



## 2018 Conference Report

May 24 – 26, 2018 – Burns Lake

The 14th annual event, co-hosted by the Burns Lake, Chinook and Cheslatta Community Forests brought together representatives from thirty community forests, First Nations, elected officials, the provincial government, forest professionals, researchers and students. With an over capacity crowd, the hosts drew upon local resources and made everyone feel welcome and very comfortable. The generous co-hosts raised over \$35,000 in sponsorships and set a record for money raised for a fresh pie through a live auction.

The conference was the best attended event in BCCFA history - 115 full event tickets were purchased and another 70 people attended portions of the conference. The banquet was sold out. Over 30 women participated in the sessions, the greatest representation ever. As well, 11 students attended, which was again, the largest number ever.

[LINK TO THE CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS](#)

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## BCCFA President's Welcome

Welcome to the 14th annual conference of the BC Community Forest Association. The BCCFA is excited to be returning to Burns Lake where community forestry is such a strong and vibrant force in the local community and economy. We are also especially fortunate to be hosted jointly by the Burns Lake, Chinook, and Cheslatta Community Forests.



Burns Lake Community Forest, the very first CFA awarded in BC, was the site for the 2006 BCCFA conference. Many of us were first exposed to the vast extent of the devastation caused by the mountain pine beetle as we traveled from other parts of the province. The memory of coming around a corner and seeing red pine trees on an entire hillside for the first time remains vivid. Burns Lake was at the centre of the epidemic and was among the first to get an uplift in their AAC to get the beetle wood out. The 2006 conference theme – From Pilots to Performers – recognized that community forestry is not just a political experiment or social engineering, rather that CFAs are significant contributors to the economy of rural and First Nation communities and hold a long-term commitment to the land, regardless of the challenges.

As we work on the ground in our local communities, it is important to remember that community forests in British Columbia are leaders in a growing community-

based forestry movement in Canada. Community organizers, politicians, managers, and researchers from far and wide look to BC community forests as concrete examples of what can be achieved when local people take responsibility for our forest lands. For nearly 20 years, we have been demonstrating that social license can be earned and held by community organizations that are managing for local values and local benefits.

I look forward to sharing stories and ideas with you all in the next few days.

*Erik Leslie,  
BCCFA President*



## Robin Hood Memorial Award for Excellence in Community Forestry



*Minister Doug Donaldson with Mike Francis, Manager of the Lower North Thompson Community Forest*

The Lower North Thompson Community Forest Society (LNTCFS) was given the Robin Hood Memorial Award for Excellence in Community Forestry by Doug Donaldson, Minister of Forests Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development.

In announcing the winner, Minister Donaldson said, “The 2018 winner, who was runner-up last year, is the Lower North Thompson Community Forest Society, near Barriere. They were chosen based on, among other things, economic diversification efforts, youth employment and training, significant community contributions and partnering and engagement with Simcpw First Nation.”

The LNTCFS represents the communities of Simcpw First Nation, McLure, Chu Chua, Little Fort and Barriere. Since it was established in 2007, the community forest has created numerous

benefits for the communities, including grants to not for profit organizations, scholarships and bursaries for graduating students. They are actively attracting the value-added industry to the area by supplying a steady supply of fibre, and are creating new, sustainable job opportunities. They recently purchased land and have set up a small value added mill, where community members are employed through a federal Job Creation Program.



*Forestry has traditionally been a field dominated by men. The tide could well be turning as seen by the record number of women at the conference.*

## BCCFA Board Acknowledgement



*The ten-member 2017-2018 BCCFA board has served with enthusiasm and commitment.*

## Retiring BCCFA Directors



Directors Erik Leslie and Gord Chipman were acknowledged for their outstanding service on the BCCFA Board of Directors for 3 consecutive terms with custom paddles from the Chief Louie Paddle Company.

## With Gratitude

We would like to thank the hosts, sponsors, guest speakers and all participants for their contributions to making the 2018 event so spectacular. Special thanks go out to the host committee members Frank Varga, Manager of the Burns Lake Community Forest, Ken Nielsen, Manager of the Chinook Community Forest and James Rakochy, Manager of the Cheslatta Carrier Community Forest along with Val Anderson, Economic Development Officer, Village of Burns Lake and host logistics coordinator.



*Frank & Val*

## And then there was the Food....



The food at the conference was delicious. Carmen Charlie and Shauna Alec are the co-owners of Top of the Line Catering. They both graduated from the Dubrulle Culinary School at the Art Institute of Vancouver. Upon their return to Burns Lake, they quickly built the company to become Burns Lake's largest and most successful catering company. Kudos to Carmen and Shauna. We are prepared to give stellar references!

## Note Takers

Thanks also goes to Mieke Singer, Tahia Devisscher and Jillian Spies for their help with note taking and making this report possible. Great work ladies!



## Our Generous Sponsors

### Birch Level Sponsors

*Conference Co-sponsors:*



### Spruce Level Sponsors



### Pine Level Sponsors



# Host Community Forests Presentations and Field Trip

## Click on the title to link to each presentation

Day 1 began with a presentation from the three host communities on the background and current activities on their licenses. With the days of the huge beetle kill salvage coming to an end, we heard about the strategies to manage for a long term sustainable harvest and for ecosystem restoration. We headed out to the Kager Lake Recreation Area and the site of the Burns Lake Community Forest partial harvest and hazard mitigation project. We also went to the Chinook Community Forest to see what the land looks like when there is less than 5 tons per hectare remaining as a fire mitigation target. Let's just say there was hardly a stick in sight.

### Burns Lake Community Forest - Frank Varga, RPF, General Manager

*"BLCF was initiated in 2000, same year MPB epidemic exploded. Entire history has been reactive, first MPB control, then salvage. To a great degree, MPB has been 'in charge' of BLCF management. All that BLCF and ministry staff have known is reacting to MPB. MPB salvage program will end in the next few years. Board recognizes this as a major turning point in history of BLCF. The nature of the turning point can be described as: BLCF has been managed as if it were part of the Lakes TSA. This was OK while we reacted to MPB epidemic. Problem is we had to forego advantages of area-based tenure. Going forward, BLCF and ministry staff must think and act in ways that unlock potential of area-based tenure. Need to implement a new vision and objectives to create change. "*

### Chinook Community Forest – Ken Nielsen, General Manager

The Chinook Community Forest has an AAC of 150,000 cubic meters per year for the first three years. The AAC drops to 63,000 cubic meters per year for the last two years of the five-year cut. In 2021 they will perform an AAC calculation to determine its long-term AAC.

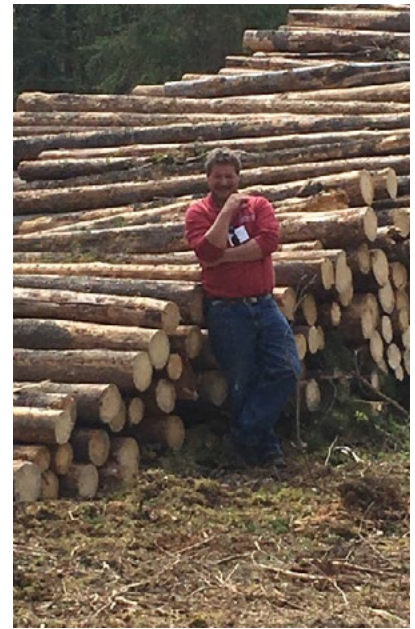
### Using Lidar To Evaluate Old-Growth Attributes in OGMA's - Luizmar de Assis Barros M.Sc. of Natural Resources and Environment Studies, UNBC

Research Question: Are OGMA's in the Chinook Community Forest retaining old-growth attributes?

















## **Reception at the Legion**

BCCFA President's Welcome from Erik Leslie and introduction of guests.

- Welcome from Chris Beach, Mayor of Burns Lake
- Welcome from Chair Bill Miller – Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako
- Welcome from the Presidents of the Host Community Forests
- Welcome from conference sponsors

## Session I – Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development (MFLNRORD) Engagement Reports and New Priorities

It has not even been a year since the new government was sworn in and yet it has been a challenge to keep up with all the policy review and engagement processes they have launched just within the MFLNRORD. The speakers in this session gave us the latest on several topics important to community forests.

### Shane Berg, Deputy Chief Forester of BC, and Executive Director, Office of the Chief Forester, MFLNRORD

*“What I saw yesterday during the field trip was a forest community being innovative. I saw partnerships with Industry making use of the resource in a manner not commonly seen across the province. I saw improbable utilization...some piles didn’t look like they’d make firewood. And most importantly, I saw partnerships with First Nations...strengthening the common interests in practicing good forest stewardship...and sharing in the benefits of what the community forests can offer.”*

- The 2017 fires of last year are a major driver of change.
- The purpose of the community forest tenure and the tax rates is to create opportunities for innovation.
- Management plans and approvals must mirror the community values and represent the community.
- Social licence is about going over and above legal requirements. Community forests are the epitome of social licence.
- Prescriptions and plans from CF are factual and they reflect social license, showing that forests are not only about trees.
- Overall the AAC in the province is coming down, mainly because of fire because timber supply comes down, reserve trees affected and this is expected to continue.
- How do we go beyond the mountain pine beetle?
  - Planting millions of seedlings for rehab
  - The forest carbon initiative will also support this rehab
  - Valuing all types of wood, using even non-commercial timber, being innovative



## Report on the 2017 Flood & Fire Review

### Ian Meier, Director of Operations, BC Wildfire Service

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“Eight CFAs were impacted by wildfire last year, totaling 25 000 ha which is an awful lot of hectares to burn in the CFA context. There is funding out there! Think, rehab and wildfire restoration projects.” Chief Maureen Chapman and George Abbott’s recently released report, “[Addressing the New Normal: 21st Century Disaster Management in British Columbia](#)” includes 108 recommendations.

