



British Columbia
**Community
Forest
Association**

local people, local forests, local decisions

2022 BCCFA CONFERENCE & AGM

October 19-21, 2022

Nakusp, BC

Detailed Session Notes

Conference presentations can be found on the BCCFA website [here](#).

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*Notice: This document is a summary of presentations and discussions. Statements should not be taken as verbatim quotes unless noted.

1. Provincial Forest Policy - Update on Key Government Initiatives

Recent legislation and ongoing forest policy reform are aimed at transforming BC's forest sector. Driving this change is the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act and a new vision for forest management that prioritizes ecosystem health and resilience. In this panel, we heard the latest on these initiatives from senior government representatives, with a focus on what it means for community forests. Topics include the Old Growth Strategic Review recommendations; the Forest and Range Practices Act and changes to the Forest Act.

Moderated by Jennifer Gunter, BCCFA Executive Director

To view the presentations click [here](#).

Speakers:

- **Eamon O'Donoghue, Associate Deputy Minister, Ministry of Forests;**
- **Julie MacDougall, Executive Director, Strategic Initiatives, Office of the Chief Forester;**
- **Doug Kelly, Director, Forest Tenures Branch**

Jennifer - Introduction

"The goal of this session is to provide you with an overview of the significant forest policy reforms that are underway, and for you to have a chance to ask questions. The themes that are highlighted in this session will be picked up throughout the day as we learn more about what the various initiatives mean for community forests. And we now have 60 CFAs operating in BC. About half are held by FN or a partnership. We are so pleased that people from so many of these organizations are here today.

The BC Community Forest Association is an active participant in forest policy engagement processes. Indeed, we see many of the recommendations we have made reflected in new and proposed changes:

- More FN and community involvement in forest management decisions. We said that Community forests are one of the best tools we have in BC to increase forest sector participation, enhance stewardship and sustainability and strengthen the social contract.
- We agreed that we need to focus on ecosystem health, climate change adaptation and wildfire risk reduction. Indeed, Community forests are active partners in the critical effort to reduce the risk of wildfire to communities and the BCCFA calls for continued financial investment by the province in this work.
- The BCCFA is also aligned with shifting the focus from volume to value. Community forests support the value-added economy and create more jobs through their annual harvest .
- And we also delivered the sustained message that for CFAs to be successful, they need supportive policy, including stumpage policy.

All of these messages are supported by the Annual Community Forest Indicators Survey the BCCFA conducts. I'm so pleased to today announce the release of our 2022 Report.

This report provides tangible evidence of the good work that community forests are doing all across the province. Their investments in their communities, in enhanced silviculture and environmental stewardship and the management of old forests... investments in wildfire risk reduction, education and recreation.

It speaks to the work they are doing to build bridges between Indigenous and Non-Indigenous communities, and also their work to support local jobs and the economic wellbeing of their towns.

While the community forests may be aligned with many of the concepts proposed for modernizing the forest sector, as the saying goes, the devil is in the details. The challenge is how to make sure that the unique attributes of the community forest tenure are acknowledged and supported. “

Jennifer introduced the panelists and asked them to share their visions for the future of the sector, and for community forests.

Eamon O'Donoghue

I want to talk about the big picture – our vision for BC Forests and how Community Forests fit into that vision.

The vision for BC Forests is to transform the sector to create more well-paying jobs for British Columbians in a time of declining AACs and at the same time create a more sustainable landscape. Not an easy task. This includes these critical elements: “Resilient forests, landscapes, wildlife and watersheds, for the benefit of British Columbia, now and for generations to come.”

Community forests created 1 job for every 2000 m³ in forestry, logging, and support services, which is approximately 76 per cent greater than the industry average.

The major document that lays out this vision is the Intentions Paper.

I'll be talking about each of these in turn and then highlight some of the ways in which community forests fit within this vision. Community forests are leading the charge in creating a more resilient forest landbase.

Paul Hessburg's Ted talk about mitigating the risk to wildfire and creating resilient forests explains why we need to build a different landbase and utilize more of the fibre on the landbase and increase our use of prescribed fire.

Fibre needs to be part of creating more jobs but also reducing wildfire on the landbase. This will be done through regulation changes and by continuing to support the Forest Enhancement Society. Community forests have been able to use grant funding to create jobs, make better wildlife habitat, and utilize fibre all within one project. Reducing wildfire on the landscape means we need to change from a static approach to resource management to a dynamic and aspatial approach and to make sure that when you move from static to dynamic that you're sincere about the conservation elements. Especially in our drier interior landscapes.

We have 2 Forest Landscape Plans piloting this approach. Transforming to this approach will result in more stable fibre supply, more stable ecosystems and communities that are safer from wildfire. It won't be easy but we have to do it. Finally to ensure we move quickly we need to start treating the highest risk sites in our forest.

There are carbon benefits of a managed forest vs old growth. A managed forest landbase has 18 times the benefit from a climate change and carbon perspective than an old growth forest. Appropriate forest management can sequester more carbon. The construction alternative to wood is concrete and steel, and the implications from a carbon perspective are devastating. We need to shift the broad narrative that forestry is a bad thing and that it can be one of our most sustainable and powerful tools to address climate change.

Mitigating wildfire on the landbase will do dramatically more for climate change. The greenhouse gas tally for BC from human activity was 68 Mt in 2018 and when wildfires are included in the count, they emitted 200Mt (three times more emissions from wildfire).

Prescribed fire releases carbon, but prescribed burn has less of a carbon impact than a catastrophic fire that is becoming more common. Again Forest Landscape Level planning will be a critical tool to help us achieve the change we want.

Value added

Part of government's vision is to create more jobs out of the sector. We have no choice, we have to change the way we do things. This is what the minister talks about the most, what are we going to change to make this happen? The log sales table in the BCCFA Indicators Report shows CFAs are doing some of this and to make a value added sector to work, you need a healthy industry sector to work with.

