

OUR FUTURE IS ON THE LINE

**TimberWest & Island Timberlands
Responsible for 90% of raw log shipments**



British Columbia is exporting millions of cubic meters in raw logs. It's killing jobs, communities and our province's future.

Raw log exports kill jobs in wood-products manufacturing here in BC. According to BC Statistics, for every job in timber harvesting we might enjoy another five in manufacturing – sawmills, pulp mills and value-added plants. But that's *only if we process those logs here in BC*. If we export the logs, we export the jobs.

Raw log advocates claim log exports *create* jobs. But how do they explain how we've lost 17,200 wood manufacturing jobs and 7900 pulp and paper jobs since 2000? And how in the world do they explain how we've lost 19,400 timber harvesting and forestry jobs – the sectors where log-export are supposed to create jobs?

Meanwhile, log exports have *skyrocketed*, aided by BC Liberal and federal government policies that have:

- made it easier to export logs;
- relaxed log-export regulations;
- allowed companies to close mills whenever they want;
- hampered lumber manufacturing;
- removed cut-control regulations to help log exporters;
- let companies remove thousands of hectares of forest from Tree Farm Licences with no compensation to the people of BC.

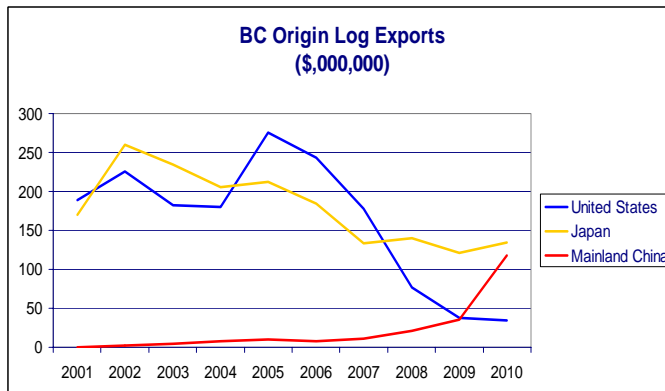
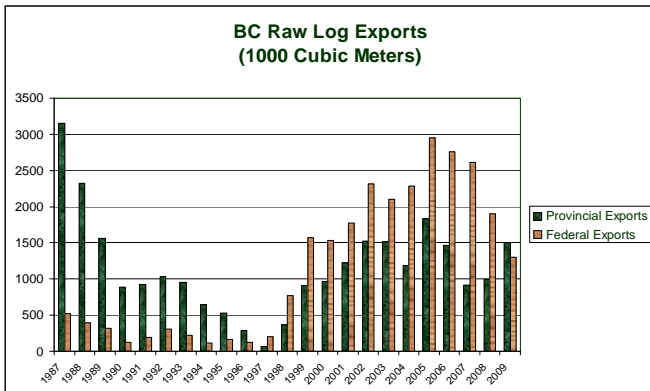
In the 1990s, under the NDP, raw-log exports fell. The government took steps to increase value-added manufacturing and protect jobs against mill closures.

But under the BC Liberals that's all out the window. TimberWest and Island Timberlands – the two big exporters responsible for over 90 percent of raw-log shipments, are making huge profits but operating no sawmills or other wood-

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processing plants. TimberWest’s average return on exports is over 200 percent its average logging costs!

Today, we’re exporting rising volumes of logs to China, Korea and other Asian markets. The premium on exports – an average of \$86/m3 compared to \$57/m3 for logs sold in BC – is driving up the prices BC mills must pay and putting them out of business. The jobs will be shipped to China unless we act now.

The owners of TimberWest and Island Timberland make hundreds of thousands of dollars in political contributions to the BC Liberals. No wonder they’re allowed to export millions of dollars worth of raw logs. And no wonder they and other politically-connected forest companies were allowed to take thousands of hectares out of the TFLs, then sell them as real estate.

But it’s not just logs and real estate they’re selling: they’re also *selling off our future*, our kids’ futures and our communities’ futures.

United Steelworkers say enough is

enough. It’s time we got more BC jobs from BC’s resources. We advocate:

- an immediate doubling of the provincial fee in lieu of manufacturing from 15% to 30%;
- the provincial government should demand that the federal government institute an equivalent levy on federally-regulated private lands, where companies currently pay virtually nothing to export BC timber and jobs;
- shift the collection of Crown resource rents from the stump to the back door of the mill, a move which would make it easier and cheaper to add more value to our timber and create more jobs;
- use returns from log export taxes and the Canada-US Softwood Lumber Agreement to create a fund that stimulates manufacturing investment.

With escalating log exports to China, we’re at a crucial turning point: we can become nothing more than a log exporter, dependent on the Asian market. Or we can create jobs here in BC by sawing and manufacturing our logs into useful products for the world. Our future is on the line! ♦



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