



British Columbia  
**Community  
Forest**  
**Association**

local people, local forests, local decisions

## 2017 BCCFA CONFERENCE AND AGM CONFERENCE SUMMARY REPORT

JUNE 15 -17 TUMBLER RIDGE, BC



TUMBLER RIDGE  
**COMMUNITY  
FOREST**

# 2017 BCCFA Conference and AGM

## Conference Summary Report

June 15 -17 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 event took place on land long called home by Indigenous communities: The Beaver (Dunne-za), Salteau, Sekani (Tse Khene), Cree and Metis, McLeod Lake Indian Band, Saulteau First Nation, West Moberly First Nation and The Kelly Lake Cree First Nation, Kelly Lake First Nation and the Kelly Lake Metis Settlement Society.

Thank you to our Tumbler Ridge hosts, volunteers, sponsors and speakers for making the event such a great success.

Appreciation goes to every delegate who made the time to get there and to participate in the networking. We value each and every individual contribution.



A big thank you to Marie Ange Fournier-Beck from Kaslo Community Forest for the notes that helped to form this report. Photo credits go to Jennifer Gunter, Marie Ange Fournier-Beck, Susan Mulkey and Trent Ernst, local professional photographer.

## A Message from the BCCFA President



This year marks the 15th anniversary of the BCCFA and we will be celebrating our journey together. The community forest agreement (CFA) began as a pilot, initiated by the BC NDP government in 1998 through the Jobs and Timber Accord. Under the BC Liberals, the pilot program quickly became operational, and the new forest tenure took hold. In 2002 the need to build a network of community forests in the province was realized, and the BCCFA was established. The Forestry Revitalization Plan and timber reallocation of 2003 demonstrated the provincial government's intention to grow the community forest program. By 2005, 33 new communities were invited to apply for a CFA, significantly expanding the program. The changes to the Forest Act and regulations in 2009 created certainty for community forests through the long term 25 year replaceable licenses. Today, the CFA program includes 60 organizations and continues to grow. Over the past 15 years we have seen that community forestry is a concept that has broad support in BC. The BCCFA commits to working with the provincial government to strengthen community forests and to continue to expand the opportunities for communities to access the program. **Erik Leslie**

### A few comments on the Tumbler Ridge conference experience

*"Loved the structure and 'phased' sessions from listening and learning to engagement."*

*"Always useful to connect with others across the province to share knowledge."*

*"There was so much information that was pertinent to our community forest situation."*

*"The managers engaged in discussion and were open to sharing their experiences with each other. It seems that the BCCFA enables the development of strong member relations and trust relationships. "*

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## Local Volunteers and Staff

The BCCFA would like to thank the following people for their substantial contributions to the conference

### **Tumbler Ridge Community Forest Board**

Tim Caldwell, Chair & President

Rob MacKay, Co-Chair

Jeanette McDougall, Director & Corporate Secretary

Doug Beale, Director

Marsha Dufrense, Director

Jonathon Howe, Director

### **Tumbler Ridge Community Forest Staff**

Duncan McKellar, Forest Operations Manager

Lydia Hibbing, Conference Coordinator

### **Tumbler Ridge Volunteers**

Susan McKellar

Lesli Mackay

Adam Thompson, Urban Systems

Dan Boyd, Hi Sky Enterprises

Matt Peasgood, DWB Consulting

Steve Mulholland, Wildfire Branch

Rick Grayston, Wildfire Branch

Budd Phillips, Worksafe BC

Jay Greenfield, Ecora

Dani Taillon, Ecora

Sarah Waters, Tumbler Ridge Geopark

Dianna Gies



Windmills on the hill above the town of  
Tumbler Ridge



## DAY 1 – June 15, 2017

### Field Tour to Tumbler Ridge Community Forest (TRCF) & Local Special Features

We woke early to the sunshine, grateful that the rain clouds had dispersed. We walked the short distance from the Trend Hotel to the Kinuseo Café at the Tumbler Ridge Inn – where they had a healthy and hearty breakfast buffet for the conference attendees. It was a great opportunity to connect with old friends and colleagues and meet some new faces. Duncan McKellar, the Manager of the TRCF prepared a great hand out for the field tour that focused on the interface work they have been doing. Much of the CF borders on the town. TRCF managed the town land in conjunction with the CF land. The Field Tour Notes are on the BCCFA website at <http://bccfa.ca/wp-content/uploads/2017/02/TRCF-Field-Notes-BCCFA-2017.pdf>



#### Highlights of TRCF Lessons Learned

- Can't be a "one-size fits all" when it comes to prescriptions – they differ from community to community and block by block.
- Need to be innovative in engaging community. Management must step out beyond board and CF meetings and go to other public events/engagements just to get the opportunity to talk about what's going on.
- The interface work can help to develop trust with the community (social license). What started as "take all the pine" project changed because of consultation and identification of sensitive areas.
- Pre Harvest signs were placed to let people know what was going to happen. Post Harvest signs were provided to let people know what happened and why.
- Ken Day (Williams Lake CF) brought up that it is impossible to maximize everything (all values of the community). He suggests optimizing rather than satisfying all. Target 80% satisfaction.
- There was extensive consultation and public meetings, posters, social media, newspaper ads, signage and personal tours.

