- “First Nation Issues, concerns, recommendations.”
- “Resurrecting/restoring stronger legislation that govern practices for the forest industry.”
- “Free growing policy effectiveness.”
- “Landscape level planning. Ensuring other values are accounted for in forest management.”
- “Effectiveness of government legislation and policies in the sustainable management of our natural resources and the impacts on UNDRIP and FN interests”

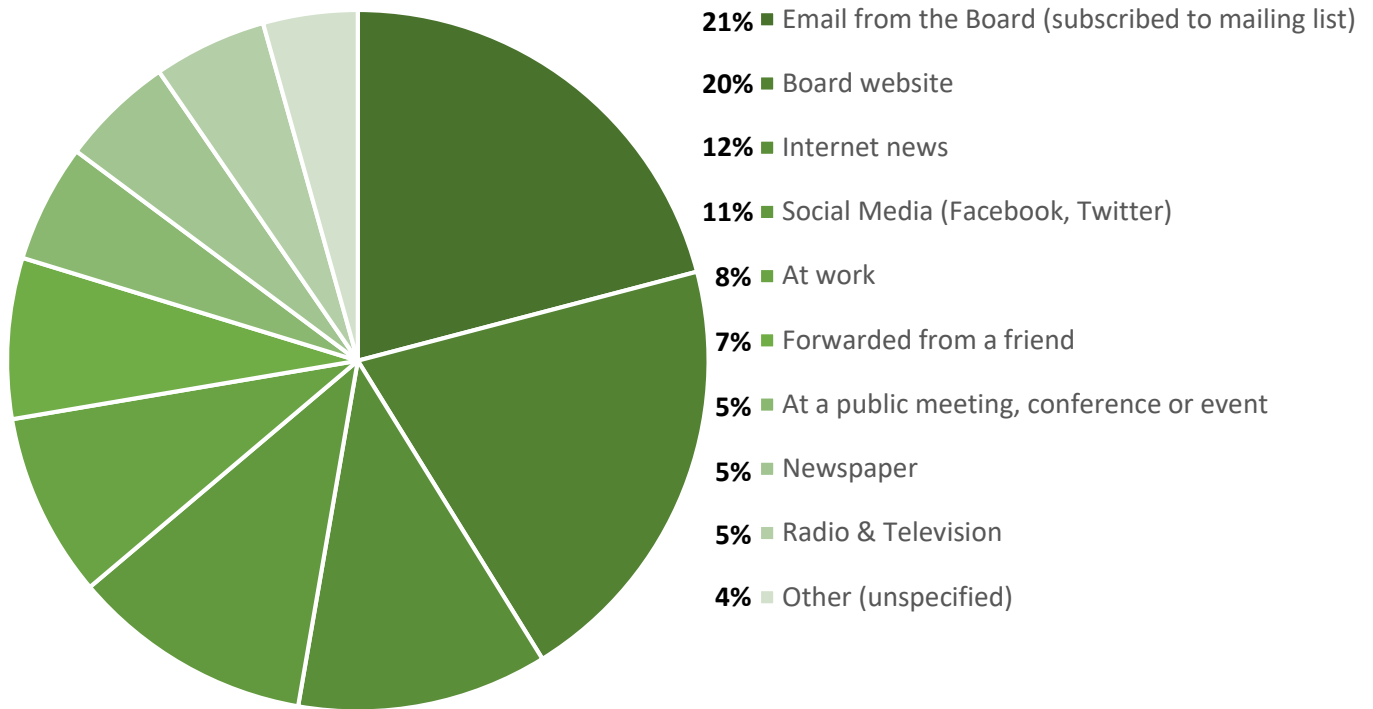
Full List of Coded Responses

#	TOPIC	GENERAL KEYWORDS	RELATED RESPONSES
1	Sustainability/Conservation/Restoration	Cumulative effects, stewardship, AACs, environmental protections, industry impacts on ecosystems, EBM, CO accountability, legislation effectiveness	31
2	Landscape issues/planning	Ecosystem function, biodiversity, holistic landscape health, science-based	21
3	Protecting watersheds and streams	Preserving water quality, fish habitat, riparian areas, etc.	19
4	Climate change	Strategy, mitigation, adaption, impacts	17
5	Protection of old growth/mature forests	Science-based strategy, conservation, unrenewable resource	13
6	Wildfire prevention & planning	Rehabilitation, preparation, protection, hazard abatement, BC Wildfire Service accountability	12
7	Endangered species & wildlife management	WHAs, forestry impacts on wildlife, commercial rec, forestry, population health	12
8	Advocating for legislative reform	Policy reform, Bill 21, outdated legislation, stronger standards, changes to FRPA, non-timber values	11
9	Increasing small-scale/local logging	Reducing large corporations, strengthening local economies, more woodlots, community forests	11