Reconciliation and partnerships with First Nations underlies everything we do in the province right now. We are going through a significant transformation in the forest sector. We are going to double the amount of volume that Nations have in their hands. Community forests can lead by creating partnerships with First Nations. Chinook's board is an example. We're looking at the future to co-management with First Nations.

We need to show how positive forestry can be. Community forests are a key part of this message to help change public sentiment out there about forestry in BC.

Julie MacDougall - A new future for old forests

Julie works in the Office of the Chief Forester, leading implementation of old growth strategic review (OGSR).

How do we deal with forest carbon and climate? We need to take a look at old forest management. There are three key things in the old growth report that are the overarching elements:

- Healthy ecosystems
- Effective management
- Public support

"We need to move off the deferrals and take a look at how we are managing old forest into the future." Need transitional supports in place so we can transition to the new management processes. Create resilient communities through support during transition.

We're in a good place to move forward to have conversations on how we plan long-term. The OGSR stated what we wanted to achieve, now we need to figure out how to action it while aligning priority work for delivery of the provincial and indigenous visions for old growth forest management.

Next step: engagement process around the "how" with Indigenous nations and stakeholders, including industry and communities - This new engagement is not about getting general opinions or ideas on what the importance is of old growth. We really want to focus on how we breathe life into the recommendations and advice and make them into concrete actions. What are the actions that we should do together to move this forward in a logical way?

The targeted engagement with community and stakeholders, designed in collaboration with stakeholder team, will engage with BCCFA. We will leverage existing relationships and organizations (UBCM, COFI, ENGOs, etc). The process will be multi-sectorial in nature. We want to work with innovative leaders that are interested in participating in planning going forward.

Indigenous collaboration - A call will go out to all 204 nations in the province to participate.

We are designing the process with the nations on the best way to have the conversation and hold forums to come up with meaningful, co-developed actions.

Actions are needed to help us move forward, off the deferrals, and into tactical level planning to manage forests in to the future. We will plan landscape retention to meet values, goals, and intent of the review. Will give flexibility and effective OG management. Allow us to keep moving forward with forest management. CFAs are doing innovative work on how we can take the OGSR and make it work on the ground.

Doug Kelly

Doug is the minister's delegated decision maker for transfers of tenure <100,000 m³ (excepting woodlots, CFA's and FNWL's), The Intentions Paper for Modernization of Forest policy in BC sets out government's vision for the future. Supporting legislation (Bill 28 (2021), Bill 22 (2019)) established processes for approval of transfers and redistributing tenures, taking and transfers. The landscape is changing fast and we are seeing tenures moving to First Nations like we've never seen. The Intentions Paper sets out a goal to increase forest sector participating in First Nations and communities. There are 20 intentions in the paper, including old growth and FRPA. It sets the stage for massive change of forest modernization policy.

Yet the elephant in the room for this group is the intention related to tab or tabular rates. It is important to look at the context of tab rates within the intention:

- *Revising area-based tenure-specific pricing policy: Currently there is a disparity between stumpage rates applied to Woodlot Licences, Community Forest Agreements, and First Nation Woodland Licences issued to Indigenous communities. We will harmonize the rate structures, consistent with our market-based pricing system, while being mindful that smaller tenure ownership is impacted by economies of scale.*

This doesn't indicate an intention to eliminate tab rates, but to address the disparity. There are valid reasons to look at different structures and the use of economic incentives need to be considered in any new policy. The new fiscal relationship with First Nations will help establish the base principles of where government needs to go in addressing this disparity. It will take some time, and there will be a delay in implementing any change to get it right.

We recognize there is broad support to address the disparity. We also recognize that tab rates are important for CFAs and WLs, that the social forest obligations associated with these tenures require a different fee structure, and the social forestry obligations are more important than the net stumpage revenues.

We also recognize that CFAs want to be involved in engagement and discussions on any proposed changes to tab rates in the future. There will be engagement in the development of any new policy with CFAs.

CFAs are already doing exactly what the minister wants to see happen with forests. Community oversight structure and leadership is key in supporting this. CFAs are leaders in ecosystem management, in alignment with the old growth report 14 recommendations.

Yes, you can continue to improve and do better, but it is important to recognize that most CFAs are already doing ecosystem-based management.

Lastly, CFAs need to tell their stories, continue to network, and advocate for proposed and existing policies, develop and improve relationships with First Nations. If community forests can't achieve that, I don't know who can.

Q and A:

Q: One of the most common questions is how do I get a community forest? Heard from communities and first nations, and many existing community forests need a top up to meet their AAC. Are you guys ever going to do a big take back so that the communities that didn't get one in the mid-2000s and still want one can get one when the time comes and they're prepared?

A: First Nations own vast tracts of the province, and one of the governments priority is to engage them in forestry. The conflict and uncertainty with first nations not being part of that activity is a big concern. The costs of a take back make it highly unlikely, but things can change pretty fast. At this point it would be economically challenging to buy back tenure. Focusing on creating business relationships. There are some TSAs where there's some room, but very small portion of the province. If a community forest is partnering with a first nation they'll have a much better chance. There's not a chance, given the existing tenures on the landbase. Trying to enhance revenue sharing to first nations (more than doubled) so nations can start to buy into tenure and get tenure over to their side.

Jen G - Bill 28 did create the mechanism for takebacks or buybacks and provided the framework for that. This is a signal that there is that desire on the horizon, but the timber supply being so tight makes this very difficult. What are the different avenues that could be pursued by a motivated community?

Q: Conundrum between OG strategy relative to management, created public facing problem in understanding forests and the role of management. Recommend that the province needs to provide messages to the public about how important active forest management is - management that is dynamic and builds resiliency. How do those policies line up with each other?

A: They currently don't line up. OG strategy wanted to see more designation. This is a real challenge, putting more "fences" around OG ecotypes doesn't make sense. More spatial old growth isn't going to help because they'll likely burn or die. We need to create a more dynamic approach on the landbase. We need to bring these together, and hopefully the pilot projects are grappling with this right now and come out with innovative ideas to show we can take an aspatial approach to meet old growth objectives.

