

A Refocused Forest Profession

Forest Professionals BC's
Journey to Regulation under the
Professional Governance Act

Planning Institute of BC Webinar - May 21, 2025
Presented by Christine Gelowitz, RPF, CEO FPBC



Forest
Professionals
BRITISH COLUMBIA

www.fpbc.ca



*Foresters
Act*

*Professional
Governance Act*

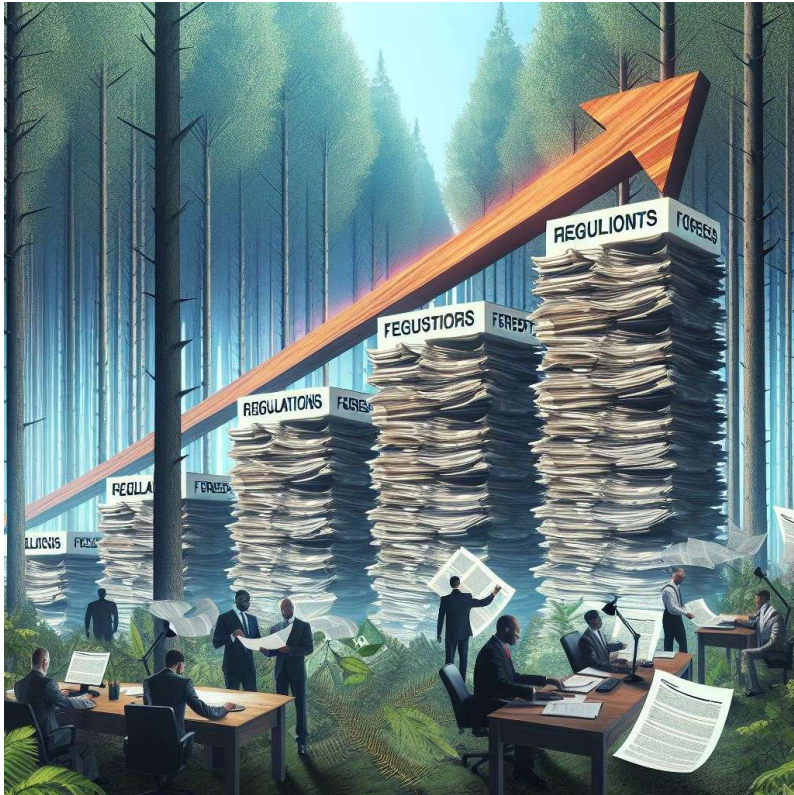
1. Policy/Program Change
2. Culture Shift
3. Capacity & Cost Impact