#	TOPIC	GENERAL KEYWORDS	RELATED RESPONSES
10	Examining adequacy/appropriateness of current forest practices, policies, and legislation	Investigating policy appropriateness, land base losses, protection measures, poor decision-making	10
11	Adopting an advocacy role	Public engagement, industry transparency, legislative reform, forest conservation	10
12	Increasing Indigenous values & involvement	Issues, concerns, recommendations, reconciliation, non-timber values	8
13	Harvesting practices	Where, stopping clear cuts, rate of cut, AAC size	7
14	Road & bridge issues	Deactivation, construction, risks, density, etc.	7
15	Holding government accountable	Auditing gov't/BCTS, ensuring gov't transparency	6
16	Compliance audits conducted on all parties	Gov't, industry, community forests, First Nations, random audits	6
17	Focusing more on public interest	Be independent, regularly in contact with rural residents, Board members not appointed by gov't	6
18	Tourism/recreation values or negative impacts	Scenic management, public abuse to Crown lands, backcountry commercial rec, logging around communities/rec areas	6
19	Increasing Board's power	To enforce punishments/recommendations, take away licenses, levy fines	4
20	Broadening scope of Board activities	Look at more than forestry/range, examine other industries having impact to forest (oil/gas/mining/rec), out in field more	4
21	Industrial concerns	Site cleanliness, ecosystem damages by industry, restorations, road use, wood waste	4
22	Land use, titles, & tenures	Public, community, First Nations, land conflicts	3
23	Use of new technologies	Satellite imaging, technology in production methods, engaging in new approaches	3
24	Greater accountability on all fronts	Held to same standard, CO & NRO accountability	2
25	Beetle issues & related practices	Forest regeneration, Harvest Allocation	2
26	Safety	Safety management, worker safety	2
27	More (detailed) Special Reports/Special Investigations	Follow-up, C&E report, publishing more results	2
28	Increasing speed of complaint investigations	Damage to habitat done by time report out	1

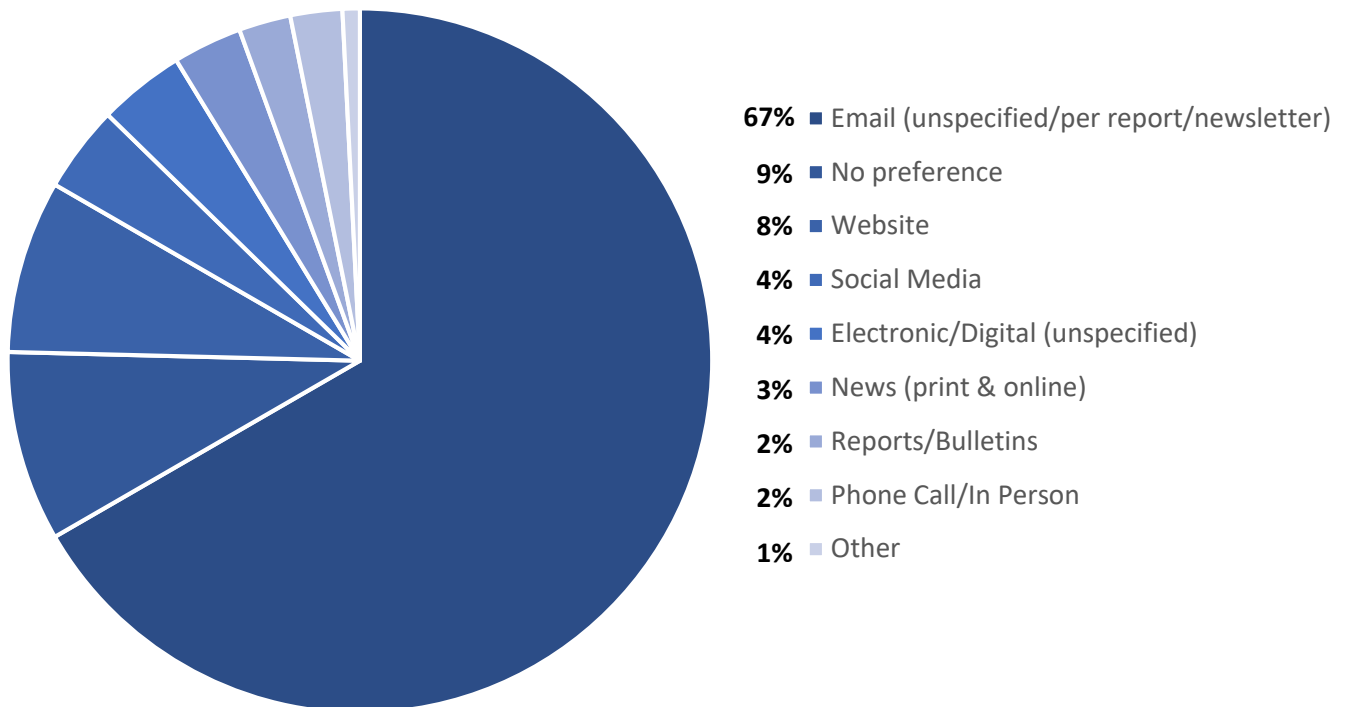
QUESTION 5

Where do you get information from/about the Forest Practices Board?



