

police and army from Oka, and the settlement of Mohawk land claims.

- The Executive developed a policy document, "Towards A New Labour Code."

### 1991

- The Federation launched an education campaign about the dangers of a North American Free Trade Agreement.
- Mike Harcourt's new NDP government includes a number of trade unionists in Cabinet and Caucus.
- A "Peace in the Woods" accord was signed by environmentalists, IWA Canada and the Canadian Paperworkers Union regarding south Island logging. Six labour representatives from the Federation participated in the province's Third Party Advisory Committee on land claims.
- The Federation helped host a visit by Walter Sisulu, Deputy President of the African National Congress, and met with business leaders to explain the continued need for sanctions against South Africa.

### 1992

- Federation members engage in consultations to produce a new Labour Code and negotiations begin on an employment security agreement for health care workers.

### 1993

- With the political climate much better under an NDP government, the Federation was less in a fightback mode and more into participating in various bodies, including the CORE land use process.
- The new Labour Relations Code produced an upsurge of workers seeking unionization. The new ultra-conservative Coalition of BC Business was seeking to gut the

## 2006

### Resource Addendum to the Executive Council Report Beyond the Forests and the Trees:

# Social and Economic Implications of BC's Pine Beetle Crisis

## introduction

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conomic and social development in British Columbia is closely linked to the success and sustainability of BC's resource industries, especially its forest sector. For much of BC's history, an abundant forest resource has provided the province with a combination of employment, incomes, export earnings and revenues to government that have supported economic growth and development at both the community and provincial level.

However, in one of the most important forest products producing regions of the province, the Central Interior region, the forest resource is facing a profound economic and environmental crisis: a massive Pine Beetle infestation threatens to wipe out close to half of the standing timber resource in that region within the next decade. While some might consider that to be a forest industry-specific problem, the implications of such a massive change in the resource base will most certainly affect far more than just forest-dependent communities and forest industry jobs in that region.

This threat was confirmed in dramatic fashion late in September with the release of the State of Canada's Forests Report by the Canadian Forest Service (CFS). The report, released the same day the Harper Conservative's cut \$11.7 million in funding to fight the infestation, warned that the epidemic now threatens all of Canada's boreal forests. In BC, the CFS noted, the impact has been disguised by the increased cut of beetle-infested wood, but "once the salvage is over, the province will be left with damaged forests and some tough challenges. Among them, a scaled-down workforce, changed communities and a pronounced impact on British Columbia's economic base". The CFS predicts this impact will occur in ten years.

Making matters worse, the provincial government's forest policy changes over the last five years will greatly hinder efforts to help forest-dependent

communities weather this crisis. Changes in the **Forest Act**, for example, have drastically shifted forest-resource decision-making powers away from communities and concentrated them in the hands of fewer forest companies which demonstrate diminishing loyalty to either the province or the communities in which they operate. As well, the significant cuts in the Ministry of Forests and Range (MOF) staff have undermined the government's capacity to adequately address this problem. Basic research capacity within the MOF has been all but eliminated and shifts in silvicultural responsibilities leave serious questions about either the MOF's or the industry's capacity to adequately address the necessary reforestation effort.

## log exports and the softwood lumber agreement

The problems facing resource communities have been compounded during recent months by two very serious developments: a stratospheric increase in the rate of log exports and the Conservatives' decision to force through the **Softwood Lumber Agreement**. Log exports disproportionately affect coastal communities and the Softwood Deal threatens the Interior.

In March, community and labour leaders in Port Alberni decided to take action to stop the hemorrhage of unsorted logs from their community. Research indicated that the export of raw logs had risen 1,000 percent during recent years at a cost of 13,000 jobs in the last seven years. In Port Alberni, what should be a period of prosperity is one of increasing uncertainty.

A B.C. Federation of Labour poll conducted in the community in June showed a majority of the residents saw a bleak future for the local economy and would move if they could. The Federation also released a research report on the development of log exports, which outlined the successive betrayals of resource communities by the provincial government on this issue.

A local coalition led by the mayor, himself a pulp worker, harnessed that anger in political action. A series of blockades on the Hump, which interrupted log exports by truck, culminated in a major lobby to Victoria where the Federation, affiliates from the wood sector and community leaders confronted the provincial government.

These actions secured important commitments from then Forest Minister Rich Coleman, who agreed to the appointment of a two-person commission to recommend ways to halt log exports. The Federation will be working with affiliates to pursue this opening.