Q: How will tenure permits be enforced and managed once land is transferred to Nations?

A: FN communities are concerned about appropriate management and want more enforcement. The same goals and management will apply. FN want stricter rules in place and are more self-enforced. When tenure is transferred, it's still under provincial jurisdiction so all the provincial regulations apply. The biggest change will be the partnership with Nations to set the rules, if the appropriate rules aren't there, province will sit down with Nations to develop the rules.

Q: Bring back appurtenancy? Value added, history of policy in BC, how big a shift this was in BC when that came out.

A: Hard question. Create more jobs out of the volume that's there. Past a tipping point where it would be hard to bring appurtenancy back. Trying to meet the same goals in today's world.

A: Higher end value and more of a social imprint is a better way to do it. Is it "appurtenancy like", maybe. It's almost impossible to go back to the old model and it wasn't that effective. Looking forward, we need to look at how we've done on the landbase in the past and do better. We want better.

Jennifer - what we've heard

So much of this work is evolving and in flux, as community forests across the province we have an opportunity to contribute. We need to raise our voices and contribute a unified message while showing the diversity of community forests.

2. Ahead of the Curve with Landscape Level Planning

We heard from a panel of people who are trail blazers innovating to develop and implement long-term, spatial plans on community forests and larger areas. The goal of this session was to focus on a conversation that will offer CFAs that have not begun a holistic, long term plan for their area some pragmatic steps to begin this work, and inspire those that have begun. **There were no presentations in this session.**

Moderated by Garnet Mierau, RPF, Logan Lake Community Forest Management Team, ABCFP President and Forsite Consultants.

Panelists:

- Garry Merkel, RPF
- Beth Eagles, District Manager Nadina Resource District with the Lakes Resiliency Project
- Erik Leslie, RPF, Harrop Procter Community Forest
- Dave Gill, RPF, Westbank Community Forest

With landscape resilience at the forefront of forest management discussions, we engaged in a conversation about the forest landscape planning process in BC and how community forests have been investing in landscape-level planning.

The community forest managers shared how they have been working under landscape plans for over 10 years, plans generated through deep engagement with the community with a long term lens (e.g. Ntityix's Seven Generation Plan). We must meet the people, the community, those who the plan is for as we work to understand values, principles and priorities. **Momentum for landscape level planning must be driven from the land.**

Garry Merkel spoke of how a current wave of change is in play. It may be challenging to ride but will result in a more sustainable and resilient land, forest and future. He emphasized that, "AAC should result from land and forest management decisions, not AAC driving forest management."

The discussion about the provincial Forest Landscape Plan process recognized the need to make significant change in how we are doing forest management in order to realize a more resilient future. The panel emphasized the need to identify values, priorities and principles to guide land management. Linkages to climate change adaptation and wildfire risk reduction were also discussed as key aspects of landscape resilience.

Community forests are key examples of collaboration and innovation. We were challenged to be at the core and centre of the landscape planning conversation and not an isolated island amongst the broader landscape.

3. Adaptation for Wildfire Resilience

Randy Spyksma, Moderator

Introduction - Wildfire risk is a shared risk, one that is based on adaptation. Let's define Adaptation as: change or the process of change in order to be better suited.

Panelists:

- Jennifer Gunter, Executive Director, BC Community Forest Association
- Steve Kozuki, Executive Director, Forest Enhancement Society BC (FESBC)
- Lori Daniels, Kelsey Copes-Gerbitz and Kea Rutherford, Tree-Ring Lab at UBC Team

To view the presentations click [here](#).

Jennifer Gunter

The panel represents an important collaboration between BCCFA and important partners including funders, BC Wildfire Service and communities.

There are 60 CFAs in the province, and the majority involved in wildfire risk reduction.

“What we have found year over year is that community forests are demonstrating leadership in coordination and management to reduce the risk of wildfire. Many community forests see the urgency of the problem, and they are taking action. Our survey shows that the majority are collaborating with their local government on wildfire planning.

They are investing their own funds and successfully implementing projects with funds from the provincial government – including very important funding managed by the Forest Enhancement Society of BC.

The BCCFA is a partner in the Canada Wildfire Strategic Network - with several community forests participating in research on the efficacy of fuel treatments, led by Dr Lori Daniels and her students at UBC.

This proactive work on the part of so many community forests led to the establishment of a partnership between the BCCFA and the BC Wildfire Service.

In 2019, following 2017-2018 wildfires, BCCFA developed the Engagement Agreement between BCWS and BCCFA and FBCWA. Following this, The Crown Land WRR BCCFA Economic Recovery Initiative, brought \$5.5 million of provincial funds to 15 community forests in 2021-2022. Looking ahead BCCFA wants to work on innovative projects, based on strong relationship and want to continue to advocate for more involvement by communities across the province.”

Steve Kozuki

Steve summarized the FESBC purpose and described it as a Crown corporation with the province as the sole shareholder.

FESBC was initiated in response to pine beetle mortality and then expanded to include greenhouse gas emission reduction, wildlife habitat restoration, enhanced fibre utilization and wildfire risk reduction.

Since inception, FESBC has invested in 53 projects worth \$18 million, including \$12.3 million for 34 wildfire risk reduction projects.

FESBC looks for value for money, making sure that wildfire risk reduction also includes other objectives such as greenhouse gas emission reduction, wildlife habitat restoration and enhanced fibre utilization.

Particularly proud of a project just outside of Williams Lake, a partnership that includes the Williams Lake First Nation where fuels were reduced followed by Cultural Burning.

Dr. Lori Daniels, Forest and Conservation Sciences, UBC

Lori was on the CBC this morning at 5 am and was asked if the 2022 fire season is a wakeup call? She said no, we got that call in 2003, and again in 2009, 2017, 2018, 2021 and again this year. We are awake.