A Refocused Profession



Forest
Professionals
BRITISH COLUMBIA

www.fpbc.ca



Seven-fold increase
in the volume of
rules to follow

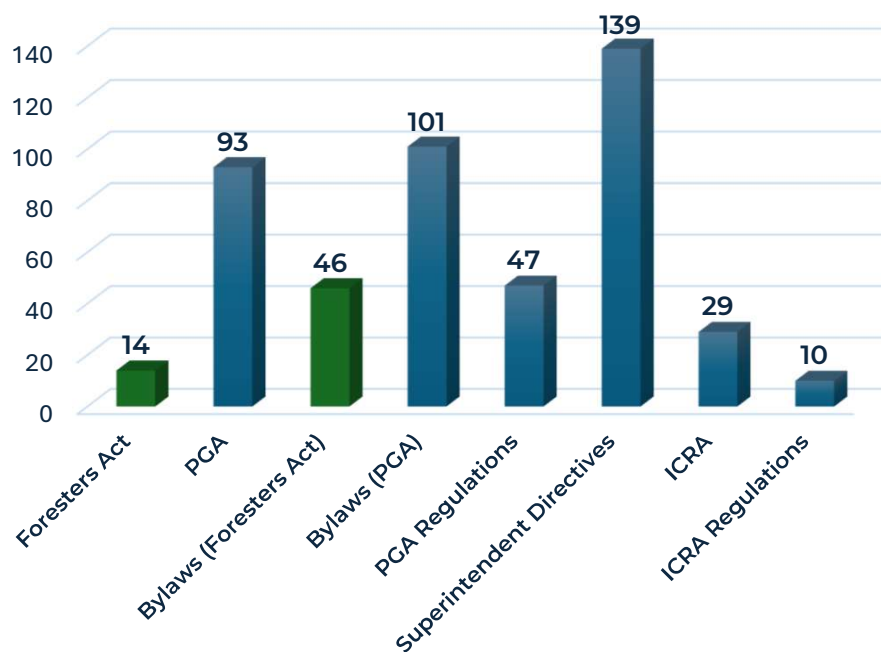
Policy Complexity



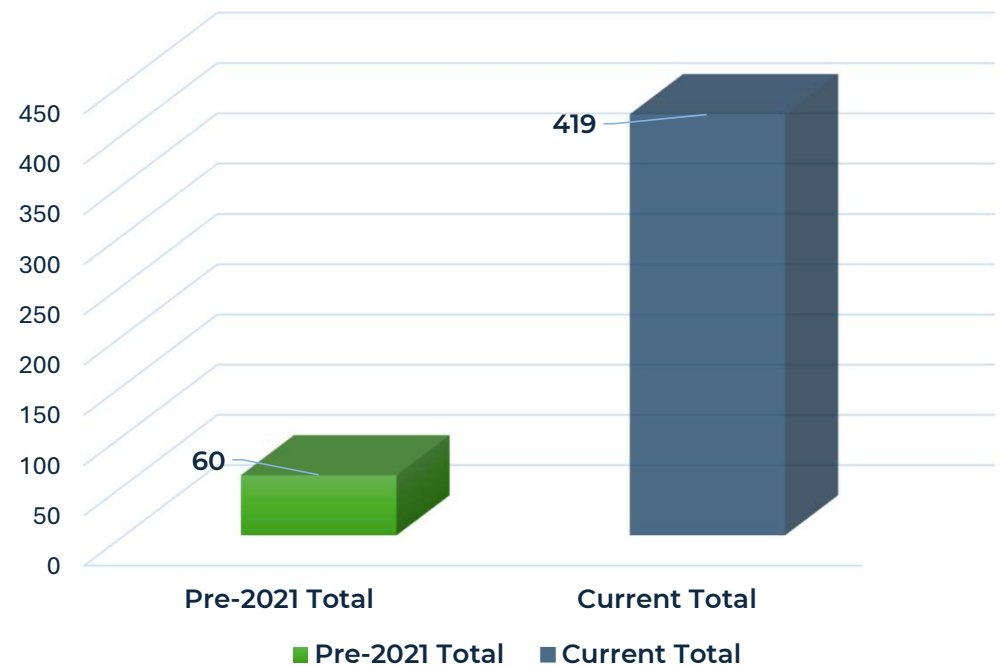
Forest
Professionals
BRITISH COLUMBIA

www.fpbc.ca

Pages of Regulation: Pre-2021 vs Current



Total Regulatory Burden Comparison



Policy Regime



Forest
Professionals
BRITISH COLUMBIA

www.fpbc.ca

1. Many Program & Service Tweaks

- Most required programs pre-existed at FPBC, yet major policy workload to (re)align with PGA regime

2. Few New Additions:

- Mandatory Reporting of Continuing Professional Development (95% compliance year 1)
- Duty to Report (implementation still in learning stage)
- Firm Regulation (pending funding capacity)



New Programs & Services



Forest
Professionals
BRITISH COLUMBIA

www.fpbc.ca

1. Association vs Regulatory Body

- Terminology shift, advocacy loss

2. Stronger Regulatory Presence

- More non-compliance activity (suspensions, late fees)
- Enforcing practice limitations
- Regulatory cost re-capture in service fees