At the same time, the Federation was working hard with the Communication, Energy & Paperworkers Union (CEP) and the United Steelworkers (USW) to build opposition to the **Softwood Lumber Agreement**. This devastating sellout by the Harper Conservatives leaves BC communities vulnerable to further tariffs and interference indefinitely. Far from securing access to US markets, it entrenches US obstacles to fairer trade, leaves \$1 billion in American pockets taken in illegal tariff action and fails to require US firms in Canada to invest their tariff refunds in this country.

The Federation, working with affected affiliates and local Labour Councils, worked hard throughout the summer to build awareness and opposition to the **Agreement**. New Democratic Party (NDP) forest critic Bob Simpson played a leading role in this work, as did NDP Peter Julian, in Ottawa. Ultimately, however, federal bullying succeeded where American actions had not and the forest corporations caved in. Once again, Premier Gordon Campbell utterly failed to defend provincial interests against Ottawa and the United States.

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Labour Relations Code and the Employment Standards Act. The Federation struck an advisory committee of disadvantaged groups to attend the government review of Employment Standards.

- “While we are sometimes frustrated with the pace of implementing many necessary changes to public policy, we believe the government has demonstrated a strong commitment to fulfilling the promises it made to British Columbians during the 1991 election campaign”, the Executive reported.
- There were criticisms, including the delay in implementing pay equity legislation.

## 1994

- The theme that year was, “United We Stand”. The Harcourt NDP government was nearing the end of its term to the general praise of the Federation. It had extended collective bargaining rights to fishers, extended WCB coverage to all workers, and established a Fair Wage Policy, a Health Care Accord for retraining laid-off workers, a Skills Now training program and a Forest Renewal Plan. The economy was healthy and leading Canada in things like job creation, housing starts and retail sales. The B.C. Federation of Labour dedicated itself to the NDP’s re-election.
- The Federation, under President Ken Georgetti, had a close working relationship with the government, meeting with ministers to discuss issues such as pension fund investment, or concerns with decisions by the Labour Relations Board.
- “Corporate Tax Freedom Day” was launched in 1993 and soon went national. The Federation

Resource communities are living through an extraordinary period in which accelerated cut of beetle-infested wood is disguising fundamental and negative shifts in the industry’s economics.

This paper is part of an ongoing effort by the B.C. Federation of Labour (BCFL) to assess how our province deals with the kind of massive economic and social change that the Pine Beetle problem will precipitate. As well, the BCFL believes that the Pine Beetle crisis raises fundamental questions about how our province balances the public interest and public resources in an increasingly global economy. And finally, the BCFL hopes that this paper, will contribute to a broader discussion within our movement on how we secure economic development, which not only sustains high quality employment, but also narrows the gap that is widening between rural and urban BC.

## the importance of bc’s forest sector

Although the forest sector’s economic growth stalled throughout much of the last twenty years, it still remains, in both absolute and relative terms, a critical part of the provincial economy. According to the Council of Forest Industries (COFI) more than 270,000 British Columbians – 14 percent of the total workforce – are employed directly or indirectly by the forest industry. The industry also continues to be a source of high incomes with average weekly earnings in wood products manufacturing, for example, running 14 percent ahead of the provincial average.

The BC forest sector is also an important contributor to overall economic activity in the province. It accounts for over one-third of BC’s export trade. In 2005, it accounted for over 16 percent of BC’s gross domestic product (GDP) and contributed over 50 percent of total manufacturing shipments. It also generated approximately \$4 billion in revenue to all levels of government.

Not surprisingly, the forest industry is a key source of income and employment for many smaller communities around the province. BC Statistics show that in 270 communities, the forest sector accounts for more than 20 percent of the area’s income, making it the largest single source of economic activity in those communities. In fact, according to COFI, the forest sector supports more BC communities outside the Greater Vancouver Regional District (GVRD) than all other business sectors combined.

## the pine beetle crisis

The magnitude of the Pine Beetle infestation in the Central Interior dwarfs any previous forest resource crisis in BC’s history. Over a relatively short period of time – about eight years – the beetle infestation has grown in scope and intensity and is moving at a rate that far outpaces logging activity in the region.

In 1999, aerial surveys estimated the affected area to be about 164,000 hectares. By 2004, that number had ballooned to more than 7 million hectares, an area more than twice the size of Vancouver Island. The latest estimate for 2005 puts the affected area at 8.7 million hectares.

