



September 18, 2009

Forest Genetics Council 2009-2014 Strategic Plan
Message from the Chief Forester

I am pleased to introduce the Forest Genetics Council of British Columbia (FGC) 5-Year Strategic Plan for the period 2009 to 2014. This is the third strategic plan of Council since its inception in 1997. FGC's strategic goals and activities have resulted in over 50% of the seed used for reforestation in BC being derived from select sources with an average genetic gain of over 12%. Significant progress was also made over the past decade in cataloguing the *in situ* and *ex situ* genetic conservation status of BC's tree species and developing climate-based seed transfer standards - to name a few key accomplishments.

The goals and objectives outlined in this strategy, aimed at improving the conservation, resilience, and value of BC's forest tree genetic resources, were shaped by an extensive consultation process (see Background). As such, I am confident this plan will serve the public and BC's GRM community of practice well despite constant changes and uncertainties.

As you know, the current global economic crisis has had a significant impact on BC's forest sector and revenues to government. In response to these financial pressures and anticipated climate change, on-going examination of FGC program priorities, resource allocation, and organizational structures is required. Viable long-term models for managing seed orchards in BC are also required to ensure that FGC can still achieve its objectives for increasing the resilience and value of BC's forests. Such reviews could result in changes to FGC objectives, performance measures, and annual business planning processes. Therefore, this Strategic Plan may be subject to change over its 5-year period.

I look forward to working with FGC councillors, Ministry of Forest and Range staff, and our many partners in the forest sector, provincial and federal agencies, and universities as we strive to meet these challenges and realize our collective vision that BC's forest tree genetic resources remain diverse, resilient, and managed to provide multiple values for present and future generations.

Yours truly,

Jim Snetsinger, RPF
Chief Forester