The Filmon Report was completed in 2003 and identified 1.6 million ha of hazardous fuels adjacent to 154 Municipalities and 202 indigenous communities

Since that time as a province we have spent \$500 million across all programs to reduce the wildfire risk. As much as this sounds impressive keep in mind that in 20 years we have treated about 10% of the area identified as hazardous in 2003.

This means is we are not moving fast enough. We have spent \$7 billion on suppression over the same 20-year time frame. Their research is looking at two key questions:

- 1. How are communities proactively managing in and beyond the WUI?**
- 2. What are the key challenges and priorities for proactive wildfire management?**

Dr. Kelsey Copes-Gerbitz, Tree Ring Lab

Started research into the role of communities in wildfire risk reduction in 2017 with a survey to 77 communities. 99% believed wildfire risk reduction is a priority and 89% are proactively engaging. First Nations communities with less than 5,000 residents are less likely to be engaged.

In 2019 research interviewed 24 Community Forests. Found that there is a great deal of diversity with Community Forests and the work they do, with fuels treatments being the most common proactive approach. Research shows that success is based on key relationships (with community members and agencies) and that scaling and aligning wildfire management with forest management is a focus across the communities they worked with.

Also looked at challenges that include:

- **Capacity and funding**
- **Objective effectiveness monitoring**
- **Existing planning and legislative frameworks**
- **Negotiating trade-offs with other management objectives**

The research continues. Seeking to understand whether challenges continue and proposed to engage CFAs in helping to gather data. Questionnaires were distributed to conference attendees to explore options.

Kea Rutherford, Tree Ring Lab

Also looking at this question: Are treatments working?

We know that treatment goals are well understood and we can measure the effectiveness with field measurements and fire behaviour modelling. The field methodology to measure the fuel complex is rigorous.

We are working with several Community Forests including Harrop-Procter, Creston, Kaslo and District, Nakusp and Area, and Slokan Integral Forestry Cooperative.

Used accepted fire behaviour models to look at the efficacy of treatments. Found that treatments reduce passive and active crown fire potential. We also found that tree mortality is being reduced.

Dr. Lori Daniels, Forest and Conservation Sciences, UBC

The other question looked at is: Are fuel treatments effective when challenged by wildfire?

Fortunate to work with Logan Lake Community Forest that was affected by the 2021 Tremont Fire as an example.

Plots were established in 2021 before the Tremont Fire. We found that in non-treated areas there was 76% mortality of 286 trees, 94% crown scorch and 90% ground scorch. But in treated areas there was only 18% mortality of 95 trees, 13% crown scorch and 73% ground scorch.

The next steps are to:

- Streamline field protocols
- Expand research into new communities
- Be creative, and
- Advocate for policy change and increased funding
-

We are awake, we know what to do, we know how to do it because of the great work of Community Forests and now is the time to invest in resilience.

Q and A

Q: How much is treated in BC each year?

A: 5,000 ha per year including prescribed and cultural burning.

Q: How effective are the treatments?

A: We are getting good results, but forest type and treatment types are varied. South of the border we are getting clear evidence that mechanical and Prescribed B has best impact and longevity. Prescribed burning is key to efficacy and longevity.

Q: Tell us more about advocacy. What else do we need to do at the community level and what do you say to funders and senior government here today?

A: This is a local and provincial question. Locally we are seeing that Community Forests are leaders and need to continue what they are doing. Provincially we need more political will. On the coast the big deal is earthquakes – since 2004 we have seen \$19 million spent on seismic upgrades. But we have a small fraction of that sent on wildfire risk reduction in the last 3 years. We have 3.4 million ha of wildfires in the past XX years. In 2021 there were \$9 billion in damages from wildfire including direct and indirect costs. There were \$16 Billion in natural disasters last year – all of the provincial responses reactive.

The solution is: be proactive, we know from research that there is \$5 dollar return on investment on up front investments – we need to mobilize political courage. How is that each year we can harvest 200,00 ha and only treat 5,000 ha.

Q: How can local governments and under-represented communities get more involved?

A: Province says that no community should be left behind? This is an ongoing discussion with no easy answers.

4. Community Forestry and the Law

Jeremy Shelford, Corporate Commercial Lawyer, Partner, Ratcliff LLP

To view the presentation click [here](#).

In community forestry we sometimes are uncertain when to pull in outside professional services that are not technical forestry in nature, including lawyers. In this short session, Jeremy described the types of legal work that he often does for community forests – from log sales agreements and logging contracts, to regulatory work, board governance and relationship management.

Jeremy has a unique perspective on law that pertains to community forestry because, as he told the group, "I'm a lawyer, but first I was a forester and still am."

Can help with finding the best legal solution for the entity holding the licence; often limited partnership when First Nations partnerships are involved in the CF.

- Can help navigate complexities when licences are issued from the Crown.
- Three branches of legal help/advice offered when CF's are operational: Corporate, Governance, and Operations.
- Directors/managers under fire from stakeholders; as a manager under fire, you should talk to a lawyer about which direction to take this. If you are threatened, you need to talk to the RCMP.
- Director's duty is to the company not shareholders, sometimes this means not necessarily following the direction the shareholders want to go.
- "Conferences like this shows the vitality of what you all are doing here"

5. Forest carbon offsets: know your options and know the risks

Keynote Speaker, Jason Fisher, RPF, LLB, Partner, MNP

To view the presentation click [here](#).

Community forests are asking if they could incorporate carbon management into their operations. We asked Jason Fisher to bring us up to speed. Carbon credits promote actions that change the status quo.

