



British Columbia  
**Community  
Forest  
Association**

local people, local forests, local decisions

## 2023 BCCFA Conference

### Detailed Sessions Notes

---

#### Table of Contents

A Vision for Change: Government Policy Priorities.....	2
Resiliency Through Fire - Prescribed Fire and Indigenous Led Cultural Burning.....	4
Bridging Cultures - A Framework for Collaboration Between Indigenous and Non-Indigenous Knowledge Systems.....	5
Forest Landscape Plans – What will they mean for my community forest? .....	9
It’s More Than Just Old Growth: How the Old Growth Strategic Review (OGSR) Positions us for Future Management.....	10
Pricing and Waste.....	11
Community Forest Communications: Engagement, Understanding and Action Breakout Session .....	11
Community Forest Board Governance Essentials .....	12
The Future of Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) Management .....	13
Wildfire Resiliency Roundtable – Manager’s Knowledge Exchange .....	13

## A Vision for Change: Government Policy Priorities

### Speakers

- [Shane Berg](#) Ministry of Forests, Assistant Deputy Minister, Chief Forester
- [Colin Ward](#), Assistant Deputy Minister, Reconciliation and Natural Resource Sector Policy, Ministry of Water, Lands and Resource Stewardship
- [Rachael Pollard](#) Ministry of Forests, Executive Director, Forest Sector Transformation
- [Doug Kelly](#), Director, Ministry of Forests Forest Tenures Branch

*The Province's vision for the future of the forest sector provided the context for this session. Each one of our presenters helped us understand how the provincial government is working to bring this vision to fruition in collaboration with First Nations, along and with forest sector stakeholders and partners.*

### Managing BC's Forests - Shane Berg

- Climate change and extreme weather events (wildfires, heat domes, floods) are posing challenges.
- Endangered species such as Mountain Caribou and Spotted Owl are at risk. Old growth forests are a concern.
- Some events are beyond our control and impact everyone, not just major licensees.
- The Provincial Allowable Annual Cut (AAC) has been decreasing since 2011 due to MPB and wildfires.
- Forest Landscape Plans (FLPs) are being implemented as a resource management planning tool. FLPs are used to address a broader range of forest planning issues and involve multiple stakeholders.
- There is a need for innovation in harvesting and manufacturing processes.
- Community forests serve as role models, implementing sustainable practices on the land.

### Reconciliation and the Natural Resource Sector – Colin Ward

- In the past, the focus was on transactional approaches, but now the emphasis is on reaching agreements at the strategic level with First Nations
- First Nations must be recognized as more than just stakeholders, they are rights and title holders, and their cultural perspectives need to be acknowledged.
- Finding the right fiscal framework and establishing government-to-government relationships are essential.

- The provincial government's policy direction is influenced by UNDRIP (United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples) and DRIPA (Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act).
- Human rights are at the center of current initiatives and action items.
- Recognition of rights and the development of enabling policies are crucial for addressing self-determination, discrimination/racism, Indigenous rights and title, and social and economic development.
- Community forests serve as examples of successful practices.
- A holistic and integrative approach is needed across Ministries, encompassing three core components: strategic (legislation/policy), tactical (data collection, compliance and enforcement), and operational (site-specific decision-making).
- Policy should be enabling rather than prescriptive, reflecting what works on the land and considering operational perspectives.

### **Modernizing Forest Policy – Rachael Pollard**

Building off the Old Growth Strategic Review and the Intentions Paper

- Priorities include:
  1. Reconciliation: Focusing on fostering relationships and addressing historical injustices.
  2. Highlighting transformational shifts: Identifying and implementing significant changes in forest management practices.
  3. Creating resilient communities: Supporting local communities to adapt and thrive in changing forest environments.
  4. Supporting a competitive forest industry: Promoting a strong and competitive forest sector.
  5. Managing for public interest: Ensuring forests are managed in a way that benefits the general public.
  6. Ensuring sustainability: Implementing practices that preserve the long-term health and productivity of forests.
- The vision is to grow the value-added sector through an accelerator program, aiming to enhance the economic value of forest products by promoting innovation and development in processing and manufacturing.