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- The 2017 fires required 47,000 people working, 65,000 people displaced, some for over 40 days
- Consultants conducted an analysis during the fire season and the BC Wildfire Service was adjusting on the fly to make things work.
- “[Addressing the New Normal: 21st Century Disaster Management in British Columbia](#)” is the report on the Flood and Fire Review. It looks at how government responded to the crisis plus the recommendations from forest sector professionals and the public. There are 108 recommendations with a lot focus on the need for inter-agency work.
- There is a recommendation for an expansion of the community forest program.
- One of the recommendations is about how to leverage the local traditional knowledge of First Nations, including traditional burning practices.
- There is a priority to strengthen FireSmart and public awareness of what we can do to mitigate the hazard and be better prepared, be more resilient to go into fire season.
- How to leverage the inter-agency knowledge through all the cycles – pre-planning, management and recovery – is another recommendation.
- There is also a need to change the mindset around wildfire, we live in fire dependent ecosystems and we need to understand the role of fire.

## Rural Development Review - Marc Imus, MFLNRORD Regional Economic Operations Branch Kamloops, Director, Southern Interior Region

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Following the Rural Engagement process, the “*What We Heard*” report will summarize findings and will be released Spring 2018. “We see so much potential for Community Forests.”

- Rural engagement process included 42 key informant interviews, 16 face to face sessions, and online engagement which included 5 moderated discussion forums plus individual and organizational submissions.
- Top themes noted are:
  - Community services and infrastructure
  - Natural resources
  - Access to capital and funding
  - Youth and demographics
  - Governance

- Education
- Indigenous reconciliation
- housing
- Specifically, to forestry, people asked for a review of policies and practices; clarity of vision and goals; land management
- “We need to move beyond traditional forestry practices to diversify manufacturing and fully utilize fibre.”
- There is a big challenge - How to build long-lasting relationships between non-indigenous and indigenous communities?
- People are looking for a long-term vision for resource management.

### Modernized Land Use Planning and Managing for Multiple Values - Kevin Kriese, ADM Regional Operations, North Area, MFLNRORD (No PowerPoint)

Kevin spoke to the new, modernized approach to Land Use Plans (LUP). The new approach will be specific and consider the issue that needs to be solved or what needs to be reflected differently in current LUPs. The new approach must also consider the changing dynamics of a changing climate, be data driven and include accumulative assessments. Processes will be co-designed with First Nations. “LUP is often a call for a conversation.”

- There is a lot of public concern regarding wildlife and habitat. Fees that come from hunting licences will go back into wildlife management. Still to be determined as to how to best invest the money.
- Strategic land use plans cover more than 90% of BC. The process of developing land use plans started in the 90s to end the war of the woods. But when the process ended in 2009 or so, the government stopped updating these plans
- The government of the day has decided to modernize the land use planning program, which needs to reflect new challenges like climate change. Times are very different; the drivers are very different than when LUPs were developed.
- The ministry will be developing a new toolkit and land use guidebook. ‘What are you trying to solve with a land use plan’ will be driving the process. We are not addressing the war in the woods anymore, but instead water issues, allocation pressures, climate change, and climate-related strategies. We need to update, for example, the land use plans to reflect wildfires and a changing landscape with fires. The land use plans will be very local and very specific to the day. We will emphasize the value of the land that is important to the community.
- We will also make sure to capture what is of value in old land use plans so that these values can be captured in the update.
- We want to have better engagement with First Nations, and we would like to co design the project with the indigenous people from the get-go. We will make sure that land use plans reflect the First Nations’ view of what the issues are. For that we need to design tools that can help us co design

and co deliver these land use plans. This is a powerful part of reconciliation.

- The scale, planning topics, and tools will be different from the past. In the past, there were very little inventories, data and assessments. Now we have access of all that to understand the trends in the land base. Modern assessments can drive the planning process.
- Public involvement will look different. We are contemplating a series of engagements to involve different groups, alternatives to the old consensus-based and roundtable models.
- Currently the province is developing the tools and policy. We are involving First Nations to see how the engagement process would look like. From 2019 onwards, we will prioritize areas to start the process in the province based on a detailed assessment of data. The modernization project will be phased, and will start with hotspots, priority areas.
- Land use planning is a very powerful tool, but it is not the only tool you can use to manage better your resources. Is it land use plan what you need, or a conversation?



## Session 2 – BCCFA Major Projects Update

### The Year in Review – Jennifer Gunter, Executive Director, BCCFA

“There is a need for a stronger role for CFAs in land stewardship and management. 2017 has shown the important role of community forests in mitigating natural disasters. CFAs might be the “best tools we have in the toolbox” to address these issues because we put Indigenous peoples and wildfire management in the focus.”

- Not long after our 2017 Conference, fires in BC - that would turn out to be landscape in scale - broke out. A State of emergency was declared.
- Fires burned on 8 community forests, with Clinton and Harrop-Procter being the hardest hit. Clinton saw 24% of its total area burn, while Harrop-Procter's fire burned 20% of the community forest's total area.
- For many years, the BCCFA has advocated for a stronger role for communities and community forests in land stewardship and wildfire mitigation. The events of 2017 have strengthened our resolve to promote community forests as a strategy for both community economic development and for mitigating environmental disasters like wildfires.
- We've had several opportunities this past year to talk about the role that community forests are playing and how more could be done. The new Provincial Government launched several stakeholder engagement processes and initiated a number reviews and discussions. The BCCFA has participated in all the engagement processes, and the outcome of the processes will impact community forests – hopefully in positive ways!
- A good example of how this may be the case - the independent Flood and Wildfire Review Report and Findings recommends expanding the community forest program to help manage the risk of wildfire.
- Community forests are a powerful tool for: Protecting communities from catastrophic wildfire and adapting to climate change; Building partnerships with Indigenous communities; Energizing rural development;
- Indigenous peoples and wildfire management are in the focus. Chinook CFA is a best practice example how to build partnership between indigenous and non-indigenous peoples. Field trips showcased this.



## Community Forest Indicators Survey 2017

- The 18 indicators measure the social, economic, cultural and environmental benefits of community forests.
- In 2017/2018, 41 community forests participated in the survey, providing data from their last reporting year specific to their operations.
- This sample represents 93% of the operating community forests in the BCCFA.
- 66% of respondents represent communities of under 3,000 people. 39% percent represent communities under 1,000. The community forest organizations operate relatively small forest tenures, with an average Allowable Annual Cut (AAC) of 39,000 m<sup>3</sup>.
- In BC, nearly half of the operating community forests are held by First Nations or a partnership between an Indigenous and non-Indigenous community.
- Despite their small size, the interplay of the results reported on the 18 indicators tells the story of how important community forests are to their communities and the province.

## Community Forest Benefits

- Community forests support local priorities by sharing their profits. They contributed an average of \$359,000 cash and in-kind to local projects. They used their profits to leverage, on average, another \$169,800 for community projects. The total funds donated to community projects by the participating community forests in the reporting year alone exceeded \$12 million.

## Economic Benefits - Jobs and Log Sales

- Log sales: Distribution of log sales was similar, with an increase to large mills. 80% to large mills, 9% to medium sized mills, 3% to small and 1% to value added mills. “CFAs **can** supply logs to a wide variety of manufacturers!”
- With 50,208 m<sup>3</sup> sold to value added mills and an employment coefficient of 1.257 jobs/1000 m<sup>3</sup>, this created 63.2 FTEs. The large sawmills employment coefficient is 0.26 jobs/1000 m<sup>3</sup>.
- Job coefficient, last year at 1.33, rose this year to 1.9, for forestry logging and support services (excluding mills). That’s 63% above industry average. Trail building, recreation, firefighting, research etc. take the coefficient even higher.
- Another economic metric is the investment in intensive silviculture. This shows how community forests are investing in the future economic return of the forest. The combined investment in the reporting year was \$2.1 million, 53% of which came from their own funds.

## Wildfire Mitigation

- To date, the reporting community forests have collectively treated 3,522 hectares and invested over \$1.8 million for wildfire mitigation. They managed an additional \$6.5 million from outside sources.
- 70% of respondents have collaborated with their local government on Strategic Wildfire Prevention Initiative projects.

## CFA Concept Paper

- Inspired by the amazing work community forests are doing, and looking at the new areas of focus for the provincial government, the BCCFA developed a concept paper about scaling up the community forest program.
- What we said was, from a land management and rural development perspective, we really need to be looking at the lands directly surrounding Indigenous and Rural Communities, and prioritize community-based tenures (CFs, First Nation Woodland Licences and Woodlot Licences) in these areas.
- We proposed an expansion in the number and size of community-based tenures around rural and Indigenous communities to help achieve wildfire protection and promote rural development.
- As an exercise to get the conversation going, we said, what if we looked at 10 km around communities. We used Fire Protection Districts as a proxy for “community”. We layered that with 2km Provincial Strategic Threat Analysis WUI, and added another 8 km buffer.
- When you look at all tenures & Timber Supply areas, FN Woodlands Licenses, CFAs & Woodlots are about 14% of that area. CFAs are currently about 8%
- We understand that reapportionment would be required, but we think that given the urgent need to engage communities in wildfire mitigation, to act on FN reconciliation, and to find ways to enable rural development, this kind of action is worthy of serious consideration.
- Reapportioning volume to the CFA program is expensive and licencees have to be compensated. But, benefits of managing for diverse values also have to be highlighted and taken into consideration in this discussion.
- “Let’s put the CFA in the rural development strategy!”
- We have so much to learn from community forests, a great chance for communities to engage in the management of forests, raising level of knowledge, and innovation in practice. CFs are also a great tool to building partnerships between indigenous and non-indigenous communities



## “Building Relationships and Cultivating Social Licence - A Guide for Small Tenure Holders In BC” – Susan Mulkey, BCCFA

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BCCFA’s new extension guide was developed for managers of small tenures in BC. Building social licence is a continuum. It’s a range of engagement strategies, supplements to legal requirements for license of small tenure holders. We observed: “providing busses for seniors in communities are not enough to build social licence. These activities are transactional. Social license needs more. It’s about building strong relationships.”