The MOF estimates that as much as 700 million cubic metres of beetle-attacked trees could be left standing as a result of this infestation. To put that number into some perspective, BC’s annual timber harvest for the entire province is about one-tenth of that number – 70 million cubic metres.

Several factors have enabled the infestation to grow. Warmer temperatures, especially milder winters, have meant that the beetle rarely faces a winter die-

off. More effective fire suppression activity means older trees survive, and it's older trees that are more susceptible to infestations.

For many years, government officials kept their fingers crossed that a sufficient number of days of deep frost in the Interior would stall the infestation. Those days of deep frost did not occur. Now it is too late. The Mountain Pine Beetle infestation is out of control and constitutes catastrophic proof of the reality of global warming. Any responsible strategy to confront this crisis must reflect this fact, but the Campbell government does not have a climate change action plan. Its energy policy would increase greenhouse gas emissions through increased production of oil and gas, both through offshore drilling and coal gasification projects. The Harper government's decision to jettison Canada's commitments to the Kyoto Protocol – inadequate as they were – passed without a murmur of protest in Victoria. This must be another area for engagement by the Federation.

The massive infestation raises serious questions about how the provincial government is responding to the crisis. Some question whether the governments proposed "Beetle Action Plan" comes close to funding the appropriate level of reforestation that will be required. They point to the fact that BC's current reforestation spending pales in comparison to the budgeted commitments made in the mid-1980s and throughout the 1990s when there was a concerted effort to eliminate the backlog of forest land that was not reforested. Although the amount of backlog replanted during that period was well below what the beetle problem has created so far – about 2 million hectares of "Not Sufficiently Restock" (NSR) versus 8.7 million hectares of beetle-attacked forest land – the amount spent to tackle the NSR lands was two and a half times the amount budgeted by the province for reforestation in the current Beetle Action Plan.

## the impact of bc liberals' forest policy

Similar questions are being raised about the impact that the BC Liberals' forest policy changes will have on government's capacity to effectively respond to this infestation. Critics argue that the changes made to the **Forest Act** and the **Forest and Range Practices Act** have undermined the ability of government to either direct or intervene in decisions made by major forest companies who operate in the affected area. Cut control, local manufacturing requirements, transfer of cuttings rights, these were some of the legislative powers that previous governments had used to compel full participation of forest companies in meeting the needs of forest-dependent communities. However, with those powers deleted by the BC Liberals' legislative changes, an effective response to the beetle crisis becomes harder to realize.

Often overlooked in the provincial government's response to-date are the environmental consequences of an infestation of this magnitude. Foresters have yet to assess what the impact would be on wildlife, riparian areas, biodiversity or other standard measures of environmental health after an area as large as 8.7 million hectares is devastated by the beetle. Again, basic data and analytical capacity within government does not exist to answer these important questions because of the massive cuts in frontline Ministry staff and support workers.

With the infestation so well advanced across much of the Central Interior, the provincial government has tried to deal with the problem by either re-directing harvest activity to log salvaging in the infested areas or increasing the region's harvest level (Annual Allowable Cut) to ensure that all infested areas are logged as soon as possible.

**However, with those powers deleted by the BC Liberals' legislative changes, an effective response to the beetle crisis becomes harder to realize.**

backed unions in key fights like the CEP and Building Trades unions at the Port Alberni MacMillan Bloedel pulp mill project and the CAW's long fight with the Westmin Resources mine near Campbell River.

## 1995

- This year saw the first of the Federation's Policy Conventions, to take place every two years; on alternative years, a regular "resolution-based" Convention would be held.
- There was a clear choice for working people this election year, said the Federation Executive. "We can stand silent in the face of the combined efforts of the corporate conservatives' political action groups ... as they devote resources to destroy the only barrier to their control of the economy the NDP government ... or we can continue and expand our efforts to offer real leadership in our workplaces and in our communities in the fight for economic and social justice for all British Columbians."
- Much of the Executive Report listed gains in labour relations law, employment standards and workers' compensation under the NDP administration. It recognized the 25th Anniversary of the Federation's Women's Rights Committee.
- BC Premier Mike Harcourt gave his farewell speech after nine years as NDP leader.

## 1996

- The Federation established its website that year, joining the Internet Age and providing an alternative to the rule of corporate media.
- The NDP had, thanks in part to the Federation's

Unfortunately, the MOF's strategy for dealing with the immediate problem of harvesting in infested areas is limited by poor quality data on local forest conditions and the extent to which infested trees remain "merchantable" after infestation. Both shortfalls are made worse as a result of cutbacks in the Ministry over the last five years. Those cutbacks have left it with little capacity to respond to major crises like this and limited forest inventory data to better plan a comprehensive response.