- Planned for multi-use outcomes where ever possible. Stayed back from existing trails and managed trails within the block. On one block they built a bike trail and laid the foundation for a future interpretive trail.
- Minimized road construction. Planted pullouts immediately.
- On the land owned by the town they had more flexibility with treatment and deliverables. The TRCF also considered the Official Community Plan as input to their plan.
- Consulted with Wildfire Branch on debris options. They recommended to wait a year on one block.
- On one block, TRCF amended the silvicultural plan from multi story to single story and updated stocking standards to allow for a Layered Survey on the stand. This type of survey is suitable for stand structures that are:
  - Managed on an even-aged management regime, with no planned multiple entry system.
  - Low basal area (<10m<sup>2</sup>) is retained onsite post-harvest.
  - Stems retained post-harvest are of acceptable health and vigor to contribute to stocking and free growing tallies and the next rotational harvest volumes.



Duncan McKellar  
Manager, TRCF

### **Community Forest Data Management (GIS) and its use with the Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) Program**

TRCF has been working with Ecora to integrate the use of the ESRI-based interactive mapping tool that was further developed by Ecora for TRCF use. The presentation is on the BCCFA website at <http://bccfa.ca/wp-content/uploads/2017/02/TR-GIS-and-Field-Trip.pdf>

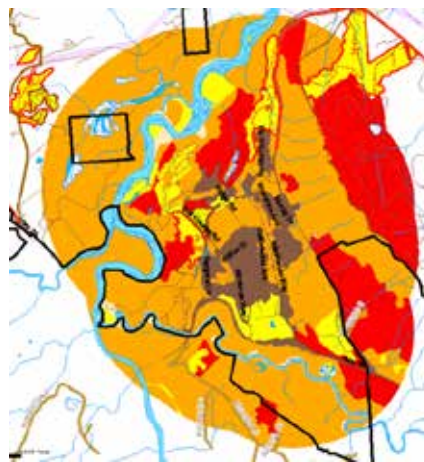
- Duncan McKellar gave an excellent presentation of the usefulness of the tool.
- He commends how helpful it is for public consultation and connecting with community, and helps develop social licence.
- Mapping/software helps manager make posters and maps when necessary (screen shots, etc.)
- The mapping tool has built in tools that were specially-designed for CF forest operations like “Find Timber” and other query tools for analysis (track line work for road planning, harvest
- Great for working with other user groups, rec/trails for example.







### TRCF Threat Class Map 2016



### Example from CP3 Block 21 Horse Stable Block

- TRCF worked with the local horse club members and hiking club to design a harvest that incorporates recreational outcomes.
- Created a wide right of way at block entrance.
- Various existing trails to manage.
- Rehabilitated the block road into the old wagon trail.
- Created trail loops and connections and a snowshoe trail in addition to a x-country ski trail.
- They estimated 13,000m<sup>3</sup> and removed 11,300m<sup>3</sup>.
- They sent approximately 300 m<sup>3</sup> of tops to Duz Cho in Mackenzie who uses small dimension logs.
- May have to do a second entry.
- There was an issue of burning piles close to horse stable. Received some comments on the debris left behind on the ground.
- Experienced some Worksafe issues on block working near standing trees.
- Plan to plant at 800 SPH.

**CP3 Block 20 Horse Trail Block Pre Harvest**



**CP3 Block 20 Horse Trail Block Post Harvest**



**Aerial Photo CP 3 Block 21 - June 6, 2017**



**End of Day Hike to Cabin Creek and the Dinosaur Tracks**



Ankylosaur tracks in the riverbed rock

## Thursday evening – Opening Reception at the Dinosaur Discovery Gallery

The Museum was the perfect setting for the opening reception. We gathered around the wonderful displays of prehistoric findings – mostly found locally.



Opening remarks were given by BCCFA president, Erik Leslie and TRCF Board Chair, Tim Caldwell.

The opening prayer was given by George Desjarlais, Elder/Forestry Technician/Caucasian Specialist for the West Moberly First Nations Land Department.

Special treatment - Delegates were invited to the behind the scenes tour of the area where paleontologist technicians and researchers work on the fossils.



George Desjarlais



L to R - Dr. Charles Helm, Jennifer Gunter, Richard McCrea, Duncan McKellar



Our TR Hosts brought out the children with a great Family and Spousal Program



## Day 2 – Friday, June 16, 2017

### Provincial Forest Sector Outlook - Chris Stagg Assistant Deputy Minister

Ministry of Forests Lands and Natural Resource Operations, Timber Operations, Pricing and First Nations Division (FLNRO)

The presentation is on the BCCFA website at <http://bccfa.ca/wp-content/uploads/2017/02/Chris-Stagg-BCCFA-AGM-June-8-2017-Stagg.pdf>

#### Softwood Lumber Agreement (SLA)

- Softwood lumber products accounted for nearly 50% of all B.C. forest product exports value.
- BC produced about 50% of all Canadian softwood lumber, accounted for about 55% of Canada's exports to the US.
- BC Contributes significantly to Canadian employment and trade to the US.
- BC will continue to press for a new managed trade agreement that works for B.C., since managed trade is preferable to costly and lengthy litigation.
- US is investigating five Canadian exporters – Canfor, West Fraser, Tolko, Resolute, and J.D. Irving Limited. Each company will be assessed a specific subsidy & dumping duty rate. All other companies will receive an average rate based on the five company rates.
- April 24: US issued preliminary decision on subsidy.