- What is social license? It is not a clearly defined term. Initially coined in the mining sector in relation to a contractual relationship between the company and the community. Now it is considered as a continuous relationship between indigenous and non-indigenous people, as well as between public and private sectors.
- Best thought of as building long term trusting relationships with Indigenous and non indigenous people in our communities, along with local interest groups governments and land regulators.
- For our work in this guide, cultivating social licence involves a continuum of engagement strategies. These strategies are supplemental to the legal consultation duties and requirements of our licences.
- The first case study is the regional district of central Kootenay as an example of collaboration in the WUI. The other case study is the Burns Lake community and the process needed for FSC certification.
- We present a framework that outlines the process needed to build relationships.
- Cultivating social licence is an ongoing process. A lot of time of forest managers in community forests goes into cultivating social license.

## Session 3 – Land Based Investments Panel

**Click on the speaker's name to link to their presentation**

### Overview of land based investment funds and objectives – Doug Stewart, Director, Forest Tenures Branch, MFLNRORD

*“New provincial Forest Carbon Initiative - BC has greenhouse gas reduction targets and forestry needs to play a role in this reduction. Funding is available through FESBC for activities incremental to regular business. Projects must meet costs per ton targets and be verified to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.”*

**The Forest Enhancement Society of BC (FESBC)** was formed in 2016. Crown corporation, separate from government. \$235 million dollars, about \$150 million is for carbon. FESBC can fund activities relating to reducing wildfire risk, improving damaged/low value stands and improving the use of the fibre, improving wildlife habitat, and greenhouse gas reduction projects

- FESBC is not the land manager. Planning activities and uses on Provincial Crown land is a government or a licensee responsibility. FESBC's role is project selection and helping to fund delivery.
- FESBC works closely with Provincial agencies and licensees who identify the highest priority areas for treatment based on - wildfire risk, forest rehabilitation/fibre recovery opportunities and habitat restoration needs.
- Within these areas, the highest priority projects will be those which meet multiple Society objectives.

**Forest Carbon Initiative**, is a low carbon leadership fund with \$290 million for carbon projects. It is linked now to the FESBC. Forest carbon initiative includes four components:

- Incremental reforestation
- Fertilization
- Increased planting density
- Improve utilization, reduced burning

The point is to sequester more carbon from the atmosphere, reduce some of the burning and instead utilize the fibre for bioenergy. If you can reuse or increase usage time, then the benefit is even higher 37 carbon equivalent/ 100 m3. Activities must be incremental to regular business to qualify. What counts is the extra carbon that is a benefit.

**Forest for Tomorrow** has been around for a long time, with \$50 million a year to fund silviculture activities like spacing, pruning, etc.

- When you look at all these funding opportunities, think: if the funding will be used for obligations you have committed to, or for a legal obligation, then it cannot be funded. But if your activity is

outside a legal obligation, incremental, then it can be funded.

- We only want to fund utilization that is not economical. If we know the wood is going to stay in the bush and be burnt, then we know we can fund the activity.
- If you apply to the Forest Carbon Initiative, apply first with the idea, concept, making sure it is incremental. Then details will be worked out later, if accepted.
- If you want to do rehabilitation of a site, apply to the forest carbon initiative. There is a restoration cutting permit, and if it meets an uneconomic threshold, then it will be applicable for funding either through forest carbon initiative, or forest for tomorrow.

## **Where to apply, where is there an easy guide and procedure?**

Funding is time limited, and every project is tricky, it requires adapting to regulation. If you want to do stuff like fertilization planting, then apply to forest carbon. If that does not work, apply for forest enhancement. If you want to do a project on carbon utilization, then apply to the forest carbon initiative.

## **Site Restoration and Reforestation**

– Neil Hughes, Forest Establishment Leader, Resource Practices Branch, MFLNRORD

*“Because we can only address a percentage of what is required, we need to prioritize. The tools are better today, which can help us to do an assessment to determine what type of stands we should be treating. Where is the economic opportunity, and what are we going to be left with when there is no longer value in a stand to treat them? Where are the stands that we need to treat, what is economically feasible to harvest, and where are the stands that are not feasible to harvest, and how will those serve other non-timber values in the future?”*

- We look at wildfire rehabilitation inside THLB and mountain pine beetle rehabilitation, and to some extent we look at low value stands.
- In spring last year, we thought we were finishing the planting program, and started to look at different activities. Then, the wildfires came and we are back to where the program used to be some years ago. Our goal now is to understand how big is the impact and how much we want to strategically place the funds for reforestation.
- There is a legal obligation to restore, and then the rest can regenerate on its own. Obligation is in age 0-20-year-old stands.
- In 12 years, we have restored 130 thousand hectares. About 30% is from forest fires, about 49% is low value mountain pine beetle stands, 20% is district land, planting operation in the immature stands. Now we are talking about millions of hectares that need to be restored from 2017 fires, so it is good that there are other funding opportunities to address what is required.
- We have all flown over these stands and we have seen a sea of green or a sea of grey. But we need to understand the quality, the species, and the time for stands to evolve into valuable stands again.
- Recently, free growing stands that were burnt were returned to the government. The question there is whether we replant or we leave for natural regeneration.
- We need to think about the big picture, the multiple land use objectives in the landscape, and where restoration fits in that large picture.

## Forest Enhancement Society of BC (FESBC)

### – Gord Pratt, FESBC Operations Manager

*“FESBC is a relatively new society: reducing GHGs, reducing wildfire risk, improving habitat are key goals. We are also advocates for good stewardship on the land base. Staff role: We are technical advisors, as well as your sales people. If you convince us, we convince our board for you. Finite funding: Treatment, more so than planning is our focus. Carbon projects have priority for next 4-5 years. Applicants must demonstrate social license in your application.”*

- The technical operations staff of the Forest Enhancement Society we are like your ‘salesman’, if you convince us that your project is good, we can help you support your project.
- The application guide will be updated for the next intake, and the updates will be in our website. We are not sure when the next intake will be. Our next board meeting will be in July, we are considering a next intake in November, let us see what happens with the decisions of the board in July.
- Anybody that has an interest on the land base in regards to management needs can apply for funding. The project must be linked to the priorities of the Ministry. To understand these priorities, work with your local districts.
- We are not the land manager, the planning and authorization that needs to happen is the government’s responsibility.
- Our high-priority project is when you can meet the five interests of the Forest Enhancement Society. For example, increase tree growth while at the same time reducing wildfire hazard and help with wildlife.
- We are arms-length from the government; we are currently acting as a crown agency. In the meantime, we are working under the Ministry of Forests. Our projects are in provincial crown land. We recognize that there is a lot of interest in our funds, and we have set up a level of fund for each five purpose.
- We are a funding agency with finite funding. We saw a lot of projects that had planning all the way to treatment. We are interested in practice; it must result in treatment because we recognize we are finite.
- The forest carbon projects utilizing \$150 million must be completed in the next four years.
- To fund a project, we need to see incremental benefits beyond legal obligations.
- There is an expectation for social license. In terms of wildfire mitigation, safety of communities is a big issue, and that is a consideration for us.
- We are not there to pay everything, there is a favouritism towards projects if you are co-funder of that project.
- We approved funding for 21 CFAs, particularly in wildfire risk reduction (including fibre utilization)



## Lunch and Keynote Speaker - Honorable Doug Donaldson, Minister of Forests, Lands Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development

- Burns Lake CFA activity is a great example of FNs reconciliation. The community looks back to a rich experience and shows a long history of community forestry in the area.
- Congratulations to Eric Leslie from Harrop-Procter CFA for his work and for receiving the award for innovation from the Association of BC Forest Professionals (ABCFP).

Our government is pledging to collaboratively work with First Nations. It is in the mandate of every minister in the cabinet. Reconciliation emphasizes the social contract, social goals, social objectives. A sustainable forest for communities is part of this social contract.

- CFA as good example of “social contract in action”, working directly for the benefits of the communities. Kudos to Susan Mulkey for putting the new report together.
- Province-wide we can observe many calls for action around social objectives. Healthy and sustainable forests are key. Without these elements, it will be harder to achieve social license.
- We need to take an integrated perspective, CFs are a good example of social license. You work directly for the benefit of the communities you operate in.

### **Tasks assigned by BC Premier:**

- Create more jobs
- Innovative wood products
- Modernize land use planning
- Improve wildlife situation, as well as linkage between forestry, water, fisheries.

### **Wildfires**

Ten months ago, in July 2017, we were ten weeks in state of provincial emergency. Thanks to you in this room who spent time fighting those fires. It was an incredible effort to ensure that nobody died in these fires. Thank you to contractors in those efforts, and thank you to BC wildfire service staff.

- In terms of how the future may unfold for wildfire management, updated projections are that in the short term the AAC will not change, however we already know that mid-term AAC will drop due to mountain pine beetle, and with wildfire, it will drop some more.
- The plateau fire is daunting. I believe in the resilience of forest ecosystems, and the regenerative power of forests. As far as I can see in that area, the soil is burnt down to rocks. There is a lot of work to be done in terms of rehabilitation in those areas. It gives opportunities to recreate a forest ecosystem, and identify what should be a priority value, whether it is recreation, water, climate change, and how to work with First Nations on that. We are open to new forest stewardship and management techniques. There is no forest cover up to the edge of the river. So, there will be also impact on aquatic ecosystems, temperature increase and impact on fish. There will also be impact on wildlife. What happens in the rural areas will also have impacts on other parts of the province.