- What are carbon credits? Certificates representing an amount of carbon removed from or not emitted to the atmosphere as a result of a verified project, can be purchased by another organization and "retired" against carbon produced by that organization.
- To generate credits: you must own the source of the credits, your project must have real carbon impacts, the actions you take must be additional to the status quo, the impacts must be verifiable, and someone must want to buy them.
- BC & CFA challenges: ownership, additionality, changing climate
- BC & CFA strengths: local and Indigenous partnerships, narrative, ingenuity

Example

- fossil carbon = "the loan"
- land/ocean/air = "The household budget"
- climate change = "the interest"

6. Managers Session - Questions, (Q) Answers (A) and Comments (C)

George Brcko and Jennifer Gunter, Moderators

Resource People - Eamon O'Donoghue, Julie MacDougall, Doug Kelly, Kelly Osbourne, Debbie Zandbelt

Topics for discussion identified by managers

- Old growth strategy and engagement process
- FRPA changes and forest landscape planning, update on how we see CFAs fitting in this process
- Lakes resiliency project
- Landscape resilience
- What's happening for interior community forests for waste assessment procedures
- What's happening for coastal community forests in fibre recovery zones

- Evolution in land based investment
- Funds from forests for tomorrow for reforestation, spacing, etc
- New branch is forest investment and research
- Collaborating with local communities, what are peoples strategies

Q and A - Old growth - New phase, new engagement process

Q: What opportunities do you see to make it easier for community forests?

A:

- Planning processes are very different and have different objectives and goals compared to major licensees
- Action plan development, want to make sure that the actions don't become cookie cutter across the province, leverage off of what's already working and there's opportunities for forest landscape plans for the future
- Ensure we have the indigenous peoples involved in the process of developing long term strategies for managing old forest into the future and shifting how were harvesting
- A lot of opportunities and things being done that would lend itself to being the path forward for how to take existing reserve networks and use them to meet the objectives for old forest into the future
- Need to get off the deferrals and get onto the ground, and see what's on the ground and manage the forest to meet the objective of having old forest into the future.
- Management in place, with tweaks in process or values to be considered, can lend themselves over time to becoming the FLP and certainty around harvest opportunities that meet the overall objectives
- OG Strategic Review: we need input from BCCFA to make sure identified action items are clear but not too specific to limit creative that applies in various parts of the province.

Q: Are you saying that CFs are expected to be their own unit as far as a FLP?

A: That was the intention because it's an area based tenure, having said that if a CFA is adjacent to TSA or TFL, that you have a good understanding of what they're looking at so you don't have conflicting things side by side. Engage in each other's processes but intend to be separate.

Q: Legislation was written to be flexible and not set FLP boundaries.

A: Pilot thinking is that landscape planning doesn't make sense to do on a tenure basis, should be engaging across a larger landscape with some autonomy and flexibility for operation and management of CFA values.

Q: Paper plan, is the idea that FLP is shown to the ministry for analysis?

A: Not sure yet, need to see what type of elements need to be in them to make them inclusive (First Nations, other users, etc). depending on how your plan was already developed, it may not be a huge stretch to develop an FLP from current planning framework. Triage interest from CFAs and figure out efficient implementation

Q: WRR perspective, autonomy important but need collaboration because fire crosses boundaries and management needs to be done together

A: community forests won't be done separately (remember it is a very slow process), so CFAs have to be part of the process with other licensees. Bring knowledge and value and current planning into those processes. FLP are spatial plans, so different than some planning that's come out under previous FRPA. Different objectives could apply to different parts of the landscape based on interests and values.

Q: FSP templates and steps were provided, what could the steps be for old growth? on the ground commitment is costly, so we'd like to see guidance/steps moving forward.

A: Happens through FLP. Part of action plan, devise tools for the interim to move forward to manage OG that is credible and meets report intent. Some guidance about field verification is available. Integrated resource management plans used to develop a retention strategy to meet the report intent, use the same principles as FLP to make these. Gov to gov process for where nations want to maintain OG, need to find a mandate for how to make that real.

Q: Tying OG with the current direction. Messaging from gov, how they can help us get the message out to explain what's happening to the public. Should we be looking at the broad range of values that exist across the landscape, are there areas where the OG is gone and we should be recruiting it there, recognizing that OG isn't the only type of forest that has value? Messaging from gov in regards to TAP wasn't good. Think about multiple resource value, landscape level planning, won't work unless its effectively communicated to the public – beyond the scope of a community manager. The lack of info that is out there is true. Good forest management is happening all over the province. Boots on the ground, government needs to work with partners to get the info out there better. Need to advertise all benefits, from economy to recreation.

A: This is political, implementation will be as described. CFAs can help spread the word but gov needs to too. Both of us need to work on communication, standing up together.

Q: Dramatic degree of pressure and cost by scale. The smaller you are the more subject you are to the actions (or lack of) of those around you. Need more information to be able to explain it to the community. Lack of capacity to engage in the processes that are being rolled out

A: Look from the ground up for implementation of policy. Build upon the values when looking at the land.

Q: When BCCFA was talking with gov about deferrals, minister wrote to CFAs in April. If you've been meeting the intent of TAP priorities you could have that plan endorsed by DM. Anyone engaging in this process? Will this help bridge the gap from where we are now to the development of FLPs?

Q: Started integrated resource management plan on core FN territory and engaged outside the territory with Mosaic. We can't wait for these things to happen, so we started our IRMP, asked gov for support but not permission, got other licensees to join in. Approach is to come out with result within a year, did an analysis of OG for the whole area. Mapped it, using this to manage OG within the territory rather than TAP polys. The more you wait, the more pressure you're going to feel. Needs to get moving, because other processes are too far out. Aside, how to determine AACs. IRMPs will affect this.

Q: Significant amount of OG and TAP polys within CFA. Board mandate to prepare new management plan for OG. Still feel there's a lack of direction from province on whether or not were meeting larger objectives. Frustrating to go through planning but we don't know how it fits in the larger context, is it all meeting objectives with adjacent communities? Need a larger strategy to make it work. Bigger issue than just community forests.

A: The scale you're planning on within the CF, if you're partnering and codeveloping with nations, should be considered by DM. Over time, FLP should be the same tool that will marry up with TSR. TSR has its limitations because what we need to do in the future is different from what we've done in the past. How can we come up with a defensible plan to meet forward objectives, determine from spatial iteration what the appropriate level is. Determine framework for moving forward in a better fashion than we are now.