The question of how long an infested tree remains "merchantable" is a critical one. Accelerated harvest levels are based, in part, on assumptions that infested areas must be harvested as soon as possible. However, in his report "Battling the Beetle", Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives (CCPA) researcher Ben Parfitt notes that there is conflicting evidence on whether infested trees lose their economic value as quickly as the MOF assumptions predict.

This question becomes critical because accelerating harvest levels in the short-term must be offset by "falldowns" in harvest levels in the medium and long-term. And it is the issue of falldowns in harvest levels which make forest-dependent communities the most vulnerable.

Estimates of what those reductions will be and their impact on forest sector employment are still very tentative at this point. Much will depend on whether the area infested grows beyond the current 8.7 million hectares. As well, the overall job loss will also depend on the industry and government's response to the beetle crisis.

## thousands of jobs at risk

A preliminary estimate of job loss has been made by the USW and it indicates that close to 8,000 jobs could be lost as a result of the Pine Beetle infestation. In its analysis of the employment impacts, the USW admits that their estimate is "conservative". The report notes, for example, that the National Research Council has estimated an eventual drop in employment that is almost double the rate estimated by the USW. The Steelworkers also point out that research done on employment impacts in specific regions like Prince George show that the rate of employment decline could be three times the rate included in the USW report.

There is no question that the area affected by the Pine Beetle relies heavily on the forest sector as their economic base. Of the six regions battling the beetle, five have timber dependencies (percent of region income tied to the forest industry) ranging from 30 to 42 percent. Only one of the regions, Kamloops, was lower, at ten percent.

Complicating the question of job loss is anticipating how forest companies, which operate in the affected region, will react to significant declines in harvest levels. Currently, operating mills in the area are simply increasing their production at existing mills to make use of the accelerated harvest levels. However, there are real concerns that the industry has no commitment to re-invest in these regions. In its analysis of this very problem, the USW's report, *BC Communities in Crisis*, argues that:

"In recent years, some companies have made huge profits. But instead of investing them in new production facilities, they have used them for mergers – Canfor purchased Slocan, for instance, while West Fraser swallowed up Riverside shortly after Riverside purchased Lignum ... Firms have also purchased foreign assets – Canfor recently bought six plants in the virtually non-union state of South Carolina."

The forest companies noted in the USW report currently control most of the harvesting rights and converting operations (pulp mills and wood products manufacturing plants) in the six affected regions. Even more troubling, the **Forest Act** changes made by the BC Liberals over the last five years give forest companies significantly more opportunity to “dis-invest” in their BC operations and face little or no consequences for doing so. The prospect of even greater corporate (and therefore operating capacity) consolidation in the BC industry was an inevitable consequence of the **Forest Act** changes which removed most of the penalties associated with corporate consolidation. As well, those changes also severed the commitment to maintain a balance between local harvesting of trees and local manufacturing. Referred to as the appurtenancy provisions in a forest license, they were one of the important guarantees provided to forest-dependent communities. Without that legislative protection those communities are increasingly vulnerable.

It’s worth noting that the legislative changes were made at a time – 2002 – when the Pine Beetle infestation was still at a relatively low level – about one-eighth the area of infestation that exists today. As the beetle problem has ballooned and its impact on forest-dependent communities poised to worsen, the provincial government has embedded legislative changes that completely neutralize its ability to require forest companies to cooperate in any community-based response strategy.

## implications beyond the forest sector

For the affected regions and the rest of the province, the dramatic impacts of the Pine Beetle will move well beyond the forest sector. Certainly the timber dependency rates in the six regions show that the economic and social infrastructure in the Central Interior region of the province will undergo drastic changes without aggressive and direct interventions by the provincial government.

In towns and communities stretching from Cache Creek in the south, to MacKenzie in the north and Chetwynd in the east to Terrace in the west, the implications of this infestation are now beginning to take shape. Direct job loss in the forest sector will work its way through other parts of the regional economy, eventually affecting employment and services far beyond the forest sector. Education, health care, retail services, municipal services, all of the basic underpinnings of a community’s economic and social infrastructure will feel the effects of the beetle infestation in their region.