- There will be a 7 million dollar uplift for fire recovery in forest in the next years. We have contributions for community recovery from fires from the Red Cross, also federal contributions for disaster assistance and management. We must plan. The current allowable AAC does not need to change. Fire salvage is included. Mid-term harvest levels will drop because of MPB. The chief forester will keep an eye on the AAC situation.
- Revitalization of burned areas is key. Should be done in collaboration with FNs. How do we want to create a forest ecosystem? What should be the priority value? Having CFAs such as Burns Lake allows us to manage for these values. Provides room for forest stewardship and management strategies.

## **Rural Development**

- Small policy tweaks and funding can help communities be more resilient. Rural communities are stretched regarding employment and future investment in infrastructure. CFAs are a stable and important source of funding.
- The CFA is an industry with a great and diverse future.
- Modernizing land use planning will also be important for us. Details will unfold in year two and three. First Nations will be a top priority in land use planning.
- The wildfire and flood review report was presented in May 2018 with 108 recommendations. Now the government is developing an action plan to put these recommendations into practice.
- Your association is discussing different ways to expand the CFs in BC. There will be an expansion, there will be an amendment of tenure legislation that enables expansion of CFs. I look forward to reading the proposal on CF expansion in the WUI.

## Session 4 – Indigenous Relations and Building Social Licence

As part of the provincial government's commitment to true, lasting reconciliation with First Nations in BC, a commitment was made to fully adopt and implement the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP), and the Calls to Action of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission. FLNRORD and the Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation (MIRR) are in the early days of reviewing policies, programs, and legislation to determine how to bring the principles of the commitment into action in BC. This panel took us from information on what work is underway, the types of agreements being made, to an opportunity and role for community forests in the process of reconciliation beyond the legal requirements of our tenure and why the effort is important.

**Click on the speaker's name to link to their presentation**

[Linda Robertson, Regional Manager,  
Skeena Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation](#)

*"We must move beyond the legalistic approaches with First Nations, focusing on transactions such as compensation for rights and title. Focus should be on shared values and relationships that foster self-determination. We must build relationships outside project transactions, and work across sectors (industry, government, community) to achieve this. CFAs are all about partnerships and values. They lead this call for innovative types of partnerships."*

### **Government has identified their intention to set a new direction in relationship with Indigenous Peoples:**

- Adoption of United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP) and the Calls to Action of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission
- Ministers mandate letters
- Minister's letter encouraging openness
- 10 principles to guide BCs relationship with Indigenous Peoples

### **UNDRIP includes 46 articles outline the fundamental human rights of Indigenous Peoples including:**

- Self-determination and internal governance
- Preservation of culture, spiritual and religious traditions
- Education and communication
- Lands, and resources
- Social and economic conditions
- Consultation – including free, prior and informed consent.

## **Draft Principles that Guide BC's Relationship with Indigenous Peoples**

- Mirror Canada's 10 Principles
- Guide all public service staff in work to build relationships based on
  - respect and recognition of inherent rights
- Each Ministry developing plan for implementing principles in day to day work
- They highlight that **how** we work with Indigenous peoples is as important as **what** we do.

## **Shifting from legal/transactional relationships to deeper relationships based on values, partnerships and respect.**

What does this mean for community Forests?

- Each person has an important role to play in reconciliation. Reconciliation begins with oneself and then extends into our families, relationships, workplaces and eventually into our communities.
- Does this mean IP have a veto regarding resource management?  
UNDRIP Article 32(2) says: States shall consult and cooperate in good faith with the indigenous peoples concerned through their own representative institutions to obtain their free and informed consent prior to the approval of any project affecting their lands or territories and other resources, particularly in connection with the development, utilization or exploitation of mineral, water or other resources.

### **Lisa Ambus, Project Leader, North Region Negotiating Team, Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation (No PowerPoint)**

"It is good to hear that 50 percent of CFAs are held by FNs or have at least collaboration. But in terms of where we have come from, there is a significant gap. The CFA is an opportunity to put core principles of reconciliation into action. What can you bring to this? What can you be doing to advance reconciliation with FNs? Every CFA should engage with those questions."

How will the ten principles will play out in the CFs? Community forests are an opportunity to put all the principles in action.

1. The Province of British Columbia recognizes that all relations with Indigenous peoples need to be based on the recognition and implementation of their right to self-determination, including the inherent right of self-government.
2. The Province of British Columbia recognizes that reconciliation is a fundamental purpose of section 35 of the Constitution Act, 1982.
3. The Province of British Columbia recognizes that the honour of the Crown guides the conduct of the Crown in all of its dealings with Indigenous peoples.
4. The Province of British Columbia recognizes that Indigenous self-government is part of



Canada's evolving system of cooperative federalism and distinct orders of government.

5. The Province of British Columbia recognizes that treaties, agreements, and other constructive arrangements between Indigenous peoples and the Crown have been and are intended to be acts of reconciliation based on mutual recognition and respect.
6. The Province of British Columbia recognizes that meaningful engagement with Indigenous peoples aims to secure their free, prior and informed consent when B.C. proposes to take actions which impact them and their rights, including their lands, territories and resources.
7. The Province of British Columbia recognizes that respecting and implementing rights is essential and that any infringement of section 35 rights must by law meet a high threshold of justification which includes Indigenous perspectives and satisfies the Crown's fiduciary obligations.
8. The Province of British Columbia recognizes that reconciliation and self-government require a renewed fiscal relationship, developed in collaboration with the federal government and Indigenous nations that promotes a mutually supportive climate for economic partnership and resource development.
9. The Province of British Columbia recognizes that reconciliation is an ongoing process that occurs in the context of evolving Crown-Indigenous relationships.
10. The Province of British Columbia recognizes that a distinctions-based approach is needed to ensure that the unique rights, interests and circumstances of Indigenous peoples in B.C. are acknowledged, affirmed, and implemented.

Lisa was first introduced to community forests when she was in the university. She interviewed a number of people that were involved in designing the community forestry concept. Their task was to take the concept and design a new institutional mechanism to allow the implementation of community forestry. Eventually what they came up with was the community forest agreement. The vision was that the community forests should be something different from the status quo, and that community had to have control of its resources. This was a post war in the woods effort, so the intent was to allow space for communities to work through their issues and express their values through negotiation, in other words to reconcile perspectives and come to common ground. It was important to empower local communities for an opportunity of local control, and to have self-determination. Communities should be 'Masters of their own destiny'.

There is a parallel then with what the government wants to do with reconciliation and the community forest agreement. Of course, one main difference is the scale. But one point of agreement is the opportunity for the community to make their decisions, they are fundamentally talking about the right of self-determination.

Another commonality is the process of working together and negotiating different ideas and values. The theory being that local people can develop more sustainable solutions by working through a diverse group. That is what enables innovation. It is different from a corporate model, because the community is involved.

The government-to-government realm could learn from the relationships developed within the community forestry realm: it is about respect, empathy, collaboration, understanding, how to be a good person. It is not necessarily what we are doing, but how we are doing it. It is about how we show up and the relationships that we help cultivate.

One thing that was important to the architects of the community forestry program was the consideration of First Nations rights and title, and the building of relationships with First Nations. I am happy to hear that more than half of the Community Forests exist in partnership with First Nations. I realize that community forests are an opportunity to put the ten principles of reconciliation into action. What could community forests do to advance reconciliation with Indigenous people?

### Unlocking your Social Licence – Improving How We Engage. Casey Macaulay, RPF, Association of BC Forest Professionals

“Where does trust come from? Trust is between people first. If people trust you, they may or may not choose to trust your organization too. Agreements are made by people and people have long memories. You can do everything legally correctly and still fail to gain trust. The effort to regain trust is far more difficult than establishing it in the first place.”

What did your indoctrination look like at your first job?

- Forestry is about managing a host of risks. Successful people excel at making prompt decisions.
- We know everything after a 4 year degree.
- We are trained to believe that we know the right way to manage.
- Our concept of ‘manage’ creates a false notion of control.
- Retired people often admit they are only beginning to learn.

Group activity on taking a different perspective: Think about a challenge you are currently facing. Think of other colleagues that may have a different perspective. Identify an issue that you feel strongly about. To what extent can you develop a coherent argument that represents the opposite of what you are feeling?

Big industry logging groups spend a lot of time in making sure they are following the law. But there is this other side of forestry we must also address as professionals, the non-statutory one. The one built on relationships.

Try to understand how do you think. When we engage someone, we tend to look for people like us. But for innovation it is good to bring people that don’t think in the same way. You need different ways of thinking.

Power - Where does it come from? Is the power you have taken or given?

***Social licence implicitly recognizes all communities as having an equivalent right to Free Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC).***

***Obtaining a social licence implies a fair process of consultation with communities on benefits and risks as a matter of social justice.***

***Jim Cooney***

- Your license to harvest?
- The jobs at the sawmill?
- Cut control / AAC?
- Your knowledge and authority?
- Taken, through assignment of responsibility?

VS

- Community support for your presence
- Employment throughout the community: skills development, capacity building
- Given, through trust and sharing of benefits

### **Group exercise:**

- Have people stand up and spread across the room. Facilitator asked people to take on the hat of community members, approached by a corporation proposing logging plans.
- Take a step forward if you agree with the engagement proposal put forward by the company. Step backward, if you don't. Examples for engagement initiatives are provided by the facilitator (maps and documents sent via mail to community members, drafting a memorandum of understanding, asking for input on plans, inform on ready-made agreement....).

Concluding remarks: "People have long memories". Important to keep in mind when entering the community with resource extraction proposal. Where does your license come from as a forester? Is it the AAC? Or is it the community and its presence and their need for support?