Canfor: 20.26%	West Fraser: 24.12%
Tolko: 19.50%	Irving: 3.02%
Resolute: 12.82%	All other companies: 19.88%

- January 2018: Final determination.
  - Companies will have 30 days to request an expedited review to establish a company specific rate.
  - Canada can appeal through the WTO, and either NAFTA or the U.S. Court of International Trade.

#### First Nations Relations

- Tsilhqot'in Nation decision in 2014, and since then government has been developing new tools to help government address obligations for accommodation. In 2015 the province began to negotiate new agreements to help create stability.
- Looks to BCCFA to support the Provincial First Nations Forestry Strategy by continuing to work with First Nations.
- Encourages CFs to continue to work closely with First Nations, "This is a great opportunity to bring all groups together."

#### Funding Opportunities

- Forest Enhancement Society (est. 2016) \$235 million  
Society established to prevent and mitigate wildfires, improve low value forests, wildlife habitat and fibre utilization, and reduce GHG emissions.

- Rural Dividend Fund \$25 million/year over 4 years.

For communities of <25,000. Project funding earmarked for rural economic diversification. Third intake closed May 31, 2017.

- Forests for Tomorrow (FFT)

The Forests for Tomorrow Program was established by the Province of B.C. in 2005 to respond to the catastrophic wildfires that occurred in the southern and central interior, and to the mountain pine beetle epidemic.

- Strategic Wildfire Protection Initiative (SWPI)

The Strategic Wildfire Prevention Initiative is a suite of funding programs administered by UBCM and managed through the Strategic Wildfire Prevention Working Group. Since 2004, the initiative has supported communities to mitigate risk from wildfire in the wildland urban interface.

- Forest Carbon Initiative (FCI)

Objective to grow carbon and avoid emissions. Funding now available through \$150million contribution to FES. FLNR looking for short term opportunities (this fiscal) with CFAs.

## Forest Sector Working Together - Nikki Lachance, Director of Operations

Ministry of Forests Lands and Natural Resource Operations Tenures, Competitiveness and Innovations Division

The presentation is on the BCCFA website at [http://bccfa.ca/wp-content/uploads/2017/02/BNikki-la-ChanceCCFA\\_presentation-June-6-draft-CLEAN-draft-June-14.pdf](http://bccfa.ca/wp-content/uploads/2017/02/BNikki-la-ChanceCCFA_presentation-June-6-draft-CLEAN-draft-June-14.pdf)

- Maintaining a competitive forest sector in BC involves consideration of three interconnected goals: Healthy resilient forests, a diverse, globally competitive industry and stable communities and First Nations partners. Each of these goals requires support from, and in turn sustains, the others. Recognizing this interdependency provides a framework to engage broadly on ways to ensure that BC maintains a healthy, resilient and competitive forest sector.





## Community Forest Program Update - Emma Neil, Senior Timber Tenures Forester

Ministry of Forests Lands and Natural Resource Operations, Tenures Branch

The presentation is on the BCCFA website at [http://bccfa.ca/wp-content/uploads/2017/02/Emma-Neill-BCCFA\\_AGM\\_2017\\_Neill.pdf](http://bccfa.ca/wp-content/uploads/2017/02/Emma-Neill-BCCFA_AGM_2017_Neill.pdf)

Emma gave an update on the status of the program and relevant regulatory changes.

## Overview of BC Land Based Funding - Doug Stewart, Director

Ministry of Forests Lands and Natural Resource Operations, Forest Tenures Branch

The presentation is on the BCCFA website at <http://bccfa.ca/wp-content/uploads/2017/02/1145-BCCFA-Doug.pdf>

Doug discussed the financial opportunities for investment in the community forest land base, including the new Forest Carbon Initiative, Forest Enhancement Society and Rural Dividend.

## BCCFA Executive Director's Update

Jennifer Gunter, BCCFA Executive Director

The presentation is on the BCCFA website at <http://bccfa.ca/wp-content/uploads/2017/02/JGunter-for-BCCFA-Conference-2017.pdf>

2017 marks the 15-year anniversary of the BCCFA. Our 52 members represent over 80 communities around BC. Forty percent of our members are First Nations communities, or partnerships involving First Nations. Jennifer highlighted the work of the Association in the past year and shared input from our members on priorities for the future.