### **Doug Kelly**

Doug highlighted the following three main points:

1. The need to align the right tenure with the right land: The current forest tenure model in the province is primarily focused on industrial development, and community forests and woodlots are exceptions. He suggests that aligning tenures, particularly area-based community and First Nations tenures, with the objectives of today will require significant time, potentially decades.
2. Intention is to provide discretion in the issuance of permits: The Modernization of Forest Policy Paper in 2021 proposed granting more discretion in issuing cutting permits and road permits, as well as introducing a replaceable license. These changes aim to move away from the social forestry obligations associated with the appurtenancy model, which required holders of forest tenures to fulfill certain obligations. Community forests, however, already have a social forestry obligation embedded in their agreements, making them an exception to the policy.
3. Aligning tenures with Allowable Annual Cut (AAC): The passage mentions a decline in the AAC, which is the sustainable harvest level determined by the chief forester. This decline in AAC creates a disparity between the amount of land tenured and the new AAC. Doug suggests that as the AAC decreases and supply declines, the value of tenures may increase. However, decreasing mill capacity and investment may offset the demand, resulting in uncertainties regarding tenure prices. He advises caution and thorough due diligence when purchasing and pricing tenure, emphasizing the importance of obtaining the right tenure on the right land.

A discussion paper is coming soon on a new First Nation fiscal framework relationship. Once that is right then will turn to tab rates discussions. Overall, the he expressed his support and admiration for community forests as a preferred tenure model and encouraged us to keep telling our stories through the Indicators Report.

## Resiliency Through Fire- Prescribed Fire and Indigenous Led Cultural Burning

**Moderator [Tony Pesklevits](#) BC Wildfire Service, Deputy Director, Provincial Operations**

- **Hugh Flinton Williams Lake Community Forest, Manager**
- **[Joe Gilchrist](#) Nlaka'pamux and Secwepemc Nations, Indigenous Fire Prevention Technician**
- **[Francis Johnson](#) RPF, Manager, Esk'etemc (Alkali Lake) First Nation Community Forest and Hereditary Chief**
- **Klay Tindall, RPF Lil'wat Forestry Ventures L.P., General Manager Forestry Operations**
- **Jordon Gabriel, Cultural and Community Forestry Manager, Lil'wat Forestry Ventures**

Opening the session, Tony Pesklevits discussed the operational opportunities for introducing controlled fire onto the landscape, particularly where it aligns with the interests of First Nations. The BC Wildfire Service (BCWS) goal is to develop a strategic approach that involves co-management with First Nations. Building a social license or community support for controlled burns requires collaboration with various partners. Liability is an important consideration in this process.

Key points:

1. Starting from the bottom up: BCWS emphasizes the importance of building relationships and capacity to establish a strong foundation for controlled burns.
2. Learning together: There is a recognition that there is much to learn and unlearn in implementing controlled burns. Changing habits and driving policy changes are necessary. Conflicts may arise between different interests and perceived impacts on other values in proposed burn areas.

Francis emphasized the significance of Indigenous values and spirituality in forest management. Indigenous knowledge, passed down through generations via oral history, highlights the importance of cultural burning and medicinal plants. The concept of adaptive management and recognizing fire as medicine for the land were also discussed. Collaboration with elders, mentorships, and partners was emphasized as crucial. Prior to cultural burns, a ceremony involving fire keepers, spiritual leaders, and the BCWS (British Columbia Wildfire Service) is conducted. Francis supports the integration of Indigenous Traditional Ecological Knowledge and Western Science through a two-eyed seeing approach, combining skills and knowledge from both perspectives.

Klay and Jordon both emphasized the importance of incorporating fire into forest management plans. They highlighted the significance of community feedback in broadening the perspective of forest management to encompass all elements within the forest, not just trees. Efforts have been made to document cultural and botanical resources within the forest, and the community is utilizing a combination of cultural and Western knowledge to address resource depletion and wildlife preservation. This inclusive approach recognizes the interconnectedness of different elements within the forest and aims to integrate diverse knowledge systems for effective conservation and management.

Klay specifically shared his experience with burn planning and highlighted the benefits of fire for the ecosystem and cultural values. He emphasized the importance of engaging youth in fire-related activities to reconnect them with the forest and foster a deeper understanding of its importance.

Joe Gilchrist spoke about the importance of storytelling and gathering the wisdom of grandmothers and hunters regarding fire and its interaction with the land. He emphasized the need for fire education in schools and creating safe areas around communities. He also highlighted the importance of maintaining a balanced ecosystem and the impact of fire on different forest types.

Hugh shared his experience with prescribed burning in grasslands historically managed by First Nations. He discussed the communication challenges and the need for collaboration in implementing controlled burns. The ecological effects of spring and fall burns were compared, emphasizing the importance of Indigenous ecological knowledge and leadership.

Overall, the session emphasized the value of Indigenous knowledge, the role of fire as a management tool, and the need for collaboration and communication in incorporating Indigenous practices into forest management.