3. Registration Implications

- Post-career registrants decline
- New entrants remains strong

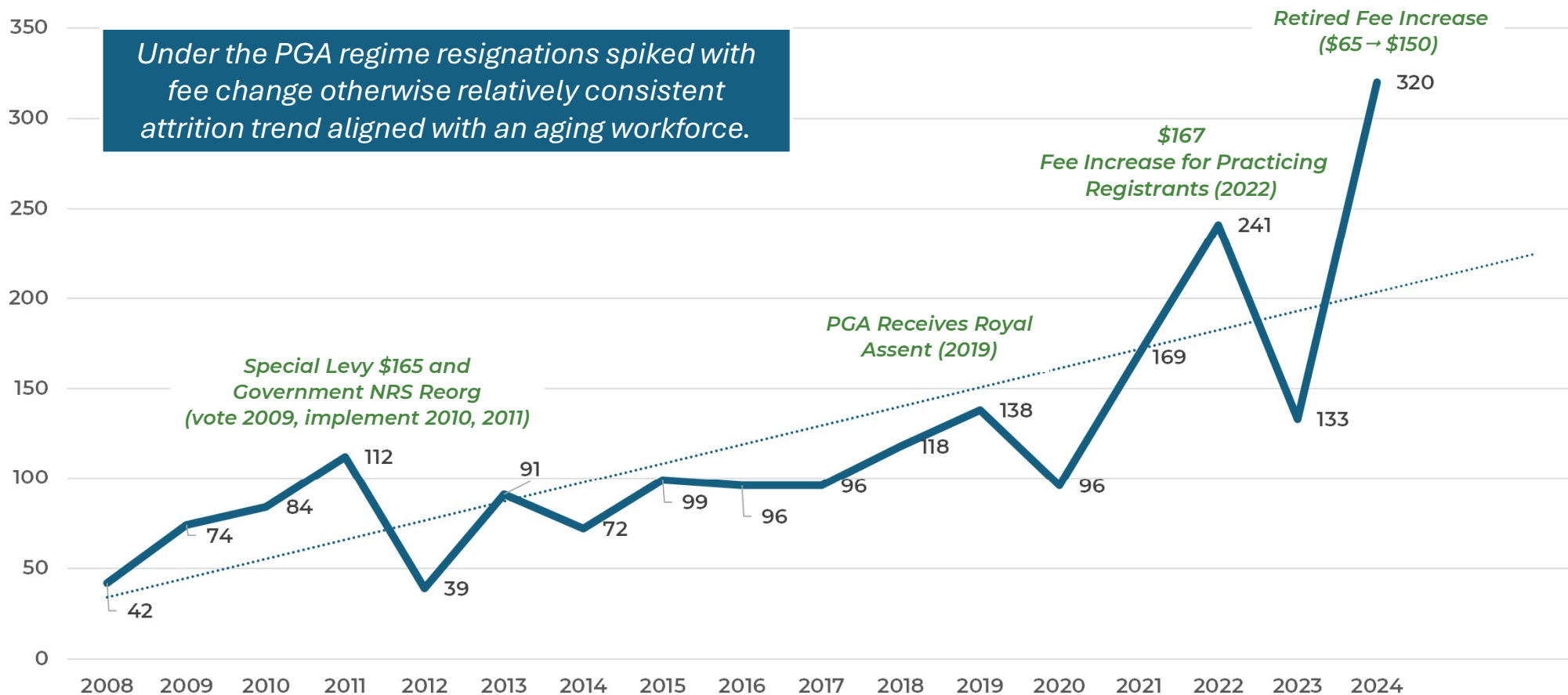


Culture Shift



Forest
Professionals
BRITISH COLUMBIA

www.fpbc.ca



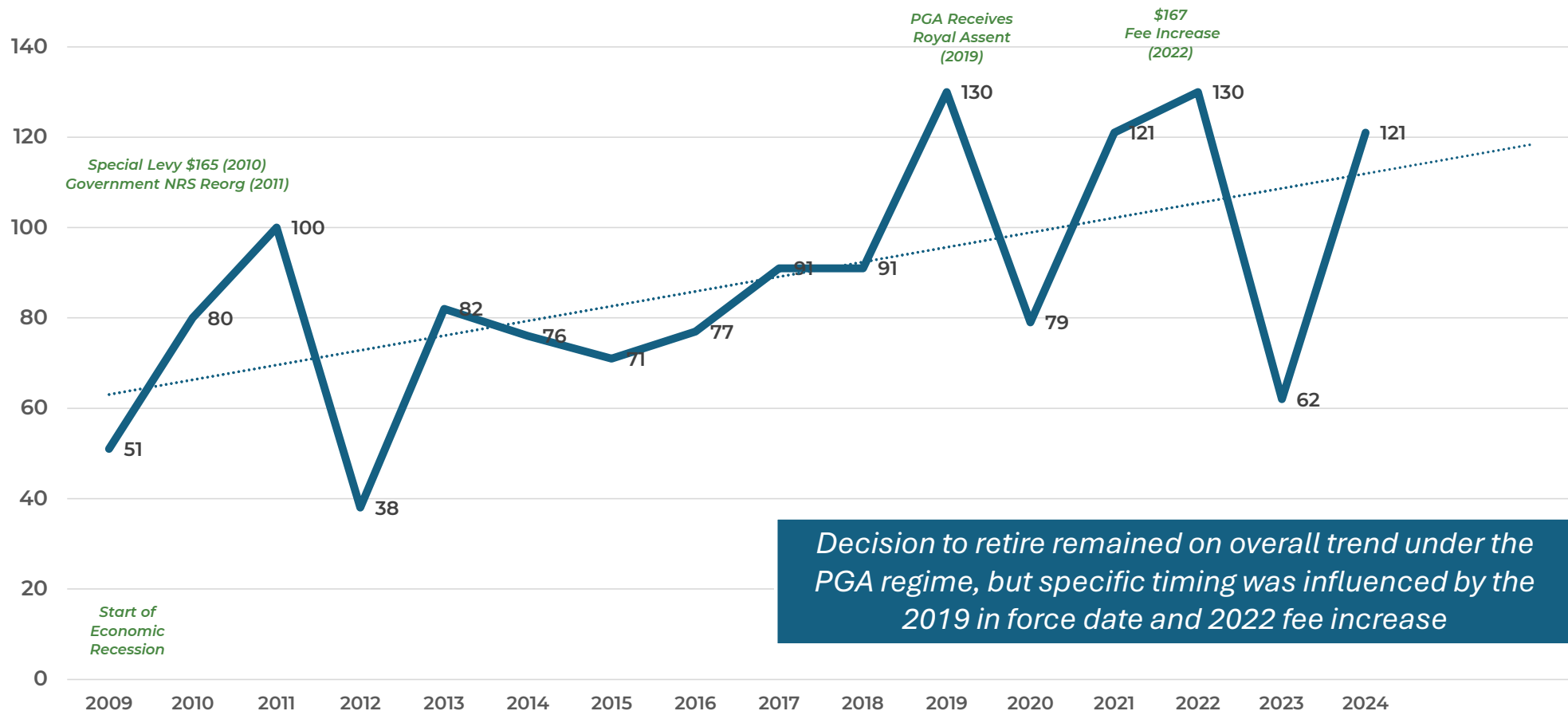
Annual Resignations

Registration Implications of PGA



**Forest
Professionals**
BRITISH COLUMBIA

www.fpbc.ca



Retirement from Practice

Registration Implications of PGA



**Forest
Professionals**
BRITISH COLUMBIA

www.fpbc.ca

4. External Regulatory Awareness

- Professional Pride: registrants reported greater pride as employers and the public better recognized the value of regulated professionals
- More Professional Complaints: number of complaints received annually more than tripled
- New Practice Complaints: began to receive unlawful practice and title inquiries and concerns; prompted formalization and expansion of new business area program