## Manager's Session

Discussion on issues of importance to Managers of CFAs. Facilitated by Erik Leslie, RPF and Jennifer Gunter, Executive Director, BCCFA

***Q - How do we open a dialogue so it is a two-way conversation in relation to fire?***

A - Ian Meier, Director of Operations, BC Wildfire Service

The Ministry can be very siloed. As land managers, we are now trying to communicate year around so that we can account for fire and wildlife simultaneously to start thinking about rehab as soon as fire happens. That means we are having input year-round. This week, we are reaching out to all stakeholders to let them know what is the situation at the national, provincial and local levels. Each fire centre will conduct these conversations with different social groups. This is also an opportunity for people to learn what is happening in other parts of the province.

***Q - When fire crews go to the land, they do not know who is operating in the land base. Operational staff should know who to contact, connection between operational people and land manager could improve.***

A- We are receiving feedback from operations in the northeast now saying that operations have improved and are running with a better local connection.

***Q - Crews do not know the area, it would be good if the local licensees could be involved in the operations. Lower down there should be more input from the local people to support operations.***

A- Our expectation is that will happen this year. We need local content, and the relationship to be ready. The go-to people must be established so that our local crews can be stronger.

***Q - Local government and First Nations are constrained by cumbersome applications***

A - We want communities to be working better with communities. The WUI does not exclude a community working outside, but there is a lot that can be done within the community. The local planning tables we are setting up will also enable the industry to have a big impact on the resilience of the community.

***Q - Communications to the public could be improved, we often were distilling social media information. It would be good to receive information from you directly to avoid misinformation.***

R - The impact of social media for us last year was significant. We now understand we must be a trusted source of information. With social media, everybody is sharing information, but info may be contradictory to the message we need to send. We will be sending now the information directly so that we can be more transparent.

***Q - At the beginning, you spoke of being siloed. What is the role for BC Wildfire Service?***

A - Fire hazard has impacts on all the values we manage. We want to put fire on the landscape now, acknowledging that fire has an impact on all values. On the same theme, there is a need for policy change on fire. But it can't be done in isolation, it must relate to all the other objectives related to FRPA.



***Q - It would be nice to have a set of goals that you want to see or you need for ecosystem restoration after a fire event.***

A - The one big piece that has been missing is research to monitor what happens after these treatments. We have a research coordinator now, and that person is there to find the scientists that we need for support. Now we can start funding research that supports our work. Alberta is doing the same thing; they call it the Intelligence Unit. We focus on response, but we think there are good models for prevention and mitigation. The challenge we have is that we are not fluid enough to adjust the goal post as it should be. The 2 km tied to a funding mechanism is an example of that. We need to adjust quicker.

***Q - Are you changing the way you do things? How do you maintain consistency and communication if crews are moving around a lot?***

A - The big part of that is how we bring in our local knowledge, because that is what can bring the consistency. And that is not during a fire, that is twelve months a year. After last year - and it started to surface more this spring - there were signs of PTSD. We must manage the fatigue. We are now going from flood to fire, and we must manage that as well. We have done some shifts internally. Our management team briefs now the crew first to focus on the land objectives. They give the overarching objective to the team. Control points are now introduced in the system.

***Q - What should we expect in terms of the communication with the local teams?***

A - We are having a lot of coordination calls, and community forest should receive a phone call to provide contact details.

***Q - Is there an opportunity for industry that falls in area-based tenures to have formal agreements so that we can be involved in the structures to manage wildfire risk?***

A - I will follow up on that. We are trying to adjust the structure. Right now, incident commanders have to make significant decisions on behalf of government. The internal component is becoming more clear, but the external component still must be adjusted, i.e. how does it apply not only to external government, but also industry. The Chapman report talks also about traditional burning, and we need to adjust our burn plan to allow more for that as well. The certification is a different thing. We are looking at partnerships with Alberta in relation to prescribed burning. We must see how to open that up to industry so that they can be certified as well. This is important for liability.

***Q - Local planning is important, but also timing***

A - Trust is important to get out there sooner rather than later. I was happy that the Chapman report did not recommend to double our crews, because that would be going in the wrong direction.

***Q - Is there any opportunity for this next phase of land use planning to use modelling software to identify high fire risk areas and potentially expand the WUI?***

A - Our models will look at different scales and time to help paint the picture, and understand what is happening. We need to understand the economics as well. We need the research and development to help us go with a more complete picture. Wildfire has always been a natural resources issue, now it is a public issue, because it goes into other agendas. Now we can start leveraging the Feds for different funding.

***Q - For the threat analysis done for Williams Lake, the analysis was very accurate as far as what the models predicted, they were close to reality.***

A - We have some knowledge and some models under the PSTA, but I do not trust these results yet. We have a limited budget but we need to invest in efficient modelling. Australia is looking at a risk-based approach to plan land, and we are taking this approach. We need to leverage what other people have gone through so we do not do the same mistakes. Let's leverage the knowledge that is there.

***Q - What is BC wildfire service doing to be more informed from an ecological point of view, i.e. how different forests burn differently.***

A - If I get the right universities, the fit students will be working on it. It can be quicker this way. If we try to do it on our own, it will take too long. We need researchers to come to us and ask us what do we need, then we can support you to be successful.

### **Forest Carbon Initiative and Forest Enhancement Society Messages**

- They do not fund projects that involve tree cutting.
- The more they can get rid of pile burning, the better in terms of carbon.
- In their carbon modelling, they estimate the carbon difference between burning a pile vs doing something different with that wood.
- They model the base case first, which assumes natural regeneration, i.e. the yield curves for a post fire stand.
- Then they model the activity, for example planting. That means modelling x stems per hectare treatment, and the yields of that.
- Then they put both yields in a carbon model that considers the base case and the stand with activity. Then we estimate the difference between both by 2050 to get the carbon benefit.
- The \$150 million given to the society for the carbon initiative has been almost completely approved. If a CFA thinks they have a carbon project and put an application to the society, the society will see if it is suitable for a carbon funding.
- The funding agencies are new. They are your technical advisors, 'salesman'. They are happy to talk with you. If you are doing the right thing, they are happy to continue funding.
- They are looking at a lot of different ways to have a continuous intake. The board of the Society is trying to figure that out, particularly because they got so many proponents last time and so many approvals, so they need to see how to go about the remaining money. Maybe once they know that they are getting more funding, they would be able to have a better idea of the intake model.
- Originally, the society board decided not to fund anything in the WUI. Then they had the green light to do this with CFAs. In the second intake, we opened this opportunity to everybody because we had money, but now we are reviewing this again after the Chapman report.
- A total of eight CFs were affected by fire last year. Some of the CFs got funding to conduct surveys for rehabilitation. The carbon initiative could potentially help fund these rehabilitation activities.

- The coastal people could explore the opportunities for fertilization to increase carbon stock under the initiative.
- There are three forest carbon advisors, and Jennifer will have the contacts.

## **Comment**

Lori Daniels suggested it is necessary to incorporate disturbances such as fire and mountain pine beetle in the carbon modelling to be more realistic.

***Q - Is there a way to streamline the application to send a proposal to one agency and then get that agency to redirect it, or maybe co-fund it with another agency? How do you 'marry' different programs would be very helpful to know for community forests.***

A - There was this issue of what funding to apply when you have multiple needs, and the society could play a role in helping orchestrate this a bit. There are now local integration officers that can also help streamline the process. Jennifer can circulate the list of the nine people that can help with this.

## **Feedback on the BCCFA survey**

- Jennifer said that she knows that the job question is the hardest, but it is also an important one to use as leverage.
- The BCCFA uses the survey data, so it would be good to have a worksheet to simplify the calculations and we want to make sure everybody is doing it right and consistent.
- For people that are new to the survey, you probably need to ask the contractors to get your data for the year.
- Comment on the indicators survey as a whole: maybe it would be good to know what are we trying to answer. It just seems too much to answer 100 questions every year. What kind of information do we really need? It takes a lot of effort.
- Erik - Good to remind ourselves why we created the survey, we were challenged to justify why we are expanding the CF project, so we needed data to show the evidence of the benefits we are providing, that is the core. Now that we have done this for a few years, we have buy in, we can revisit it now.
- The survey primarily was to support decision makers. It was to lead decision makers to make correct decisions. Maybe decision makers now do not need all these data, maybe it is ok to have the survey every second year. Perhaps some questions can be prioritized.
- Note: If you change the questions, you will not be able to compare with previously gathered data.
- You can also have a sample size that gets covered every year, and then rotate that sample. Then only few years you get everybody to answer the entire survey.
- The questions in the survey are looking at the entire community forest agreement.
- Adding stories is very good to complement the data collected with the survey.
- Probably we can come up with a tool that makes it easier to fill out the survey.



## **Governance issues**

The CFA board must take their role at the governance level, not in operations. A chapter in Guidebook II provides advice on the role of the community forest board. Susan has a lot of information to support CFAs in governance development.

- The manager can ask the board to develop a strategic management plan and develop policies. It is key to have a good structure, a stable structure. The governance structure and policies on the website of other CFs can be used as examples.
- An alternative is for the manager to write the strategy documents, and pass it through the board for approval, recognizing that they are doing voluntary work and they may not have the time to get all these documents in place.
- Managers can also listen to all the board members and then put together a document that captures their interests so they can see themselves reflected in the strategy.
- Boards also change over time. At the beginning, there is often a lot of and then it changes over time as it matures. Some years later, when the community forest is running, sometimes the board has lost interest.
- Good governance of an organization is like social license. You may not know when you have got it, but you know when you don't have it.
- The BCCFA had a review of governance of the board to sort out the structure and manage things better. It took about one year. This was a transition from a more management board to a more executive direction with Jennifer running the kitchen and the board a bit more hands off.
- At a strategic level, it is important to have a long term strategy because that is where the liability of the board of directors comes in. This is a way to hold the board accountable.