It’s also clear that the impact of the beetle crisis will further exaggerate an already widening gap between urban and rural BC. In a report prepared by the Urban Futures Institute for the Council of Forest Industries, researchers note that while metropolitan regions of the province (Greater Vancouver and Greater Victoria) are a hub of population and services, rural BC is a critical driver of economic activity. The Institute found that metropolitan areas account for about 60 percent of BC’s population, but only one-third of BC’s total export trade. Without the “heartland’s” economic strength, urban BC would be struggling to maintain any economic growth argues the Institute. Yet, much of the province’s economic and fiscal strategies are structured to benefit the urban centres at the expense of rural communities.

An unfortunate fact of economic life under the BC Liberals is that their fiscal and legislative policies have only served to widen that imbalance between urban and rural BC. For example, in their first four years, the BC Liberals touted their tax cuts as their single most important economic policy. Yet the benefit of those policies tilted in favour of urban BC, far more so than rural communities.

**An unfortunate fact of economic life under the BC Liberals is that their fiscal and legislative policies have only served to widen that imbalance between urban and rural BC.**

“herculean” effort, been re-elected under Glen Clark. In its Report to the regular Convention, the Executive hailed the victory while expressing concern with government plans to lay off public sector workers. “Finding lasting cost-savings without laying off workers would show how social governments ... can exercise better fiscal prudence than slash-and-burn right-wing parties. The Federation will continue to push the government to pursue this option ...”.

- Federation leaders announced the imminent creation of the Organizing Institute to train union activists for organizing drives.
- The Federation held a major Occupational Health and Safety Conference to prepare for a Royal Commission on the WCB.
- Among the Executives’ recommendations were a call to restructure the government-created Public Sector Employers Council, to work for significant Labour Relations Code changes to include sectoral bargaining and certification, and to concentrate efforts on the WCB Royal Commission “to reduce workplace deaths and injuries”.
- An all-out labour mobilization in support of the New Democrats wins a razor-thin majority under Premier Glen Clark, defeating Gordon Campbell’s first bid for power. Federation affiliates work with Clark as he confronts the United States and Ottawa in a battle to secure a salmon treaty that meets Canada’s needs.

## 1997

- The Federation Convention passes a resolution congratulating the provincial government

In fact, when the entire combination of tax cuts, tax shifts and cuts to public services are factored in, rural BC came out on the losing end of the BC Liberals’ economic strategy.

In their 2005 regional analysis of BC’s tax and spending policies, the CCPA’s BC office found the provincial government’s fiscal strategy was “exacerbating regional inequalities in BC”. The study confirmed that while most of the benefit of the tax cuts accrued to urban BC, the cuts in public programs and direct government employment were disproportionately shouldered by rural BC communities. The CCPA study found that the total cut in government jobs was 6,806 between 2001 and 2004, a reduction of 17 percent. However, the distribution of those job loss figures showed that Greater Victoria and the Lower Mainland experienced a 16 percent decline while all other regions faced a 22 percent decline.

Those percentages tell only part of the story. In many communities, the compounding effect of closing government offices quickly radiated through other services as well. For example, school closures quickly followed on the heels of cuts in direct government jobs. Of the 113 schools closed during that period, 24 were in the Lower Mainland and Victoria, while 89 were in the rest of BC.

Similar effects were seen in health care. The CCPA study noted that:

*“The province, as a whole, experienced a cut of 1,279 acute care beds, a 15 percent reduction. Outside of the Vancouver Coastal Health Authority and the Vancouver Island Health Authority, acute bed cuts in the regions were larger relative to previous bed numbers.”*

## uncertain future for many communities

One of the most immediate impacts for smaller communities faced with the loss of significant employment is a decline in local population. As governments have moved to limit income support programs for the unemployed, families have been forced to quickly re-locate to larger centers to find work. The trouble with this phenomenon is that a declining local population quickly becomes a secondary problem that further destabilizes local economic development. In effect, policies which ignore the problems facing rural communities simply make a difficult situation that much worse.

It’s interesting to note that in the six regions affected by the Pine Beetle infestation, a declining population base is a very real concern. Between 1961 and 1996, the population in these combined regions more than doubled as a combination of resource development and expansion of public services provided steady employment growth and rising incomes. However, by 2001, that expansion had plateaued. By 2005, the region’s population had actually declined by about 1.5 percent from the peak reached in the late 1990s.

What’s important to remember is that, certainly for the last five years, forest sector activity in these combined regions has not suffered. However, other parts of the communities’ economic base, especially public sector services, have and those losses are reflected in the declining population.