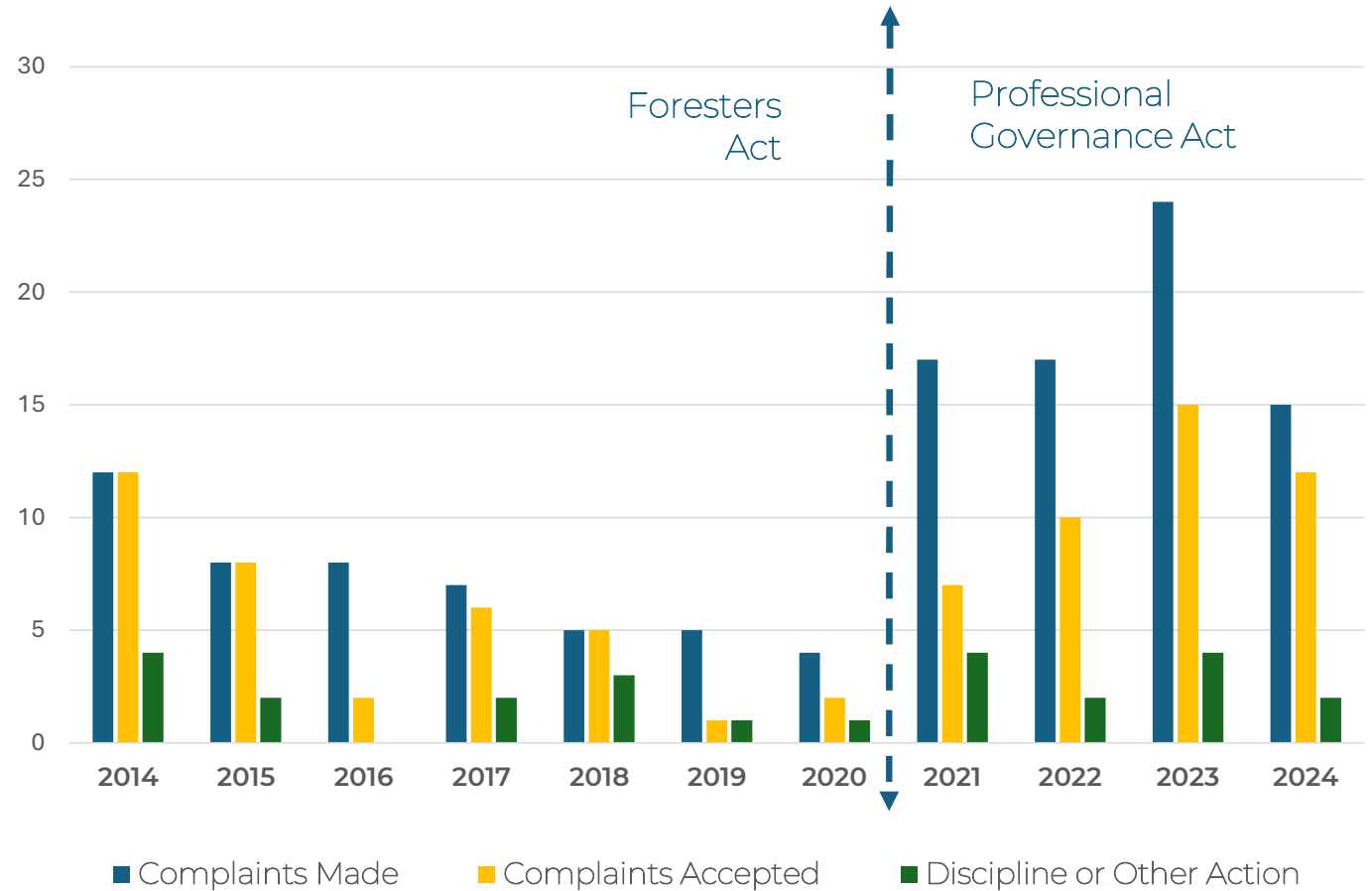
Culture Shift



Forest
Professionals
BRITISH COLUMBIA

www.fpbc.ca

Complaints Received



Rising Complaint Workload



Forest
Professionals
BRITISH COLUMBIA

www.fpbc.ca

1. Operating Costs & Fees
2. Workforce Implications
3. Technology as a Solution



Capacity and Cost Impact



Forest
Professionals
BRITISH COLUMBIA

www.fpbc.ca

Transition Costs (One time)

- 2019-2022: \$1.5 M

Higher Sustained Costs to Operate

- 2019 Budget - \$2.8 M
(16.5 staff, 5500 all registrants – 4,779 excluding retired)
- 2024 Budget - \$4.3M
(19 staff, 4950 registrants – 4,345 excluding retired)
- Required Budget? \$5.5 M *(22 staff)*

Strategic Technology Investment

- Approx \$1.5 M (2023-2025)
(improved technology platforms streamline administrative workload at the same time as formalizing procedures needed for more complex regulation)



Capacity and Cost Impact



Forest
Professionals
BRITISH COLUMBIA

www.fpbc.ca

Funding the change

1. Annual Registration Fee Increases

- 150% increase since the PGA
- \$554 (2019), \$838 (2025)