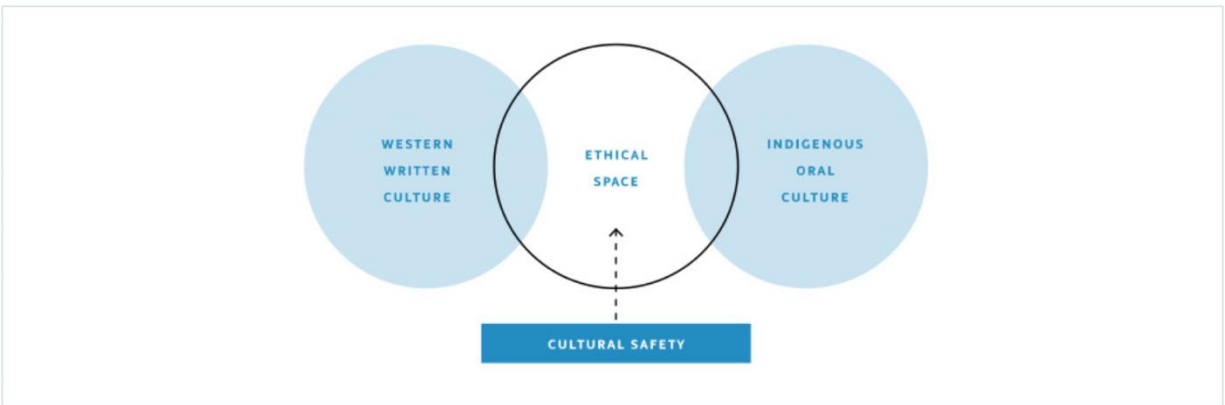
## Bridging Cultures- A Framework for Collaboration Between Indigenous and Non-Indigenous Knowledge Systems

Moderator: [David Waldron](#) Synapse Strategies, Principal & Co-Founder

- [Gwen Bridge](#) Gwen Bridge Consulting Ltd, Chief Executive Officer

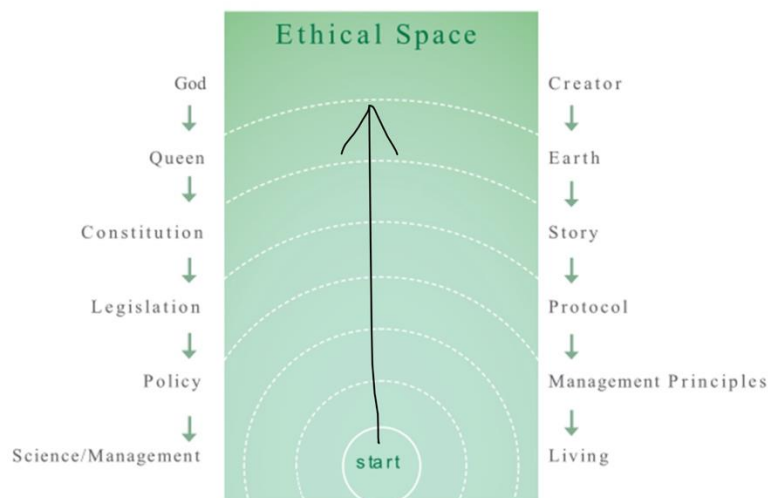
- [Lennard Joe](#) , RPF, CEO First Nations Forestry Council

*In this session we heard from two leaders in the work of reconciliation and integrating Western and Indigenous approaches to governance, policy and stewardship of lands, water and ecosystems. Gwen introduced the “Ethical Space Framework “ and Lennard spoke about the trust-building required to navigate the transformation underway in forestry. Following the presentations, the audience was invited to participate in a discussion.*



The concept of bridging cultures between Indigenous and non-Indigenous knowledge systems was explored in this session. David Waldron opened the session and emphasized that conflicts between these knowledge systems can arise but that conflict is not necessarily negative. He stressed the need for dialogue, challenging assumptions, and building trust to foster understanding between the two systems. Waldron also highlighted the importance of acknowledging the diverse opinions and feelings of different social groups and avoiding stereotypes. He suggested that the future is unknown and should be approached as a shared discovery.

ETHICAL SPACE AND RECONCILIATION



Gwen Bridge advocated for a framework called Ethical Space that recognizes the differences in cultural orientations between Indigenous and non-Indigenous people. She sees reconciliation as an ongoing journey rather than a fixed destination. Bridge emphasized legal obligations to the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP), the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act (DRIPA) She highlighted the ecological imperative to address climate change and the loss of biodiversity, noting that Indigenous-owned lands, which make up a small percentage globally (5%), support a significant portion of global biodiversity (80%).