C: Lots of environmental critics. Held accountable for following ecosystem management. Don't harvest OG as a policy, but don't have a lot of OG. Wanted to bring OG recruitment up to 10%. Take control, be able to find our own destiny in our CF. Everyone knows their tenure and their community and take charge, be the beacon and the light to meet government and First Nations goals with climate resilience and ecosystem resilience.

Waste

Fibre recovery zones on the coast:

- Obligation under cutting permit to take a certain amount of material, 3x stumpage applies to anything above that as waste.
- Map zone is based on what it costs to deliver wood to the mill
- Very controversial from the start
- Looking at changing behaviour and enforcing utilization
- Can turn it on and off, turned on this year because of pulp shortage
- Purchasing incentives to make it easier for licensees

C: Tough to sell the fibre without taking a loss. Want to supply firewood to community. FRZ is just a play to the pulp mill and can remove the wood from the community where it could have a larger benefit. Lack of collaboration

C: CFs don't have the leverage, don't have the volume to be attractive enough for pulp mills to follow through on taking the fibre.

A: FRZ is a bad model, but how do you create the business to business relationships? Declining AAC and a changing industry, there's a lack of creativity. Need to break out of the old model.

C: Doesn't make sense to cut a tree down and lose money, even breaking even isn't good. Mill won't pay enough to get the wood there without the CF losing money

A: Gov will drop the FRZ approach if it doesn't work. Trying to monitor through waste assessment surveys

C: Incentive pulp mills rather than make CFs pay more

New waste measurement procedures

C: Lack of waste surveyors makes it difficult to use the new system

C: Engaged FN to build capacity. Expensive surveys

C: Moving from ocular to full survey, get a real figure from a full survey unlike the ocular. Consistently 40% of district waste averages in the interior.

C: Hard to find an assessor. Slowly getting numbers to compare to district average. 45-50% below district average. Wait time for a survey is difficult from a silviculture perspective.

C: Trained their own surveyors because it was taking too long to get people to show up. Build capacity. Makes site prep and pile burning difficult because survey takes so long. Huge cost increase, not much of a difference in waste charges between oculars and full surveys. Used to be 0.8 from harvest to planting, now probably double that. Could help to be able to do site prep before waste assessment is done.

A: Consistent from what we're hearing from all small tenures. The whole system wasn't built to survey small tenure holders, it was built for large tenures with multiple cutblocks. In the interior, once waste is all reported, going to figure out what community forests have reported as waste and compare to previous district average table. This fall will be the first year of CF data in the waste system. Hopefully, can prove with data that WL and CFAs are different from major tenure holders to make a district have table that will be more useable for small licensees.

A: Waste in WRR treatments – talk to pricing branch to discuss this more.

C: Waiting for a waste assessment goes against the whole idea of cleaning fuels. Oculars wasn't giving real data for reporting, having data and reporting requirements will help back the small tenure's position.

C: Shifts from volume to value and associated opportunities/needs, BCCFA will put out a survey to ask about the types of land based investments for which community forests would like support.

Community engagement

C: CFs work so hard to make sure our message, activities, philosophies, approaches are communicated to our communities

- Have monthly community meeting for questions and concerns
- Social media: stories on projects, situations
- Takes courage to communicate, time, effort, money
- Another added effort that we have to make as a community forest
- Communication came up throughout the day. As forest industry, we don't do a good job communicating what we do to the public. Gap in informing our communities, problems and issues could be solved if we tighten up our communication

C: Social media for WRR and ongoing projects within the community.

- Showcase forestry and what foresters are doing in a more positive light when it comes to local community initiatives (e.g. job creation, ecological, recreational benefits)
- Show operational side in a positive way
- Open houses, AGM, grant recipient appreciation event
- Games: Golden token scavenger hunt, had to go out into the community forest to find tokens for National Forest Week

C: Quarterly forestry talks held at the library, idea is to pick a topic (e.g. cultural burning), to bring in a collaborator, and tackle a forestry topic.

C: Restarted CF. social media, sponsor indigenous walks with a knowledge keeper and talk about land use. Participate in reconciliation walks. Restart community advisory panel. Advertise in the paper to have people ask questions. On the radio. If you don't tell the story yourselves, someone else will tell it for you and it won't be your story.

Q: Outreach to conservation sector? Share info amongst ourselves well, but maybe do a better job reaching outside our sector.

C: Documentary and video. Approach conservation organization locally to use video service to create videos of their work for the community to showcase their work and create communication bridges with the CF.

C: Strong logging community, so more about what you're doing on the landscape to them. Great turnout to meetings when they have an issue with what you're doing. Get involved in public discussions, interviews, videos, put it on the website and make it interesting.

C: Change mindset of how forestry is being done

C: Videos. Must remind ourselves that public engagement and working with the community is not the same as educating them on what we do. Need to listen too, gets easy to take skeptical people and turn them off if you're preaching to them. Make it a two-way conversation. Videos were of many diverse people from the community.

C: Take advantage of media interest, determine what your message is and take advantage. Videos are interesting engagement, use community members and youth

C: When working with the public, it's not about knowledge it's about wisdom. If you're talking technically it's not real enough. Take public expectations and translate it into technical land management. Don't try to sell yourself and what you're doing. Say what you know, what you're doing, and ask for public thoughts and input. Build a foundation and the conversation will get easier.

7, Governance session

Moderator - Susan Mulkey, BCCFA Manager of Communication and Extension

Resource Person - Jeremy Shelford, LLB

Susan opened the session by defining governance, providing some examples and invited participants to identify questions:

Q: If raison d'etre of CF is a license to harvest in the forest, what is the legal basis of the other values; in forest planning you are supposed to accommodate the other values but what is the mandate for engaging community support.

