

Premier

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## **Tree farm licence to be reviewed**

VICTORIA - An independent review will be undertaken by lawyer Daniel Gelb into conditions imposed on a tree farm licence on southern Vancouver Island, Philip Halkett, deputy minister to the premier, announced today.

The International Woodworkers of America-Canada and Cowichan-Ladysmith MLA Jan Pullinger have raised concerns about the process followed by the Ministry of Forests in replacing and then transferring Tree Farm Licence 46.

The tree farm licence was created in 1955 to support the construction of B.C. Forest Products' pulp mill in Crofton. The licence was divided in 1991, and a clause was included that prohibited the Youbou Mill from reducing production or closing unless specifically permitted by the minister of forests. The clause was not included when the tree farm licence was amended in 1997.

The review will look into the reasons for this omission.

The final report is expected by May 30.

-30-

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[Back to Index](#)