## Community Forest Showcase – Little Prairie Community Forest

Jeff Beale, President

The presentation is on the BCCFA website at [http://bccfa.ca/wp-content/uploads/2017/02/1130-LPCF-B2B\\_rev-BCCFA\\_Tumbler-Ridge.pdf](http://bccfa.ca/wp-content/uploads/2017/02/1130-LPCF-B2B_rev-BCCFA_Tumbler-Ridge.pdf)

- The Little Prairie Community Forest has three community partners: West Moberly First Nation, Saulteau First Nation and District of Chetwynd
- Made to be responsible → The First Nation partners “hold our feet to the fire”
- The CF is developing a native plants initiative for traditional foods and uses
- Berry patch management strategy; avoid disturbance in salvage areas
- The Cultural Area Indicators are assessed with First Nations
- Firewood allocation to First Nation partners (2 logging trucks)
- Informational signage is posted in 3 different languages.



Silvicultural alternatives on the Little Prairie Community Forest

Sheep herds are brought in every year (200+ animals) in recognition of the no herbicide use requirements, an agreement between Moberly First Nation and the Province.

## Presentation on Liability on Volunteer Projects on the Community Forest - John Hawkings, Director

Ministry of Forests Lands and Natural Resource Operations, Recreation Sites and Trails

The presentation is on the BCCFA website at [http://bccfa.ca/wp-content/uploads/2017/02/John-Hawkings-TrailsCommForestAssoc\\_2017.pdf](http://bccfa.ca/wp-content/uploads/2017/02/John-Hawkings-TrailsCommForestAssoc_2017.pdf)

- Encouraged CF Board and Managers to read the “Occupiers of Liability Act”, a very readable piece of legislation.
- Trails do not need to be insured, the governments/organisations do need to be insured; just because one group is insured (ex. trails group), does not mean the other assoc. or group is “covered” – each need to be covered (trails society and CF for example).
- CFs have a “duty to not act with reckless disregard and cause harm”
- CF should ensure appropriate risk management: trail standards, signage, inspection program

## Board of Directors Session

Facilitated by Susan Mulkey and Carolyn Whittaker



Discussions included the following topics:

- How to conduct meetings (invite public, formal, informal?)
- Shareholders and Shareholder relationships, how to report to the shareholders
- Conflict of Interest: BCCFA has template to share. BCCFA has a suite of agreements like code of conduct, etc.
- Structure of the Board (Governance): Very important to define clear roles of all parties, and to define reporting requirements and responsibilities.
- Lines of Communications between Board and Management and employees - There should be a collective voice of the Board to the Manager.
- Insurance and liability – See notes and presentation
- Managing Opposition: Walter (NACFOR) - “information and dialogue is very powerful, and helps a CF remain credible.” Other points: create a safe space for communication, respect to be had always; engage as early and as often as possible.
- Municipality as sole shareholder: Management of a CF should have long term planning horizons and not be impacted by the 4 yr election cycle. Refer to the *Shareholder Corporation Contract* for information on best practices <http://bccfa.ca/wp-content/uploads/2016/09/BCCFA-Contract-Guidebook-web.pdf>
- *Action: BCCFA is requested to develop a section on the website for sample policy templates.*

## Managers Session

Facilitated by Jennifer Gunter and Erik Leslie

During the 2-hour Managers Session, the following topics were discussed. The first 3 were identified prior to the session through a pre-conference survey of BCCFA members. The others were brought up as priority topics during the open discussion.

1. FESBC/FFT/SWPI funding

- *Action: BCCFA Executive Director Jennifer Gunter to set up a working group with Doug Stewart, FLNRO. Working Group will include those with operational experience with CPs to help us come up with something that works with the legislation.*

The discussion began with comments from community forest managers about the challenges of applying for funding from the Forest Enhancement Society BC.

- Application process and administration is too complex, unclear and time consuming.

Logan Lake:

- Logan Lake CFA was successful in their second attempt for FESBC funding. Their project was approved the second time after more discussion with district staff. Approval was conditional, but need a formal letter from fuel management and district as letters of support. Logan Lake does \$250,000/year from SWPI as well.
- Logan Lake's second proposal is for dealing with dead pine after uplift. Non-economic dead pine is what is left. Site prep with FESB and reforestation is FFT. They liked the phased proposals.
- Try to achieve a prescription and operations plan every year for future activity.
- Garnet – SWPI program is very difficult to work with. Sometimes you wait 15 months to get paid.

Williams Lake:

- CFA needs to make revenue so there is a lack of incentive to work with the programs as they are currently set up because any revenue from the project must be used to offset project costs. We stand on the principle that CF needs to make money. First FESBC proposal was successful after 3 tries to harvest outside the THLB. WLCF sold logs and FESBC topped up the rest of the cost.
- WLCF landscape level fuel break – the district wants it to happen. Proposal was we take the revenue from the logs and FESBC supports the non-commercial part of the work.

Slocan Valley - SIFCO:

- Erik shared info on SIFCO FESBC project. \$300,000. Logging shaded fuel breaks. We will do logging show, do standard clean up. After we have met regular obligations, then a higher level clean up in the WUI will be funded. This was a pilot situation and may not be allowed anymore.