A: The CF program has 8 goals; no other tenure in BC is given direction like that. We still work within the timber tenure structure but we have the opportunity to manage for other values and to be innovative. We have an obligation to report on the commitments made in the management plan annually. Those commitments link to the 8 goals. The management plan is a part of the license document and is a legal obligation.

A: Minimum is what's under the license; LP agreement, shareholder agreement, directions to general partnership = baseline of governance

Q: Provincial Logging Tax letter saying CF owes for the last 4 years; because a non-profit corp not required to even file; clarification on that?

A: Jeremy explained that Municipally owned CFAs file annually with zero return and nothing owing. Accountant – different tax exemptions available. Not necessarily a consistent answer across CFs. CFs shouldn't be paying tax. The Act is clear that anyone buying or selling a log should file a return. Boards need to get professional help – know when to ask/seek professional advice instead of doing something without being clear on it. When searching out a lawyer or accountant or forest manager, make sure they are accredited and have insurance. Save the money you think you might owe, and do your research, keep your documentation.

Q: Conflict of interest (Col) with Directors – how do you deal with it?

A: Col is hard to avoid in a small town. Col must be very clearly defined. Susan recommends a Directors Personal Accountability document. Sample can be found on the BCCFA website available for BCCFA members. It includes a conflict of interest and confidentiality policy and once signed, becomes a testament to each director's commitment to the organization. Each director needs to stay on top of potential conflicts and discuss it and openly approach potential conflicts. Directors have legal duties must act in the best interests of the organization. It is responsibility of Director to disclose conflicts – real or perceived.

Q: Role of Directors with Community communications and pushback from the community

A: Being a director on a CF can be very personal in a small town. There is communication from the organization and how a director deals with comments from people on the street. Transparency and openness is the best approach. A communications policy is important to clarify. Must identify designated spokesperson – staff or board – e.g. who responds to questions from the community or the press. There is pro-active communication and responsive. Pro-active is, for example, here are our plans, we are having an open house.

Can use social media, website, newspaper, radio, newsletter to send information to the community. Use annual community events to piggy back on to educate the community on the CF like a booth at the fall faire. Try offering a gift certificate prize for completion of a survey when you need community input. There is benefit in talking to groups – like student field trips with homework back to parents so the learning can happen with students and parents. Can go to a Chamber meeting and give a presentation. Meet the community where they are at – e.g. print copies of a report for a Seniors meeting rather than just a talk or presentation. When facing opposition to your plans, turn the tide with your approach. Don't just give technical information – ask open questions, work to understand what is important to people. You may find out some new information. Work to have a conversation and build a working relationship through dialogue.

A: Ratcliff primarily works with FNs – community meetings where each and every question gets answered. Communicating well is a job that must be given the resources and the expertise.

A: Communication and engagement with the community should be a line in the budget. It is that important. Talk about your principles that guide your activities on the landbase, and how you approach the land management. And remember to communicate your successes, not just the dividends or grants. Don't be seen as a just a cash cow and not for all of the other great things you are doing.

Board development, succession planning, professional development, general engagement

Q: What is a good number of Directors?

A: Typically see 5, 7 or 9. BCCFA has 9-person board and the bylaws allow for that to change from year to year. BCCFA has a limitation on terms: 2-year terms and only 3 of those, then must step aside for two years. Recognize that is hard to do at the community level. There is merit at looking for fresh energy on the Board, when somebody is there for a long time, there is a different level of “ownership” that can become problematic.

Yet, it is often hard to fill the seats on the board. Living in rural communities we do the best we can and must be practical. CFs will get much better applicants when doing a good job of marketing and community engagement, not from just addressing activists but talking with other 80% who are reasonable and want to hear what is going on in the CF. Must educate your community about your goals and the opportunity of community forestry for your community. Existing board members need to be confident leaving the board for somebody with a good application. For advice on Board composition and how to be transparent with the community re recruiting. See https://bccfa.ca/wp-content/uploads/2013/03/FS30_web-proof.pdf page 71.

Some boards have a policy re max number of missed meetings, but again it is often hard to find replacements. Some CFs do not allow for politicians to sit on the board. Others are made up entirely of mayor and council. Lots of research points to the benefits of the operations of a CF being arm's-length from politics.

Q: How to diversify within the constraints of the CF's purpose as per articles/ Bylaws/ Certificates (depending on CF structure) and Province's 8 goals for CFs?

A: Community Charter will dictate diversification if a municipally owned CF; good to talk to lawyer about it. Sometimes there is a conflict between operating documents that may limit the activities of the organization.

A: We promote one type of governance structure for community forests. CFs are community based, not a corporate business. Crucial to understand the roles responsibility, including because of liability exposure. And it can make the CF work better. BCCFA provides a fee for service for CF Board training, organizational and policy development.

Shareholder/s - Arm's length from the day to day operations. Appoints the directors and collects dividends or profits.

Board – sets policies, budget, strategic plan, hires management and monitors progress. Can be difficult to do when a CF first starts up because there aren't the funds for lots of management costs. Over time however, it is a problematic structure because roles and responsibilities get confused. Board must govern, management manages. Directors can sit on a management committee but that committee is working as advisors to the management team. Must recognize the difference. The board must act as a whole and speak with one voice.

Management – “the one in the kitchen”. Doing the on the ground work. Staff works for management. Only the manager works for the board.

Clarification of roles and responsibilities is essential.

8, Growing a Future in Forestry Panel

A panel of young people working in a diversity of roles in the forest industry shared their stories of why they chose to work in the sector and discussed their thoughts on the challenges ahead, the future of the forest industry and the opportunities for community forests.