QUESTION 6

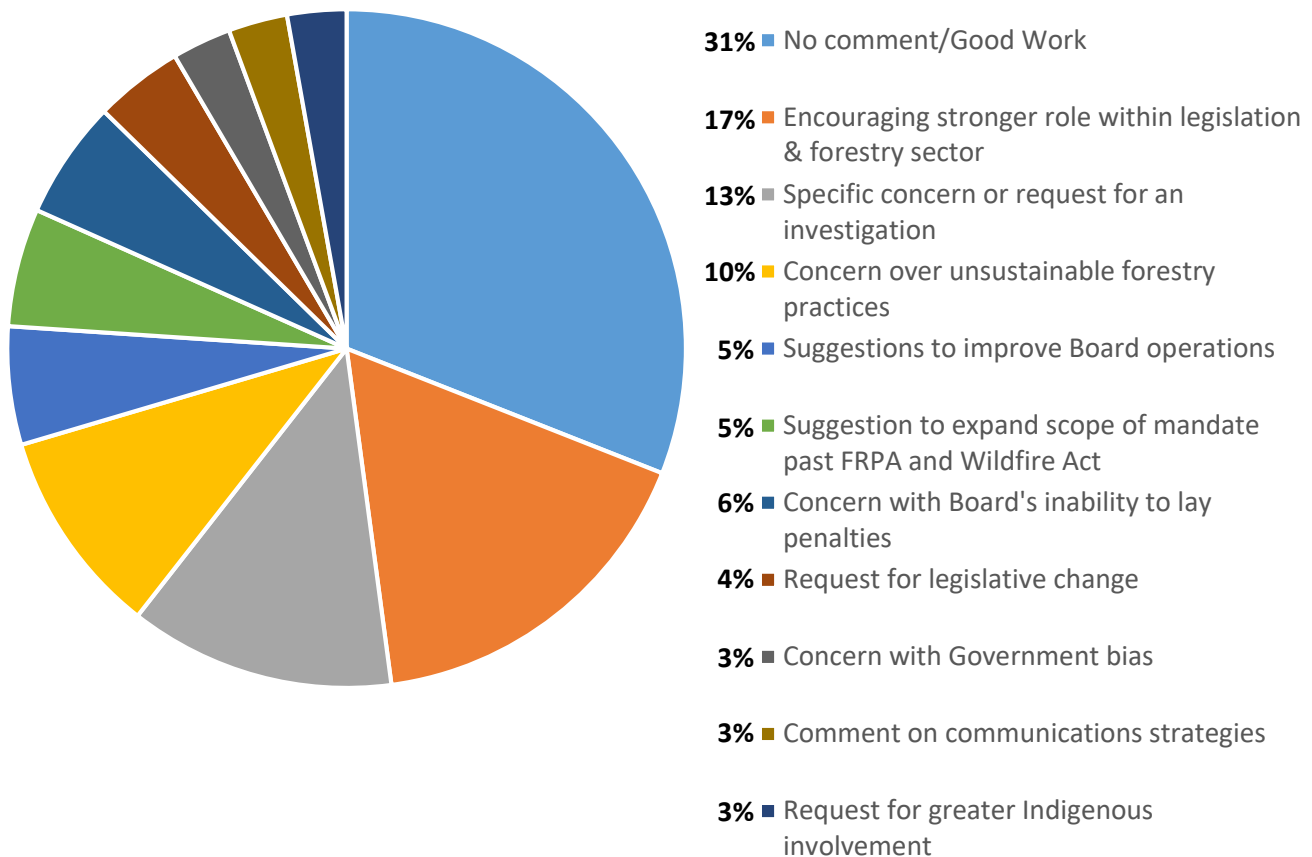
Do you have a preferred method of receiving information from the Board?



QUESTION 7

Do you have any other comments or suggestions to share?

Additional comments and suggestions generally grouped into 11 categories, divided in the chart below:



Response Examples

- “The board needs legislation to enforce violations and not just give a company recommendations. Their cut should be suspended till a problem is resolved.”
- “Keep up the good work. Thank you.”
- “We need smaller mills, smaller equipment and quit logging at the rate we’re going!”
- “Keep up the good work. Gain permission and funding to expand your activities to resources beyond just forestry.”
- “Legislation in BC desperately needs to change. We have monopolies, gross waste, and a lack of representation of tenure among FN communities.”
- “Natural function of the forests must be first and foremost in managing forests. Limiting the size of cut blocks , maintaining continuous natural habitat for wildlife and fisheries, ensuring natural diversity of regenerating forests / not spraying deciduous species such as aspen and poplar need to be more important than short term logging interests.”



**Forest
Practices
Board**

PO Box 9905 Stn Prov Govt

Victoria, BC V8X 9R1 Canada

Tel. 250.213.4700 | Fax 250.213.4725 | Toll Free 1.800.994.5899

For more information on the Board, please visit our website at: www.bcfpb.ca