

NEWS RELEASE

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**BC Community Forest Association Celebrates
15-Year Anniversary**



TUMBLER RIDGE, BC -

Surrounded by spectacular natural beauty, Tumbler Ridge was the perfect setting for the BC Community Forest Association to celebrate its 15-year anniversary. Delegates came from around the province to attend the annual conference, hosted by the Tumbler Ridge Community Forest.

During the 3-day event, conference participants were treated to local hospitality and viewed first hand the incredible dinosaur finds that have put Tumbler Ridge on the map as a UNESCO Global Geopark, only the second in North America. The program included a field trip into the community forest to see treatments used to protect the town from wildfire, along with presentations and workshops on a range of topics important to community forest practitioners.

The Harrop-Procter Community Co-Operative was awarded the Robin Hood Memorial Award for Excellence in Community Forestry. In its second year, this \$10,000 grant honours past president of the BCCFA and community forest champion, Robin Hood. Established in 2016, the prize is awarded annually by the Ministry of Forests Lands and Natural Resource Operations to the community forest that best exemplifies the core values of the B.C. community forest program - values such as community leadership, providing local and social economic opportunity and passion for community forestry.

As one of the original community forest pilots in BC, Harrop-Procter's co-operative structure has set them apart as a leader in the community forest movement. They have exhibited strong leadership through climate change adaptation, with a focus on reducing wildfire hazard. An FSC certified operation, they have harvested successfully in sensitive viewsapes and watersheds. Aiming to get as much value as possible from their timber, they operate a small value-added sawmill that provides approximately seven times the number of jobs per cubic metre than the provincial average.

"There couldn't be a more deserving recipient of the Robin Hood Memorial Award. The Harrop-Procter Community Forest has been a trail blazer ever since its inception in 1999. Their commitment to forest stewardship and innovation has set an example for everyone working in community forestry in BC and elsewhere" – Jennifer Gunter, BCCFA Executive Director

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Contact: Susan Mulkey
BCCFA, Manager of Communication and Extension
250 353 1477
smulkey@bccfa.ca

For more information on the Tumbler Ridge Community Forest contact Duncan McKellar RPF. Forest Operations
Manager: dcmckellar@telus.net

For more information on the BC Community Forest Association visit: www.bccfa.ca