

Here is a letter by Lawrence Wuest sent to CBC Info Am Fredericton.
Let's hope it is read. Listen for more interviews on tomorrow's morning
show.

Lawrence Wuest wrote:

Environment aside, ironically the government has adopted a forest management strategy in direct contradiction to its own stated objective of increasing the number of jobs created per unit of timber harvested. In the mid 1960s we stood at 2.2 jobs per 1000 cu.m. harvested. By early 2000s we stood at 1.2 jobs /thousand cu.m. If believed, the 660,000 additional AAC is supposed to generate 500 jobs or less than 0.8 jobs per 1000cu.m. We continue to attempt to cut our way out of economic hell. All the talk about increased productivity is spin talk for reducing the amount of labour to process a unit of timber into saleable products. Industry is only interested in profit, and labour is in the cross-hairs of conservative governments provincially and nationally.

Given that Gallant's only critique of Alward's strategy seems to be that it has come too late, we will continue this descent into the abyss no matter which stripe is in power.

My comments of 2003 to the Legislative Committee on Wood Supply are as true today as then"The report [/Jaakko Pöyry/] suggests that the province financially ensure the industry that a projected wood supply will exist and be available at the target date. It would be a monumental folly to agree to assurances of a mythical target, a target generated by the industry itself, based on possibly speculative and incomplete assumptions. The province should flatly and totally reject any such suggestion".

Lawrence Wuest