FLNRO perspective:

- Doug: There is so much that can be done now in FESBC. Community forests should definitely apply for funding for planning & prescriptions.
- Resource practices branch has been trying to come up with landscape level planning, to the process is not so proponent driven. Cariboo is leading this work. They will be looking at all the different funding opportunities. But the focus is on TSAs, not on CFAs & WLs.
- New point people will be hired, about 8 people. They will focus on forest carbon.
- If your project is within 2km WUI, you need to first go through UBCM and FNESS
- Doug has a working group, his focus is on DM authorization

- We are trying to get the last of the fibre out of the bush that is uneconomic and get a better crop growing. When you have a TSA project, there is always competition for the wood. But in a CFA: whoever does the harvesting is responsible for the reforestation, so government can't pay for an obligation. How can we authorize harvesting in a CFA and support treatments with funding?

#### Discussion:

- Duncan suggested the idea of a retroactive rebate.
- Ken: Teasing apart the costs you are obliged to take on vs those that you don't need to. But that doesn't always work. Want to harvest sawlog and biomass at the same time. What's the pro forma for the entire block?
- McLeod Lake Mackenzie Community Forest – lack of good information about the application process means they missed opportunities.
- Provincial strategic threat analysis – FBCWA mapping project.
- BCCFA could apply for a province wide project if there was one. Feedback is that CFAs are so varied in size & location that a project like the FBCWA one might not be helpful. Efforts are better made at the licensee level.
- Garnet – our proposal is that our CFA is the asset that needs to be protected.
- Action: Jen to set up a working group with Doug Stewart, FLNRO. Working Group will include those with operational experience with CPs to help us come up with something that works with the legislation.

#### 2. Softwood Lumber

- *Action: BCCFA to continue to monitor and collect information as needed.*
- *Communities are encouraged keep an eye out for federal programs that could help impacted workers.*
- Doug gave an update on what FLNRO is currently working on.
- BCCFA has been working on collecting information to support CFAs.
- Keep an eye out for federal programs that could help impacted workers.
- Log prices are high because there is a lack of supply.

#### 3. First Nations Relationships

- *Action: Jen to connect with First Nations Forestry Council to discuss mutual interests & opportunities for collaboration.*
- *Action: BCCFA to find out if there is provincial funding for AOAs and traditional use studies.*
- *Action: Funding for more AOAs & traditional use studies would be very helpful. Jen to ask Chris Stagg about this.*

The question was raised whether the BCCFA should grow to include FNWLs? Recommendation that it would be best for the BCCFA to connect with First Nations Forestry Council..

Zoe asked about non First Nations CFAs – what are they doing to build relationships?



- Answers shared
- Steve Law – have problem with referrals
- Wells Gray spent \$40,000 on CFA wide AOA, this was very positive.
- Jeff Beal - Little Prairie – Have reps on the board. Community engagement meetings are so important. Hold AGMs in their communities as well.
- How about \$ for traditional land use study?
- Could be Rural Dividend funding
- Garnet – FN engagement costs us \$1/m3 more.

#### 4. Waste Assessment

- *Action: Jen will work with FBCWA to raise awareness with decision-makers that the measurement & billing system is not working for CFAs & WLs.*
- *Action: Doug will give an update to the BCCFA board in the Grade 4 Credit Working Group.*

Issue for CFAs is that the measurement system is costlier than the bill is.

- *Action get an update from Doug at JWG and for Board.*
- *Action: Jen to keep monitoring Waste file & figure out if it is a priority for BCCFA members.*
- It is not a problem for all managers.
- Doug explained that waste measurement procedures have not been accurate. Pricing Branch is working on this. It is an issue provincially.
- Grade 4 Credit – Tenures Branch has a working group. Priority is looking at dry grade 4 to see if rules can change

#### 5. Fire

- *Recommendation: All CFA managers should have conversations with zone fire fighter/wildfire service. – 1) do they know where your community forest is? 2) ask: Will you call me when you get a report on the CFA?*

Ken Day reported on having fire in the CFA.

- Wildfire service has a new policy in place. If you give this fire over to us, we can't release it back to you (not for mop up, or monitoring), and if we find it to be your fault we will charge you our costs.
- Gord Chipman: section 9.1 – talks about who is responsible for a fire. If you have an active operation and there is a fire within 1 km, you are responsible to action that fire and get equipment within 30 km.
- C&E will now do the investigation on cause of fire.
- If Wildfire Management branch must action the fire, and if you caused it, you will get charged. This is a slight change over past policy. Fire centres are now enforcing this. Fire mgmt. wouldn't participate in Ken's fire. But there is a program to reimburse costs.

- A conversation by managers with zone fire fighter/wildfire services is warranted – 1) do they know where your community forest is? 2) will you call me when you get a report on the CFA?