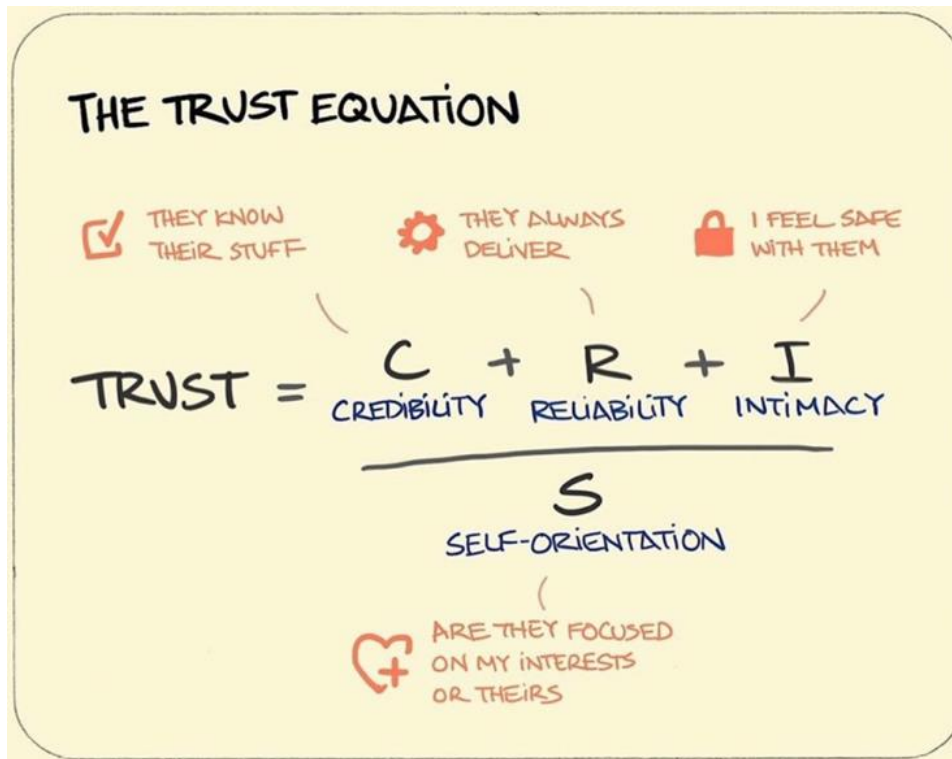
Bridge emphasized the need for partners to support First Nations in administration and operations. This builds capacity, supports engagement, and facilitates dialogue. She also calls for regional and district-level decision-making and engagement to address foundational differences between partners.

She advocates for a perspective of "two-eyed seeing," which involves sharing different cultural perspectives. Earth knowledge is the highest level of authority for First Nations. Reconciliation is a process that involves bringing two parties together in order to establish a shared vision and understanding. If we solely rely on one perspective, it is like seeing the world through only one eye. Without the input and insights from the Indigenous community, our vision remains incomplete and our understanding limited.

Reconciliation requires actively seeking to comprehend and appreciate the viewpoint of the other eye. By embracing the perspectives and experiences of Indigenous people, we gain a more accurate depth perception and a broader understanding of the world around us. It is through this inclusive approach that a comprehensive and unified vision can be formed, leading to genuine reconciliation.

Lennard Joe, representing BC Nations Forestry Council, emphasized the diversity of Indigenous cultures and languages in BC. Lennard believes that humans have a responsibility to care for the environment, which includes land, water, air, plants, and animals. He sees ancestry as a way of connecting to the spiritual realm and emphasizes the importance of learning from experiences and incorporating traditional indigenous practices.

To create lasting change, Lennard says that it requires support, resources, and empowerment as its foundation. Capacity to participate in a process for change is not limited to a particular group but encompasses everyone involved. By assessing readiness, setting clear goals, and fostering assurance, a roadmap for progress can be established. Measuring impact and understanding the process are vital for achieving tangible outcomes. Despite being conditioned to accept our current beliefs and finding comfort in them, it is essential to broaden our perspectives and explore new possibilities.



Lennard presented his trust equation as a framework showcasing how trust is cultivated. According to him, trust thrives on mutuality, relationships, and collective decision-making. It necessitates the creation of safe environments and acknowledging past trauma. Humans possess the power to cause both harm and good. By fostering trust in relationships, we enable ourselves to collaborate and accomplish positive outcomes together. Trust becomes an appealing attribute that can be quantified and measured. “Trust becomes attractive. It is a measurable.”

Lennard acknowledged the influence of modern technology but advised being mindful of preserving cultural values and practices.