- **Erin McLeod, Nakusp**
- **Callum Cathro, Nelson**
- **Angela French, Nelson**
- **Connor Robertson, Kaslo**

Moderated by Corky Evans and John Cathro

Corky Evans, long-time logger and politician offered some thoughts:

- Forest industry relates to governance: This minister is my friend, and her husband and her kids are my friends. No matter who they are, where their hearts are, and their skills, they are working in a system that is complicated and difficult.
- In BC, unlike Europe, the people still own the land, the water, and the timber. How the government is pushed and pulled and controlled answers for the future.
- Issue in the BC government: the massive difference in urban population in lower mainland and voting variances from the population in the interior. Urban voters don't have land in the interior.
- Anything you try to institute, right from the get go, alliances will determine the outcome of your initiative. Corky worked to figure out how to create value-added projects through the legislature. All parties in legislature voted in favour of value-added projects. But the necessary changes never came.
- The good news, in those 30 years, the BCCFA has been built and gone to work, and proved that when communities cut trees, you get more jobs per cubic metre. The communities have been able to foster creative economics at a community level. The community has been able to point out to legislature that there is something worth fighting for.
- Columbia Basin Trust (CBT), was a community group, a bunch of people who said , Hey, we can make green power out of the water, better than BC Hydro or the province can. Another example of what happens when the people who live on the land actually care about local, about land, that makes you think different. You guys (the youth) are the driving force that will make the future bright.
- What will happen 20 years from now, when the province gets it that rural people are to be trusted with the resource management which is driving the economy.

John Cathro:

This panel will consider- Why they got in forestry, what they see as challenges, where do they want to see, the communities, the community's connection to the future in forestry.

Why did you get into forestry?

Callum Cathro:

Got into forestry, went tree planting in northern BC. Was interested in the smaller contracts.

Planted in the caribou for community forests, small scale forestry.

Pursued an education in forestry at Selkirk College, started work with NACFOR right after graduation. Love the small scale forestry, and keeping it all local.

Angela French:

Got in forestry because she made a promise to her dog. From lower mainland, started working for municipal government in the city. Tied up her dog every day, and made a promise that she will one day have a job that the dog can come with her to work. ABCFP was next, getting paid to ride around in the bush and get paid to walk your dog. Loved the Kootenays. Went to forestry program at Selkirk College in Castlegar. Worked up north doing consulting work and laying out blocks of pine. Came back to Castlegar and the Kootenays with lots of character building. Licensee doing development and planning. Feel in love with the forest health aspects. Worked in contentious areas with competing values. Progressed her purpose and what she wanted to do in her career. Wildfire mitigation specialist with RDCK. FireSmart programming and landscape level management and planning, building relationships with First Nations. Ended up buying a farm in Salmo, named after her dog.

Erin Macleod:

Grew up in home of Nakusp with two parents in the forestry industry. Always wanted to be a wildlife biologist. Went to UVic for biology. Now helping to manage the community forest full time.

Connor R:

Grew up in Kaslo, born and raised. Seeing logging everywhere. Loggers sports, etc. Started in carpentry in Vancouver. Came back to Kaslo during COVID. Quit job in Vancouver and started working with fire mitigation in Kaslo in 10 days. Runs machinery for Timber Ridge, a small .

Personal and professional challenges: lucky to just be working directly with his boss, looking for more employees but don't have time and ability to train more people. Finding someone new is difficult. Young machine operations: machine was about 20 years older than me when started.

Challenges

Erin:

Knowledge transfer from seasoned professionals to be able to learn from them and have the time to gain knowledge and experience for young people. Thankful that she has Hugh and Frances to learn from. So much knowledge, not enough time.

Angela:

Many challenges, one reason why we are in it. Challenges are opportunities. Step up and create some momentum for change. Diversity, equity and inclusion has been a challenge. Becoming a trend in industry. As a gay woman in forestry is challenging to have a conversation with a table full of men, and having awareness for diversity. Opportunity to build a new cultural environment in our companies. Learning from the young people in the office, important to have work life balance, important to have the difficult conversations.

Previously put on a pedestal because she was a woman. Base line respect for men and women, otherwise conflict in ranks. Financial inequity. Value is placed on harvesting and milling side other than the soft skills (communication, etc.) are these valued monetarily as much as getting the logs to the mill? Education in those matters is great to see. Challenges for next generation of forestry professionals. More people retiring than coming into the industry. It's not just about harvesting, there is so much more in this industry that we can promote to get the next generation of foresters.

Corky:

"New ideas, new energy and the culture shift is an essential part of looking into the future. Transfer of knowledge, diversity and inclusion are challenges to overcome and are also essential to the future of the industry."

Callum:

Lots of work, but hard to say no to work. Consulting in northern BC. Getting his RFP, hard to see next steps while working in lower ranks. Changed his role to find more value in different areas (now fighting fires, etc.). Trying to figure out the path and how you can get to the point of the dream job. Not a direct path to managing a community forest.

Where do you want to be in 20 years, where do you want to see the forest industry in 20 years:

Callum:

Appurtenancy was talked a lot about in school. Seeing the small scale forestry and on a local level, is really important. Seeing more wood milled locally, and seeing more people employed who you play hockey with, etc. is really important.

Angela:

Everything that's been talked about this week. The community forest tenure system is the way forestry should be managed in BC. 20 years is a long time, and another 20 more, if things don't change drastically, everyone knows in this room that a legislative override is needed. There are so many opportunities for change in the forest industry. Community forestry is the way to manage our forests for future generations to come. Fostering those forest professionals that have empathy and compassion is important. The next generation will make this province a community forest on a large scale.

Erin:

Forestry is not going anywhere, but it needs to adapt with the landscape and our communities, as they change. WRR and local manufacturing and strengthening communities and capacity building will enhance the industry. Innovation and adaptation are at the forefront. People need to recognize there will be change and that forestry isn't going anywhere in Nakusp. Young people are recognizing that the small communities are great.

Connor:

One thing noticed. Some way to get rid of brush and excess waste. Fibre utilization other than burning it would be a huge change to the industry. Some program for high school kids, and youth, are show them the industry and get them in machines, on the landscape, etc. Showing them forestry might promote the industry and grow their interest.

Corky:

Do you see the relationship from where you live and the forest industry and governance? It is people run, it is the people who will help you make the policy changes and dreams come true. Governance are the people who will help make it happen.