## 6. Trails & Liability

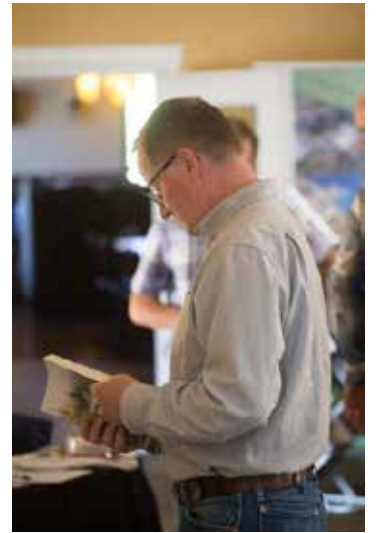
- *Action: BCCFA to coordinate more discussion & learning opportunities, maybe a webinar with John Hawkings. Look at UBCM on liability & risk management*
- Some CFs very concerned about liability around trails and do not have a full understanding of it
- Reduce your exposure to risk.
- Strike agreement with a user group.
- Action: Brooke said to look at UBCM on liability & risk management
- Group would like more discussion. Consider a webinar with John Hawkings.

7. Mieke Siegner – UBC Masters Student: looking at how CFs in BC organize themselves with managers. Different approaches, in house or contracted out, etc. She will be developing her research project and would like to work with CFAs.

## Banquet and Celebration of BCCFA 15<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

- Silent Auction – Earned \$ 1700, the highest return on a silent auction in BCCFA history!
- BCCFA Board and Staff Recognition: Susan and Jen were recognized for their contributions to the BCCFA. “They shaped the community forest association more than anyone else”.
- Jeannette from Tumbler Ridge was recognized for her hard work and long volunteer hours to put conference together.
- 3D dinosaur napkin rings and BCCFA water bottles decorated the tables.

## Banquet Photos











### Robin Hood Memorial Award for Excellence in Community Forestry

Harrop-Procter Community Forest Co-Operative (HP) wins the \$10,000 Robin Hood Memorial Award for Excellence in Community Forestry. Presented by Chris Stagg, Assistant Deputy Minister, MLFNRO said that HP – “best exemplifies core values of CF program”. The award developed to celebrate Robin’s legacy, his vision of leadership and community spirit.

Eric Leslie accepted the award: “Harrop-Proctor was built with a vision from many dedicated community members.”



Robin Hood Memorial Award Chris Stagg and Erik Leslie

## **Day 3 – Saturday, June 17, 2017**

### **BCCFA 2017 AGM**

See separate draft minutes in Member's July 2017 Newsletter, or contact [smulkey@bccfa.ca](mailto:smulkey@bccfa.ca)

## Community Engagement, Building Trust and Cultivating Social License

Firelight Group – Carolyn Whittaker and George Van

Notes compiled by George Van <http://www.thefirelightgroup.com/>

The presentation is on the BCCFA website at <http://bccfa.ca/wp-content/uploads/2017/02/Carolyn-Whittaker-Social-License-June-17-2017.pdf>



*A breakout group discusses how to deal with poor community support during the Social License workshop.*

***“Engage/consult early with stakeholders and First Nations. Identify key contacts”***

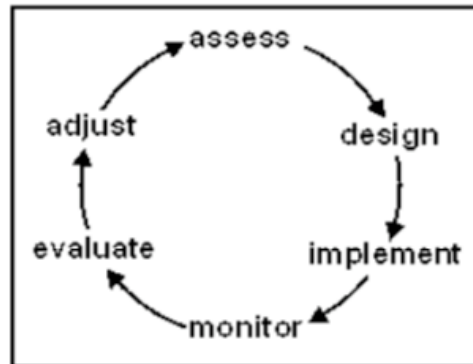
***“Adapt your management plans using public input”***

***“If you say you’re going to do something, follow through and do it”***

### **Management Tips**

- Educate yourselves and the Board
- Seek mandate
- If possible, structure your board to encompass a wide range of knowledge
- Get to know your interest groups. Understand what they value, identify who to talk to and who to report to.
- When are groups consulted? Leaving consultation too late risks credibility and trust.

- Address legacy problems and misinformation; admit to your own mistakes.
- Report backs to community members are critical, and these can be done through meetings in community halls (free food always brings people out), invitations to the office, taking people interested out on field trips, etc.
- Educate, adapt management, and adjust operations.



**Adaptive Management:** Source ESSA Inc.

## Tools

These tools, among many others, can be used to cultivate and maintain social license:

- Sustained credibility
- Consistent message
- Communication strategy
- Science, or professional opinions
- Mediation

## Suggestions for the BCCFA

- Continue sharing success stories from across BC
- Create a database or forum of knowledge so that we can see who has encountered similar issues, so that I can contact that person and learn about the best approach (“A telephone call can save me \$10,000”). Susan already is facilitating this with knowledge in her head – is it possible to make it public access?
- Add a “Social License” chapter in Community Forest Guidebook
- “Engagement Toolkit” could be useful to provide steps, guidance, measures, approaches, and methods in engaging communities.

## Wildfire Management Example

One group recorded multiple suggestions for a wildfire management approach to community engagement.