## **Paying Directors for Service on the Board**

Not allowed in some organizational models i.e. societies. Some found that paying the board is becoming more of an issue, particularly to get diversity. Some say Board of directors should be there because of true interest, not to get paid. Someone suggested that maybe some pay could cover only basic expenses. Another comment: If the business starts growing, it is a bit weird not to pay the board.

## **Residuals**

How can we overcome some red tape issues, roadblocks from the government, to deal with residuals?

The board of BCCFA is following this issue.

- Illegal cutting of green or wildlife trees for firewood can be an issue on CFAs.
- Community Forests generally don't issue permits for firewood cutting. People go to the ministry for permits, but the CFA directs people to where it is available.
- Two issue permits. If folks cut without permit, they can get fined. Then they must weigh the load and pay.
- The firewood program works well in the community forest that is implementing it. There is no enforcement, it is more about social accountability.
- Harrop Procter started to give the board of directors a load of firewood. The way firewood is managed in different regional districts may differ; it will depend on how communities work with their local communities.

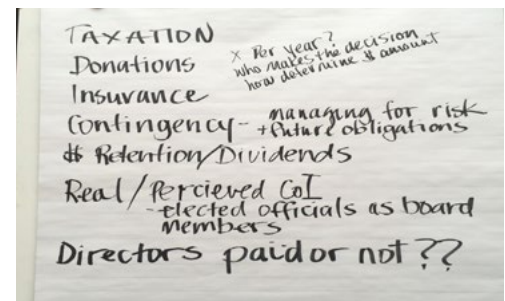
## Board of Director's Session

This annual, informal session drew upon questions from the 30 participants and focused on matters of importance to Directors on Boards of CFAs. Facilitated by Susan Mulkey, BCCFA Manager of Communication and Extension

Discussion focused on matters of importance to Directors on Boards of CFAs including insurance requirements for CFAs, face to face meetings with shareholders, tax status, distribution and retention of profits, conflict of interest and compensation for directors.

### Taxation

- Powell River and Alberni Valley, community forests with a municipal sole shareholder sought a determination from the Canada Revenue Agency regarding the requirement to pay income tax based on corporate income. CRA ruled in their favor and in the case of Alberni Valley, paid taxes were returned.
- CFAs are encouraged to do their own research to ensure legal status regarding taxation.



*Board governance session agenda*

### Donations and CFA Budgeting

- Chinook CF has been developing a donation policy, and something changes are made every time they think they have it- looking for from group: how many intakes a year, who makes the decisions as to who gets the grant? (board or GM), how many times per year can an org request grants, how much do you determine out of your budget would to determine for grants and allocations. Who do you grant to? What is the criteria?
- Susan: [CF Guidebook II](#)- Look at Chapter 11 that has several examples of CFA distribution models and policies. There is not a one size fits all model, but it is something that CFAs decide what is best given their unique circumstances.
- CFA Distribution Policies
  - West Boundary – policy that changes as they go, said they have mgmt. costs, and income, what's left over, 10% goes to funding, 90% to shareholders, and a cap on that, reserve some of those funds, and up to 30k to small groups. They have 2 intakes - spring and fall.
  - Burns Lake - 10% of profits set aside for community donations and a reserve fund of 11% for extra-large donations. The board appoints a donations committee made up of the GM and 2 directors from board. No limit on intakes through the year. Request comes into office, and then it goes to donations committee, who and they vote on it. If they are unsure, it brought to the board. It is a simple policy because it's the community's money and it should be easy to access it. It is about a 24 hour turn around, for smaller ones. Larger donations they ask that they use them for the leverage funding. They will commit to 50% of project,



and then a group can leverage that to get the grants. It works well for them that it's a simple policy so people aren't scared off. Whatever doesn't get used goes back into net income which goes to shareholders and partners.

- Powell River and Sunshine Coast make recommendations for projects to the shareholder, where the criteria for spending is focused on larger projects. Shareholders have the right to accept or reject recommendations.
- Before you make your determination on what constitutes profits it is wise to allocate a contingency budget, for example, 1 year operating funds in case something happens.
- Contingency is in addition to silviculture obligations free to grow. CFAs with their area based tenures should consider additional allocations to the silviculture fund for WUI and other stand tending on an area based tenure. This reserve will help CFAs do the right thing on the landbase.
- Many CFAs allocate funds to their own special projects such as national Forestry Week, or trail development and maintenance with a line item in the budget to be covered before profit is determined.
- Contingency funds can be a pinch point between a board and a shareholder who is looking for funding from the CF. But sharing information and building a good working relationship between a CF board and a shareholder can help to ease this tension.
- Often the policy direction regarding distribution of profits are in constating documents of the CF.

## **Politics and the CFA**

- When there are tensions between a political shareholder and a CFA board, face to face meetings are recommended. It is good to get together annually at a minimum to share priorities
- A BCCFA resource provides guidance on a clear set of agreements that can be generated between the shareholder and the board called [The Shareholder Corporation Contract](#). When everyone knows the rules, people are more likely to follow them.

## **Insurance**

First off, there is not one simple answer because it is a lot about risk management, and some CFAs are more and some less risk adverse. However, Ken Day our Forest Management Extension expert says, "It is not clever to scrimp on insurance."

I also know that when the issue was investigated thoroughly in McBride last year (they are a corporation with a sole shareholder and were operating under the municipal rider), all advice pointed to going independent for directors and officer's insurance, which they did. The move also helped to support their arms-length operating from the Village.

The following is what is recommended by Ken and what has been implemented by the Williams Lake CFA in 2017.

## **Insurance Requirements under Board Responsibility**

- Directors and Officers
- CGL – Plus there are also additional options: rider for legal defense and information security. Ken recommends getting legal defense and has good practices for backing up information, so he is covered.
- Firefighting – This is to ensure that in the case of a catastrophic fire the Board is free from the liability.

## **Insurance Requirements under Management Responsibility**

- Errors and Omissions
- Vehicle - 3 million
- Commercial General Liability - Plus there are additional options - rider for legal defense and information security. Ken got the former, legal defense.
- Firefighting
- CFAs will need to decide their own acceptable levels of risk such as 1 or 2 million liability.
- Some CFA boards say they have insurance, (and corporation document says that they're covered) by the municipal shareholder. Yet a CFA having their own ensures limited liability and provides some arms-length relationship from your local government/shareholder
- The more you can be separate and manage the CF for social, economic, and environmental objectives instead of political, the more stability there will be for the CFA. Most politicians have a 4-year planning horizon. Forest management is all about the long term.
- Regarding liability for trails built on the CF: Local bike clubs who want to build trails can get insurance through the provincial association. But if the public comes and builds the trail then the CF is liable. If a CFA invites someone to the CF and gives them a place to stay, the liability is on you. The mountain bikers have liability insurance, but the CF holds responsibility for maintenance. You must show due diligence to avoid liability.
- A CFA can apply to the ministry for a designated trail status and then you can go into their insurance rider.

## Should Directors be Paid?

### Comments:

- One CFA's policy: They meet once a month, and payment is based on length of meeting, \$100 0- hrs. 2-4, \$200, 4+ hrs, \$300, outside travel is covered 6C/km and 25c/ hr. municipality and 2 FN. When FN are involved, they have a model within their own governance that they get paid for meetings.
- Burns Lake - Flat rate for at \$400 per meeting, 3 exec positions receive additional funds. Within board, the donation committee, is \$150 because you're on call. No hourly rate, but a daily rate for special meetings, \$150/day, and travel is covered. Board meetings last a full day and it means you must take a day off work. This is to encourage people to be on the board.
- Another CF also gets \$400 per meeting for day, \$25 per hour for committee work, and for long term, and reimbursement for spending.
- Nakusp and District CF is having trouble finding directors. Some must travel 50 km to attend meetings.
- Payment for committee participation is important because some people on board are unable to do a lot of work, so it's important to recognize committee work that people do.
- Some CF can't afford those kinds of remunerations.
- There's a lesson from a consultant, who would go to a meeting with FN, and there'd be a row of government guys, forestry guys having a good day, getting full expenses, then there's 2-3 people from the FN and they said they couldn't go without remuneration.
- The guys says it has to be a volunteer activity, but he doesn't have to do a lot of work, the mgmt. company does a lot of work.
- In a society structure the Act says the board members are compensated for expenses but not for work.
- The problem is demographic- who can afford to volunteer?? If you want diversity, it's a problem for a lot of volunteer organizations.
- No young people. As old people retire or are old, they can't get anyone to come on that's under 58 years old and it's a problem
- What would community think if the board were paid? Lots of opposition.
- Solutions? Advertise for directors and when you can't find one, say they'll be paid



## **Real / Perceived conflict of interest**

- Susan: A few CF boards have a policy (Burns Lake, Sunshine Coast) that prohibits elected officials to sit on the board. Included FN elected officials too.
- Need a conflict of interest policy similar to community charter how things goes, and it should be in there
- One things that Susan uses in her work with CFAs is a need for each director to sign a Declaration of Intention that says I will adhere to all CFA policies and here's where I might have conflicts.
- How can you have a contractor on the board? Yes, if the GM, not the board makes the decision about the contract. Then, the only potential conflict is the contractor on the board might have information that the rest of the bidders don't have, so you put it in the bid package, be transparent
- To most reasonable public, that looks glaring when they don't know details. When they see this stuff, they see people giving themselves a job
- Must publish all minutes and votes taken on website, and if you recuse yourself that's also there.
- Often forestry people are on the board. That's the reality. In small towns, you meet yourself coming around the corner.
- It's difficult. You should be as transparent as you can, go over and above and beyond. If you want to do business with the CF you don't go on the board.

## **BCCFA AGM**

The BCCFA AGM was the first on the agenda for day 3. Draft minutes are available to BCCFA members through the monthly newsletter.