2. Revenue Generation

- \$164k (2019)
- \$800k (2025)

3. Regulatory Growth (long-term)

- New designations, limited licences

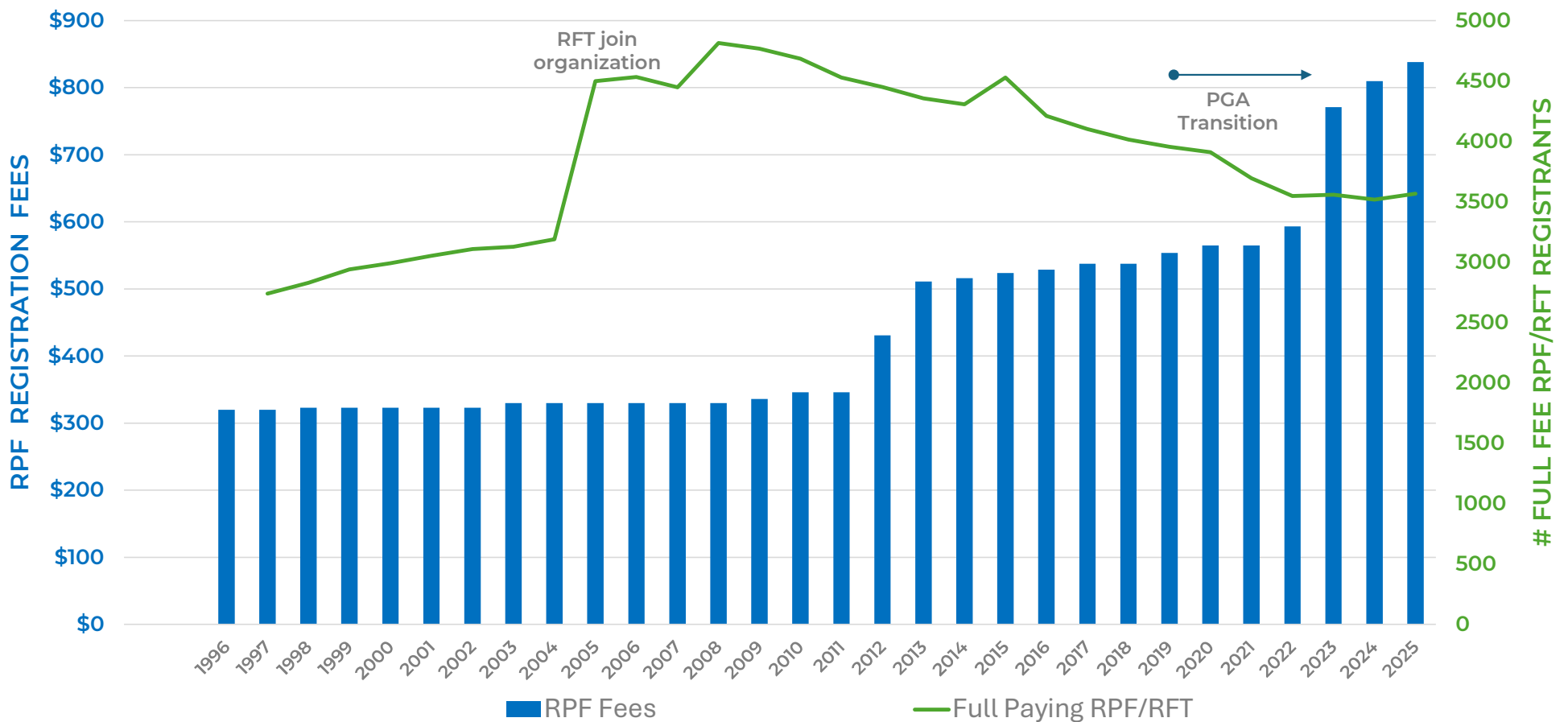


Capacity and Cost Impact



Forest
Professionals
BRITISH COLUMBIA

www.fpbc.ca

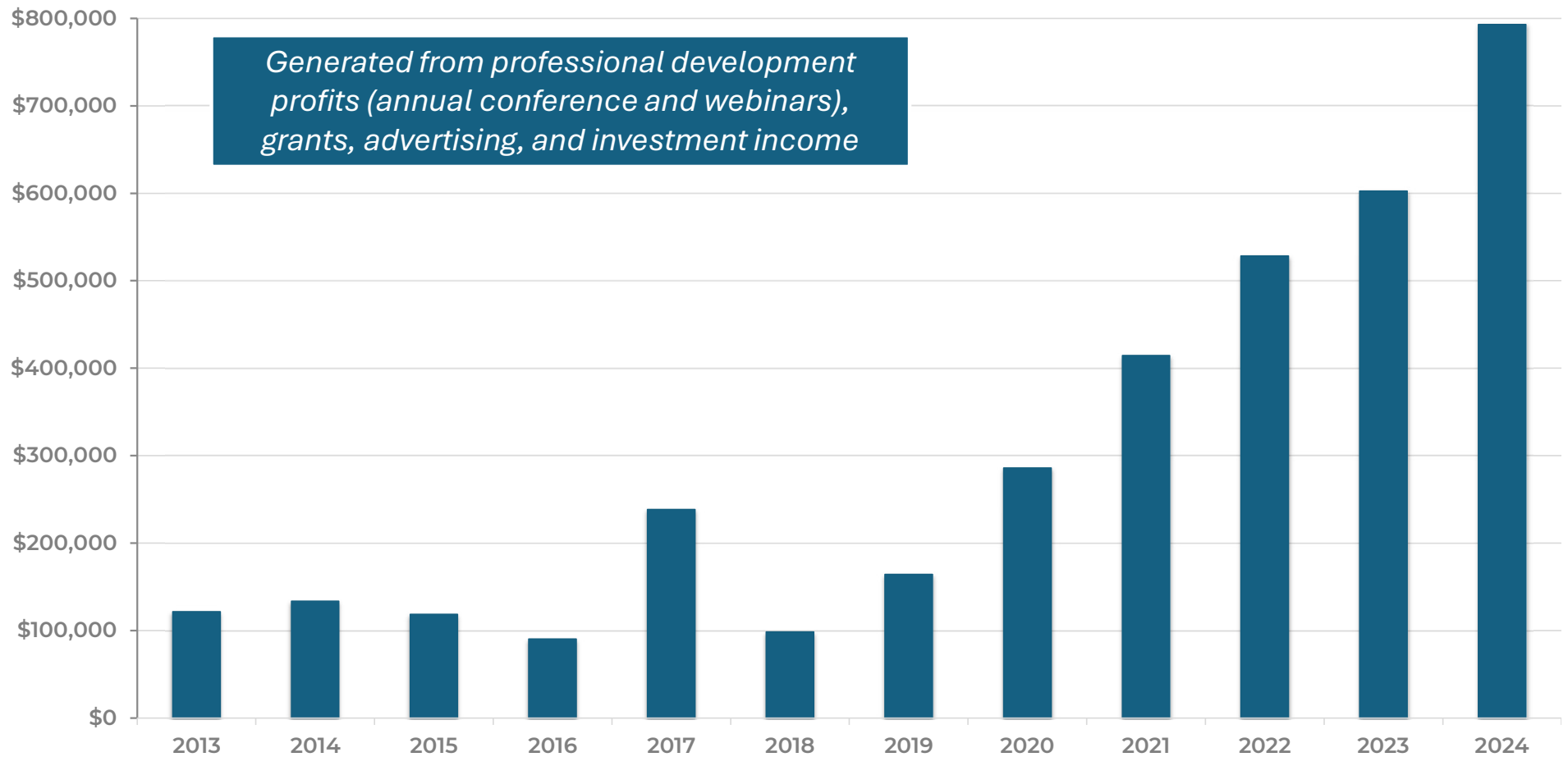


Practicing Fees Over Time



Forest
Professionals
BRITISH COLUMBIA

www.fpbc.ca



Growing Non-Fee Revenue



Forest
Professionals
BRITISH COLUMBIA

www.fpbc.ca



Forest
Professionals
BRITISH COLUMBIA

Summary closing

If given the choice to
come under the PGA?

Yes, with caveats.