- Local Wildfire Protection Plan identifies high risk areas – so take the areas and show the community what you are going to do there
  - Consider computer modelling of different treatment options on an area

- Use examples from previously treated areas
- Use social media to circulate plans and monitor comments. Use this opportunity to clarify misunderstandings/misconceptions
- Options for burning slash vs chipping etc. Contractor can choose
- Timing of burning for lowest impact on wildlife, smoke concerns
- Do what you say you will do; build trust by doing what you said
- Overstate impacts rather than under, and give yourself a margin
- Be as specific as possible about timing to reduce alarm
- Engage local Fire Department to be on the ready
- Notices on trails
- Do small projects to gain trust
- Allow for creation of new opportunities for recreation post-treatment – biking, skiing, etc.
- Engage risk management experts
- Points of Diversion (POD) – get them properly located. Requires getting out there with landowner or water user.
- “Here is my plan...”
  - This is a draft, our ideas, proposals, interests and thoughts. What are your thoughts?
  - Do NOT simply decide and defend
  - Here is the risk we see, here are our goals, here are our tools.

#### What does “Social License” mean to you?

BCCFA members recently participated in a survey to identify their sense of the phrase social license.





### Additional Comments

- “Gaining social licence is going further than nobody said no”
- FPIC – Free, Prior, Informed, Consent - 'Free prior and informed consent' (**FPIC**), is the “principle that a community has the right to give or withhold its consent to proposed projects that may affect the lands they customarily own, occupy or otherwise use.”
- Feedback BCCFA Pre-Conference Member Survey results on the question of “what is social license”:
  - Ability to operate without opposition, manage conflict, build social cohesion, ensure your goals align with community goals.
  - Some challenges: changing perceptions, lack of trust, time and money pressures, coming from “behind”, negative legacies, poor practices, poor understanding (baggage).
  - Process: set goals, identify key community influencers, listen to values of interest, adapt objectives, identify tools or actions, ask the question: who needs to be sitting at my table? Make clear the decision-making process, be transparent. Revisit regularly – “are we doing this right?”
  - Have ongoing conversations, and keep relationships alive.
  - Working land use plans are “the goal” – they are not static and always changing/adapting to various needs; receive information – get interest groups to identify their values on the land.
  - Adapting strategies from what you heard, then telling them you adapted – builds social licence
  - Be sure to tell the positive stories! Sometimes we tend to only repeat the negative.

### Free Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC)

FPIC was enshrined in United Nations Declaration of the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. The chart below was developed by the Firelight Group and the Boreal Council funded by the Gordon Foundation. Tools are online at The Firelight Group and Boreal Council <http://borealcouncil.ca/reports/fpic/>

<b>FREE</b>	Consent is given without coercion, intimidation, or manipulation.
<b>PRIOR</b>	Consent is sought before every significant stage of project development.
<b>INFORMED</b>	All parties share information, have access to information in a form that is understandable, and have enough information and capacity to make informed decisions.
<b>CONSENT</b>	The option of supporting or rejecting development that has significant impacts on Aboriginal lands or culture.

## Speaker Profiles

### **John Hawkings**

John is the Director of Recreation Sites and Trails BC, a branch of the Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations. Prior to taking on the Director Role in early 2015, John was the Provincial Trails Manager for the same branch since 2007. John led the development of the Trails Strategy for British Columbia, a collaborative strategic approach to developing a world class sustainable trail system in BC. Prior to joining the Ministry in 2007, John spent much of the previous 15 years involved in forest-based recreation planning and implementation throughout the Sea to Sky Corridor in both the public and private sector and worked for 3 years in various US National Parks.

John completed a B.Sc. in biology at the University of Victoria in 1998 and has a diploma in outdoor recreation from Mount Royal College, Calgary

### **Nikki Lachance, MRM**

Director of Operations -Tenures, Competitiveness and Innovation Division, FLNRO

Over the past nine months, Nikki Lachance has been leading the implementation, review and monitoring of forest sector competitiveness activities across the ministry, and supporting various forest sector-related projects across government. Previously, Nikki had held the role of Deputy Director with FLNRO's Land Tenures Branch, focused on Crown land management. Nikki has also spent time with the Ministry of Environment, leading regulatory development under the Environmental Management Act. Nikki originally joined government 10 years ago as a regional authorizations officer, following completion of her master's degree in Resource Management at Simon Fraser University, with a focus on land policy and planning.

### **Duncan McKellar MBA, BScF, RPF**

Duncan's thirty years plus career includes employment in operational forestry, information technology, environmental engineering and health care. Positions include, business management consultant, director of professional environmental engineering services, project manager patient flow and health records, director of product management and client solutions, regional fiber allocation manager, timber supply analyst, regional forester, divisional forester, and forest operations manager.

Duncan's education includes a BSc. in Forestry from UBC, an MBA from City University and a Project Management Certificate from the Vancouver School Board. He is also a Registered Forest Professional and sits on the executive Board of the BCCFA.

### **Steve Mulholland**

Steve is the Forest Protection Officer, Peace Forest District, Dawson Creek Fire Zone. He started working for the BC Wildfire Service as a member of the initial attack crews in the Peace region in 1997, with time in Valemount, Ft. St. John and Dawson Creek as the Zone Technician. He has a diploma from the College of New Caledonia and a degree in forestry from UBC.