With the prospect of losing at least 8,000 jobs within this region looming on the horizon, how much more “de-population” can this region take? Unless there is a concerted effort to both address the specific problems created by the beetle infestation and revamp broader economic development strategies in ways that directly support rural economies, rural communities across the province will become increasingly vulnerable.

## recommendations for change

Reversing the damage done by the Pine Beetle infestation will take far more than what the provincial government has set out in its Pine Beetle Action Plan. Not only is the government's plan narrowly focused and under-funded, it makes no attempt to build a solution from the ground up. The very communities that will be so adversely affected by the beetle have little or no voice in designing a response to the crisis that addresses their needs.

In his analysis of the Pine Beetle crisis, CCPA researcher Ben Parfitt details 15 recommendations for change that cover a broad range of issues. Similarly, the USW report on Communities In Crisis argues that a narrow approach to addressing the problems of forest-dependent communities will not work, and that the provincial government needs to overhaul not only its funding of reforestation, but also its entire approach to supporting economic development at the community level.

Both reports speak to the need to build solutions that start with workers and communities, an approach the BC Liberals seems loath to undertake. The labour movement needs to play a leadership role in creating solutions that reflect our values and belief in economic democracy, sustainability and community-based economic development. As the USW report asserts, "Governments must not simply throw up their hands and say that the market will necessarily provide good outcomes for everyone. Clearly, it will not. Instead, we must invest an increasing amount of our province's resource wealth and resource revenues to achieve this."

**The labour movement needs to play a leadership role in creating solutions that reflect our values and belief in economic democracy, sustainability and community-based economic development.**

## recommendations

1. The B.C. Federation of Labour needs to work with both community activists and all affiliates to ensure that a comprehensive strategy for dealing with this crisis has the necessary funding from government and industry to provide effective protection for forest-dependent communities. The most critical part of that funding needs to be directed at a massive re-forestation effort. Significant investments also need to be made in increasing government's capacity to sustainably manage the public forest resource. And the funding also needs to address the need to support greater diversification within the forest sector and within forest-dependent communities.
2. The Federation should work with USW, CEP, Labour Councils and affiliates in the regions directly affected by the Pine Beetle to begin mobilizing public support for a response to this crisis that reflects the needs of workers and communities. That effort could start by convening a summit that provides rural community activists with an opportunity to detail their priorities for dealing with this crisis.
3. The Federation must also work with the USW, CEP and other affiliates to press for immediate changes in both legislation and policy that will stop the export of raw logs from this province. The steady and deliberate increase in log export activity is symptomatic of the government's acquiescing to corporate interests that have little loyalty to forest-dependent communities. These legislative demands should also include measures that require forest companies to clearly demonstrate their commitment to the province and forest-dependent communities by investing valued-added processing and sustainable forest stewardship.
4. The Federation must also work to develop a comprehensive strategy to deal with not only the inevitable environmental consequences of the beetle

on ratification of the Nisga'a Treaty. Affiliates reported nearly 9,000 new members signed up in new certifications, a positive trend that the Convention believed needed to be consolidated to build labour's strength.

## 1998

- The Federation celebrates passage of the Workers' Compensation (Occupational Health and Safety) Amendment Act, which guarantees members of joint safety committees the right to eight-hours a year of health and safety training.

## 1999

- The CLC and the B.C. Federation of Labour coordinate Canadian participation in the global protest in Seattle against the World Trade Organization. The confrontations outside the conference attract global attention to the struggle against the impact of trade agreements and the neo-Liberal policies of the major trading nations, particularly the United States.

## 2000

- Affiliates sound a warning about the BC Liberals' plans to privatize BC Hydro. Gordon Campbell vows not to privatize, a promise he will later break. Affiliates mobilize on International Women's Day to make Vancouver the focal point of Canada's participation in Women's World March 2000.

## 2001

- The May 14 election deals the NDP a shattering blow, reducing the party to only two seats. The Gordon Campbell attack on working people begins in earnest. The Federation's Six Bucks Sucks campaign against the \$6 an hour training wage, launched with the

crisis, but also the underlining problem of global warming that has created the conditions for this infestation in the first place. Warmer temperatures, especially warmer winters, have contributed to the ballooning of this infestation. The federal government's decision to abandon the Kyoto Protocol signals a dangerous shift in Canada's commitment to reduce greenhouse gases, a shift that could make the problems in our forest even worse. In particular, the Federation should revive its Environment Committee and seek the widest possible alliances to build support for a provincial plan to achieve the Kyoto Protocol objectives.