## Session 5 - Wildfire: Science, Risks and Management Panel

Today BC is experiencing evacuations due to floods from spring melt and heavy rains. But the very real risk of wildfire is never out of the minds of community forests and rural BC communities. This 3-hour session was all about fire. The 4-person panel took us through the experience of an evacuee from the Williams Lake fires, the science of fire and its role in the ecosystem, the indicators and factors that have contributed to our current situation of insect outbreaks and fire risk, to stories of challenges and successes in the mitigation of risk.

**Click on the speaker's name to link to their presentation**



*Wildfire Panel L to R: Brian McNaughton, Stephan Martineau, Lori Daniels, Bruce Blackwell*

### Brian McNaughton, BC Federation of Woodlots Association, General Manager

“We must better govern our use of fire, and work on fire mitigation. We must increase forest health and rethink our management paradigm. We need to get deciduous trees back in the forests!” Brian shared his first-hand experience as an evacuee from the 2017 fires in the Cariboo.

#### **Effects of wildfire evacuation**

- Very emotional process. Don't underestimate the impact on people (youth in particular)
- Feeling of helplessness
- Very effective local information service on fire situation. An inspiration for BC wildfire services?

## Why so many fires?

- Fuel, and forest conditions as huge driver
- Recommends Dr. Paul Hessberg's talk about the [Era of Megafires](#)
- Managing forests for retention. Think, old trees, dense understory (fine fuels on the ground), snow press, etc. all increase fire risk

## In response, BC needs to:

- Better govern our use of fire, and work on fire mitigation.
- Increase forest health. Is there a shift occurring in this province toward social license? Yes! CFA and woodlot licenses are the indicators.
- Rethink our management paradigm. Get deciduous trees back in the forests!

[Lori Daniels, Professor, UBC Department of Forest and Conservation Sciences](#)

## [Community Wildfire Prevention Summary Report May 2018](#)

Wildfires of 2017 cannot be another “wake-up call”. BC’s forests and communities are not resilient to wildfire and climate change. Transformative change is urgently needed. Surface fires + fire exclusion + fuel buildup = reduced resilience. State of emergency is the new reality. BUT these events are not beyond our control. We can effectively engage in fuel management. “We need to manage fuels as a form of adaptation.”

## Wildfire resilience

- 2017 fires show that 2003 fire was not enough of a lesson for us to learn. We are still not sufficiently adapting to climate change adaptation. Low fire smartness across the province
- Stand-replacing fires were not the norm in the forests affected by 2017 fires. State of emergency as new reality
- BUT these events are not beyond our control. We can effectively engage in fuel management. “We need to manage fuels as a form of adaptation!”

## Reasons for fire outbreaks

- Homogenized landscapes, compromised forest health
- Our response to disturbances is a contributing factor. MPB-related salvage logging had negative effects (too much residual left on the ground, a serious concern!)

## The fire suppression paradox

- Impact of surface fires and past fire regimes were an effective form of adaptation and control. Why did we abandon this practice and move toward fire suppression and exclusion? Do we need to reconsider prescribed burning? How dense should we plant our forests?

- FNs in Williams Lake area used fires to cultivate, food etc. Colonization and changes in human communities have removed fire as important source from the landscape

## **Transformative Change**

- Naive citizens. Call 911 and we will be saved. “I don’t need to be fire smart, somebody else will fix the problem.” Everyone has a role to contribute to fire adaptation!
- Politicians are not listening to the citizens. Need to encourage shift toward fire smart landscapes
- Money is not the issue. We do have money for these causes. Political will is needed to make shift toward fire smartness happen. We have to make people on the coast aware of the realities of the people in the interior. These people live with the fire threat

## **Further research**

- Link to survey about fire management practices in Northern communities will be distributed through the BCCFA. CFAs are encouraged to participate!
- Opportunity to partner with UBC to measure effectiveness of fire prevention and treatment plans

## **Community-based approach as potential solution**

- If fuel managed is our goal, proactive, participatory planning has to occur
- People will feel safer if they are included in the process

## **Outlook**

- BC has the potential to be a world leader in fire smartness
- BCCFA can be a big part of moving forward successfully!

## **Stephan Martineau**

### **Manager of SIFCo – the Slocan Integral Forestry Co-Op, in the Slocan Valley**

#### **Stephan Martineau #Part 1   Stephan Martineau #2**

“Maps have a great function for public buy-in. Map fire risk and proximity to individual homes to raise awareness.”

## **2007 spring fire**

- Wake-up call for CFA fuel management plan
- Led to a number of actions (fire behavior modeling, prescribed burning...)
- Be fire smart, re-introduce fires in the region, reduce the number of small conifers in the landscape



## Engage community around fuel management (prescribed burning)

- Maps have a great function for public buy-in. Map fire and proximity to individual homes to raise awareness.
- People say it's expensive to do this work. But once you invest, maintenance costs lower over time.
- Project resulted in calls from private land holders that would like to have prescribed burning
- Scaling these approaches is key. At least 25 plus ha needed to make a difference.
- Private land is the elephant in the room. Big part of landscape level plan. Many private landholders (private homeowners) not willing to spend the money. Their commitment will be needed over time.
- A few years ago, CFAs not allowed to apply for a lot of the funding. Whatever new funding pot comes available should include area based licensees!

### Bruce Blackwell RPF, RPBio, BA Blackwell and Associates

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Of the top 20 BC communities at risk from wildfire, 13 have community forests. "Fuel is the only thing we can affect when it comes to fire. If we don't start doing prescribed fires, we will have no chance to come to terms with the new hazards around wildfire. Landscape level fuel breaks installation and prescribed burning will help to shift from high crown fires to low stand-level fires – should be the priority system. We can no longer attack the head of the fire in BC".

- If we don't start doing prescribed fires, we will have no chance to come to terms with the new hazards around wildfire
- We are helpless at the moment without doing much more work
- We have not been good at implementing the plans we have made
- BCCFA is advocating for the 10kms WUI management zone. This is a good approach, this is something we should do
- We need to spend our money more strategically. Focus on high-risk areas first. Risk justification is important
- "We can no longer attack the head of the fire in BC". Use back-burning etc. to prioritize safety of fire crews
- Landscape level fuel breaks installation and prescribed burning will help to shift from high crown fires to low stand-level fires – should be the priority system

## Fuel Breaks

- A distinct area outside a community of strategic type and shape
- If timber is important in your CFA, include fuel breaks installation in your harvesting program
- Think about context, shaded fuel breaks don't work everywhere. E.g., not in pine forest
- One thing fire breaks don't do: prevent spotting

- More funding need to pull these plans off
- Buy-in on firebreaks is key
- The coast is just as vulnerable as the interior? – Yes. Sunshine coast is. Particularly human-caused. “We are kidding ourselves if we don’t focus on the coast as well!”
- Let’s look back at this in 5 years and say we have done a better job. I am not convinced we can. We need to rebuild the systems. George Abbot’s 108 recommendations don’t do it for me. This report has no clear direction about how we implement these recommendations

## **Q&A**

Bruce – “I try to promote we use 300 m distance from the road”. Simulations and fire behavior analysis are the best way to go. Best way to validate that breaks are in the right place.

### ***Q - Who would fund private land fuel breaks?***

Stephan – No perfect solution yet. Beyond a certain size it’s not feasible for private land owners to cover costs themselves (could be over \$250,000). It becomes the responsibility of the province/community to contribute to the work that needs to be done. Any incentive to put in place for landowners is needed.

### ***Q - Issue of liability for prescribed burning, was it the CFA who was liable?***

Stephan – We had wildfire management branch take on insurance responsibility. Burn plan was executed by wildfire management branch. In Nelson, there is no way to leave the city, but crossing a bridge.

Bruce – “Unless we burn the governors home in Victoria, we will not get this through. I’ve been in this since 1979. I feel like the turtle, I really do! Hip replacements and education ring bells, but fuel management does not!”. “We are kidding ourselves that we can stop the intensity of these fires. But we can buy ourselves time to help mitigate the overall fire effects”.

Brian – “We have to take a look at using the tenure system in a different way”.

Lori – “We need to see forests for more than a timber source. For decades, we were going to optimize yield for timber. Now, we are going for carbon sequestration. I hear those new goals, and I don’t think we learned anything. In the big picture, we are still missing important reality checks. We are still doing the same thing with a new name, with 108 recommendations.”

Stephan – Type 2 of prescribed burning practices in my presentation is the one that can best be scaled up. “We need to do something that people are proud of looking at”. Removing fibre is also good for business. Costs are reduced, fuel breaks are created. You do all of that at once. If people love what you do, it opens up more land base to work on.

Lori- It took us a long time to convince people in public health department at UBC that small amounts of smoke intake are preferable to the amounts of the kind we saw in 2017. They are slowly buying in. We are seeing progress in changing opinions. A slow process.

Stephan – We need to rethink our carbon vision (FES). Increasing carbon sink by increasing density does not make sense from the fire prevention perspective.

## Speaker Profiles

### Brian McNaughton, RPF

#### ***General Manager of the Federation of BC Woodlot Association***

Brian is a long-time resident of Williams Lake who was evacuated from his home and then his community due to the 2017 wildfires. He is the former District Manager of the Williams Lake Forest District, 1st and former President of the Williams Lake Community Forest, a Woodlot Licensee, and a silviculturist in the Cariboo Region.

### Bruce Blackwell, RPF, RPBio

#### ***BA Blackwell and Associates***

Bruce has more than 30 years' experience as a professional forester and biologist primarily focused in fire and forest ecology, silviculture, vegetation management, wildland/urban interface planning, forest policy and practice audits and reviews. He is a provincial expert in fire and fuels management and has managed numerous innovative projects related to fire risk identification and mitigation for both the public and private sector. He has provided expert opinion testimony and numerous interviews on the topic of wildfire in BC. Bruce assisted the Firestorm 2003 Review Team in the development of recommendations on forest management and policy to mitigate the risk of catastrophic fires in the wildland/urban interface of BC. He has also applied his expertise in developing numerous wildfire community protection plans and wildfire risk assessments, risk management systems, fuel treatment prescriptions, and fire management plans.