**Emma Neil**

Senior Timber Tenures Forester, Ministry of Forests, Lands, and Natural Resource Operations  
Emma grew up in Vancouver and graduated from UBC forestry in 1992. She started working in Port Alberni Forest District in 1992. In her 18 years, she has held roles including tenures forester, planning, First Nations, Wood Lots, and Community Forest Agreements. She has been the Senior Tenures Forester in the WL/CFA role since July 2014.

**Budd Phillips CRSP**

Budd is the WorkSafeBC Manager of Prevention Field Services in Fort St. John. He has 25 plus years' experience working with WorkSafeBC in North Eastern BC. The Fort St John Office is focused upon working with the forest industry and other sectors to ensure worker Health and Safety.

Budd regularly speaks to industry association gatherings providing updates on current and emerging health and safety issues within the various industry sectors. He has served on numerous forestry committees and advisory groups which bring forward new programs like the BC Faller certification program.

Budd has also participated in regulation review and development for Part 26 Forestry within the WorkSafeBC regulations. He currently is the Provincial WorkSafeBC Manager of Interest for Forestry, Oil and Gas and LNG.

**Chris Stagg**

Chris Stagg was appointed Assistant Deputy Minister (ADM), Timber Operations, Pricing and First Nations Division, with the Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations in August 2016. Chris is responsible for implementing the key pricing and BCTS priorities and has some excellent perspectives to bring to the First Nations and forest sector competitiveness files.

Chris joins the Ministry after 25 years in the forest industry, most recently as the Chief Forester for Canfor, based in Prince George. Prior to that he held several roles in Tembec's forest operations where he led several forest policy initiatives.

In addition to the wealth of knowledge Chris brings about forest management and industry operations in BC, he has significant experience working in BC communities and has served as past Director of the BC Wildlife Federation, rounding out his extensive regional background. Chris is also the most recent past President of the Association of BC Forest Professionals.

Chris is a 6th generation British Columbian, growing up in Langley and Chetwynd and holds a degree in Forestry from University of British Columbia. He is an avid outdoorsman and enjoys hunting, fishing, trapping, shooting, reloading, archery, backpacking and wilderness camping.

**Doug Stewart**

Director, Forest Tenures Branch, Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations  
Doug was Educated as a forester and worked in Alberta and BC in harvesting operations, silviculture, engineering and tenures. One of his key roles is to be the primary liaison in government for the

Community Forest Association to work collectively to improve the community forest program through such things as policy changes and expansion.

### **George Van**

George is a Research Intern at the Firelight Group in Victoria. He conducts research, data management, admin, and provides general support to Firelight's various project teams, predominantly in Ecology, Socio-Economic, and Finance.

George's BA in Geography and Environmental Studies from the University of Victoria helped develop in him a passion for understanding local political ecology, geopolitics, Indigenous histories and ethnoecologies. His notable undergraduate research project topics at UVic included the future shape of reconciliation with Indigenous peoples in Canada, socio-economic resilience-building for fisheries in BC, and harvestable plant mapping in Heiltsuk territory. He hopes to pursue a Master's degree in the future.

George loves the outdoors and in his free time will be found surfing, hiking, climbing, paddling, and biking any of the local spots. He is the Volunteer Coordinator at World Fisheries Trust, a local conservation and educational outreach non-profit organization, and has volunteered at The Land Conservancy of BC, Power to Be Adventure Therapy Society, and in the local rugby community in recent years.

### **Sarah Waters**

Sarah is the Tumbler Ridge Global Geopark Manager. She brings 17 years of experience working as a consulting archaeologist and traditional use specialist. She is a very avid volunteer involved in many volunteer groups (WNMS, TRMF, TRGG) in Tumbler Ridge including her position as manager for the Tumbler Ridge Search and Rescue. The experience in both career and volunteer work has provided Sarah with extensive project management and people skills that will be required to move the Tumbler Ridge Global Geopark to the next level.

Sarah has been directly involved in several projects throughout the region including oil and gas, forestry and wind energy and has developed many relationships in all industries and government agencies through her archaeology professional consulting and her position as Project Manager, Archaeologist, Tumbler Ridge Office Manager, Archaeology & Heritage Resources Division, Amec Foster Wheeler for the last eight years.

### **Carolyn Whittaker**

Carolyn is a Founding Director of the Firelight Group. She was the Founding CEO from 2011 to 2013 and Treasurer from 2014 to present. Carolyn leads the Firelight Group Ecology Research Area. Carolyn's research with the Firelight Group focuses on three key areas: traditional ecological knowledge studies of culturally important species and species at risk; community-based planning; and the development of community-based monitoring programs. Much of her work supports community-based regulatory reviews of proposed project applications and compiles teams of highly qualified technical experts to ensure that community interests are protected. Carolyn also leads an ecology team facilitating pre-application assessment of environmental impacts on aboriginal rights and interests.

Carolyn's recent work includes development of management recommendations for species at risk such as moose, bison and caribou in Canada and drafting environmental assessment applications for coal mine impacts on Ktunaxa Nation rights and interests in Southern B.C. Current work includes developing monitoring systems and protocols for a community-based caribou monitoring program in Ontario and for culturally important ecosystems and plants in the East Kootenay region of B.C.



Kinuseo Falls, Murray River