### Casey Macaulay, RPF

#### ***Registrar and Director of Act Compliance, Association of BC Forest Professionals***

Casey is the registrar for the Association of BC Forest Professionals. In this capacity, he oversees the registration of new ABCFP members and the complaints and discipline processes including enforcement of the Foresters Act. He joined the ABCFP staff in 2011 and spent three years in a role designed to further the ABCFP's stewardship advocacy mandate; including the initiation of the climate change task force.

Prior to joining the ABCFP, Casey worked as a planning forester and a consultant in the Southern interior. His past experiences includes co-management of First Nation forest tenures, geographic information systems, cutting permit development and working with stakeholder groups that have other interests on the land base. Casey has a diploma in forest technology from BCIT, a BSF from UBC and a Master's in conflict analysis and management from Royal Roads. He is based in Kamloops.

## Doug Stewart

### ***Director, Forest Tenures Branch, Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development***

Doug was educated as a forester and worked in Alberta and BC in harvesting operations, silviculture, engineering and tenures. One of his key roles as Director is to serve as 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.

## Frank Varga, RPF

### ***General Manager for COMFOR Management Services - Burns Lake Community Forest***

Prior to working for COMFOR, Frank worked with BCTS as Woodlands Supervisor managing the silviculture program in the Nadina District. His forestry career spans from carrying out forest development, and forest engineering work, to working on active high-lead harvest operations throughout the interior and northern BC.

Frank completed a BSc in Natural Resource Management at UNBC (2000-2003), and a technical diploma in forestry from BCIT (1998-2000). In 2015 he reviewed the Climate Change Innovation Award from the ABCFP for advancing climate action initiatives. Frank completed 3 years as a Director on COMFOR Burns Lake Community Forest (June 2013-June 2016), a term as an elected Municipal Councilor with the Village of Burns Lake (2011-2014), ABCFP Council (2008-2010), and a couple terms on the Canadian Institute of Forestry -Cariboo section as Chair and Director (2009-2013). He also sits on the Executive Board of the Northern Silviculture Committee (2010-Present). He has received five professional development certificates from ABCFP: 2009, 2011, 2013, 2015, 2017 for completing 150 professional development and continuing education hours in each period.

Frank develops and delivers workshops in technical and professional matters in forestry, through Northern Silviculture Committee Workshops, National Forest Week events for K-7 schools kids, and participating in the local Project Forest Management program for High School kids. Frank's passion for forestry stems from his love for the outdoors. Prior to forestry, Frank was working on a degree in criminology, while spending his summers working as a chaser/hooktender in Rivers Inlet, and the southern interior.

Frank lives in Burns Lake BC, where their 2-year plan has been 10 years and going. He and his wife Jennifer have two children.



## Gord Pratt, RPF

### ***Operations Manager, Forest Enhancement Society***

Gord graduated from the University of Alberta in 1986 with a degree in Forestry and has over 30 years' forestry experience. As a partner with a forest consulting company in Smithers, Gord was involved in all aspects of forest management activities such as planning, silviculture and timber development for industry, government and small licensees. Since 2007, he has worked with the Ministry of Forest, Lands and Natural Resource Operations in Kamloops in a number of positions, including Timber Pricing/Tenures Forester in the South Area, Stewardship Forester in the Kamloops Forest District, Fuel Management Specialist for the Kamloops Fire Centre (where his primary role was to promote fuel management treatments in the Wildland Urban Interface areas around the communities across the Kamloops Fire Centre), acting Resource Manager for the Thompson Rivers Natural Resource District and is currently one of three Operations Managers with FESBC.

## Ian Meier, RPF

### ***Director, Wildfire Operations, Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development***

Prior to becoming the Director, Wildfire Operations in June 2013, he was the Fire Centre Manager, Northwest, with the ministry. Ian has worked in several positions within the MFLNRORD. Ian also worked a few years in forest consulting in Smithers.

Outside of work, Ian enjoys gardening and spending time with his family. These days mostly spent in ice arenas.

## Ken Nielsen

### ***General Manager, Chinook Community Forest***

Ken was born in Prince George and raised in Fort St James where he began his forestry career. He has experience in multiple areas of the industry from managing woodlots to full scale harvesting, and has been self-employed for 30 years. He has been involved with Chinook Community Forest from inception in 2013, sitting as president from 2016-17, then stepped down to become the first manager.

## Kevin Kriese

### ***Assistant Deputy Minister, Regional Operations, North Area Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development***

Kevin was appointed Assistant Deputy Minister in December of 2010. His area of responsibility includes the Skeena, Omineca, and Northeast Regions. As Assistant Deputy Minister, Kevin leads a diverse team to deliver programs in the management of fish, wildlife, water, and forest resources.

Kevin entered the public service in 1992 with the Ministry of Forests and then worked in the Ministry of Sustainable Resource Management and the Integrated Land Management Bureau. For the past 20 years, he has lived in Smithers, and worked primarily on projects in the areas of strategic resource management, First Nations engagement, and land use.

## Linda Robertson

### ***Skeena Region, Manager, Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation***

Linda is a long time Indigenous Relations Manager for the Provincial government. She began her career in the BC government 25 years ago as an Aboriginal Liaison Officer for the Sunshine Coast Forest District. For the past 20 years, Linda has raised a family and worked in Smithers, first as Aboriginal Relations Manager with the Ministry of Forests, and now as the Skeena Region Manager for the Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation. She is committed to the northwest and the idea that local people should have more control over local resources.

## Lisa Ambus

### ***Project Leader, North Regional Negotiations Team, Smithers, Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation***

Over the past 20 years, Lisa has been involved with community forestry in various capacities including as the coordinator of a global network of community forest organizations, director of the Wetzin'kwa Community Forest Corporation, research consultant, and as a graduate student focused on BC's community forest tenure program. Lisa lives in Smithers with her husband Tony and daughter Anneke.

## Lori Daniels

### ***Professor of Forest Ecology in the Forest and Conservation Sciences Department at UBC-Vancouver***

Lori's degrees are in Ecology (BSc, UManitoba), Forest Ecology (MSc, UBC) and Biogeography (PhD, UColorado-Boulder). She directs the Tree-Ring Lab at UBC where her research applies tree-ring analyses to investigate disturbance regimes and the impacts of climate and humans on forest dynamics. With her graduate students, Lori has on-going research on fire regimes, forest dynamics, forest and community resilience to climate change in coastal and interior British Columbia, the Rocky Mountain National Parks and foothills of Alberta. To contribute to effective wildfire science and management, she serves on BC's Prescribed Fire Council and is member of the Canadian Wildland Fire Strategy Implementation Team.

## Marc Imus

### ***Director for the Southern Interior, Regional Economic Operations (REO) Branch, Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development***

The REO Branch is part of the Rural Development, Lands and Innovation Division – in the Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development (FLNRORD). With a degree in Environment Planning from the University of Northern British Columbia, Marc's career in government began with Land and Resource Management Planning in the Thompson/Okanagan region striving to build consensus at the various LRMP tables. This early work in planning was followed by inter-agency coordination, building indigenous engagement with various levels of government and Crown agencies as well as advancing fish and wildlife management in the Northern Region (based out of Prince George). For the past eight years, Marc has worked out of Kamloops in community and rural economic development (first as part of the Pine Beetle Epidemic Response Division and then as part of REO Branch). The REO Branch joined FLNRORD last summer (from the Ministry of Jobs, Trade & Technology) and is an integral part of the rural economic development mandate of the ministry.

## Neil Hughes, RPF

### ***Resource Practices Branch, Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development***

Neil has a BSc Honours Forestry, Aberdeen University, MSc. Environment and Management RRU, RPF. He worked for 7 years as a professional forester in Scotland before coming to BC in 1994. Neil spent 21 years in the coastal forest industry in a variety of roles mostly around silviculture and planning but including engineering and harvest supervision. For 15 years he was in the hardwood business and he is the provincial advocate for red alder management.

Neil is the Forest Establishment Leader with the Province focused on early stand development and he looks after the Forests for Tomorrow program which is investing \$48M annually around the province.

## Shane Berg

*Deputy Chief Forester of BC, and Executive Director, Office of the Chief Forester*

*Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development*

Shane's program responsibilities include Silviculture, Reforestation, Forest Health, Research, Seed Production and Forest Genetics and Forest Policy Development. Having spent the last 31 years with the BC Public Service, Shane has been a Silviculture Forester in Grand Forks and Invermere, a District Manager in Hazelton and Kamloops, was a Regional Executive Director with the Ministry of Aboriginal Affairs for six years. He is very happy to be back in the "Forests" with the Office of the Chief Forester.

## Stephan Martineau

*Slocan Integral Forestry Coop - Winlaw, British Columbia*

Stephan is the Manager and a founding Director of SIFCo in the Slocan Valley and was President from 2006 to 2011. Stephan also works as an integral consultant and project manager for societies, coops, businesses, co-housing projects and communities, as they develop vision, inter and intrapersonal discernment skills and practices, and seek to implement these in ways that are effective and resilient to change. He has worked in community development and ecosystem-based planning since 1993. Stephan's lifelong passion and pursuit is to move beyond ideas, discussions and theorizing to actually doing and being the changes we wish to see in the world. For the past 19 years, he has designed and led numerous transformative educational events internationally, specifically for ecologists, community builders, educators and parents. He is also founder and director of an international organization that works in the field of human consciousness evolution, specifically applying an Integral framework to environmental work, education, parenting and mediation. He is married and father to a wonderful daughter.