In summary, the speakers discussed the need for dialogue, understanding, and trust-building between Indigenous and non-Indigenous knowledge systems. They highlighted the moral, legal, and ecological imperatives of reconciliation, emphasizing the importance of public awareness and engagement. The concept of "two-eyed seeing" was presented as a way to integrate different perspectives and lenses. Preservation of cultural values and practices is seen as crucial while navigating the influence of modern technology.

Watch one of Gwen Bridge’s presentations at <https://youtu.be/L8Uft1MIGzc>

Humans have the capacity to do so much damage and/or so much good. Building trust in relationships allows us to do good together. “Trust becomes attractive. It is a measurable.”



## Forest Landscape Plans – What will they mean for my community forest?

Moderator: Randy Spyksma, RPF, Forsite

Presenters:

- [Julie Castonguay](#), RPF, Manager, Forest Landscape Planning, Forest Science, Planning and Practices Branch, Office of the Chief Forester, Ministry of Forests
- David Lishman, Values Coordinator, Planning and Practices Branch, Office of the Chief Forester

*There are currently four Forest Landscape Plan (FLPs) pilot projects underway in the province with eight new FLP projects recently announced. Some community forests are involved in these projects in their local area, while others are not. In this session we learned about the FLP framework and how community forest can be involved.*

David Lishman, the Values Coordinator, and Julie Castonguay, the Manager of Forest Landscape Planning, along with Ken Nielsen, the manager of the Chinook Community Forest, gave a presentation on Forest Landscape Planning (FLP) and its implications for community forest agreements. The talk was moderated by Randy Spyksma, who manages the Logan Lake Community Forest and is involved in the Quesnel TSA pilot FLP.

Julie provided background information on the transition from Forest Stewardship Plans (FSP) to FLPs, explaining the motivations, goals, and approximate timeline of the transition. She highlighted the five objectives of FLPs, which include managing the values placed on forest ecosystems by Indigenous Peoples and local communities, supporting environmental protection and conservation, ensuring timber production and supply, and increasing forest and ecosystem resilience. Julie also mentioned that the FLP framework is still under development, with ongoing pilot projects and future plans.

David shared insights into the Quesnel TSA pilot FLP, explaining the process and tasks involved. The FLP development is led by a government-to-government table consisting of local Indigenous Nations and the provincial government. Different planning tables and working groups handle various tasks in the five phases of FLP development: pre-planning, value identification, plan development, plan approval by the Chief Forester, and plan implementation and monitoring. Community Forests participate in phases 2, 3, and 5, while phases 1 and 4 are managed by local Indigenous Nations and the provincial government. David mentioned that the Quesnel pilot has been a learning experience, and capacity issues have been addressed through the creation of guidance documents for technical working groups.

Ken, a participant in the Lakes pilot FLP, expressed the value of participating in the process and highlighted the importance of building strong relationships with local First Nations. He encouraged other Community Forests to join the FLP process when possible.

The presentation also discussed considerations for determining the geographic boundary of an FLP. Although there are currently no legislated rules for the boundary, the aim is to cover a contiguous area that captures landscape-scale ecological processes. Community Forests have the option to complete their own FLP, which provides more control but requires additional work, or integrate with a Timber

Supply Area (TSA) or Tree Farm License (TFL) where a zoning approach can be taken to increase flexibility.

Questions from the audience focused on the scale of FLP and its implications for Community Forests. The province aims to define the scale based on ecological classifications, but the final decision lies with the government-to-government tables and licensees who can choose to participate in the larger FLP or develop their own plans.

Throughout the presentation, it was emphasized that the FLP process and individual plans are not set in stone. FLPs are intended to be living documents that can be adjusted and modified as new issues arise in the landscape.

## It's More Than Just Old Growth: How the Old Growth Strategic Review (OGSR) Positions us for Future Management

Moderators – Dave Gill, RPF, Westbank Community Forest and Warren Hansen, RPF, Sunshine Coast Community Forest

Presenter: [Norah White](#), Executive Director, Provincial Old Growth Strategy, Office of the Chief Forester, Ministry of Forests

*During this session, we learned about the development of the Action Plan aimed at implementing the recommendations put forth by the Old Growth Strategic Review (OGSR) and discussed priority topics for community forests. While recommendation #6 regarding old growth deferrals has garnered significant attention thus far, it is crucial to view the complete set of 14 recommendations as a comprehensive framework for transformative change within the forest sector.*

The Ministry's response to the Old Growth Strategic Review (OGSR) includes the development of two crucial products:

**Action Plan:** By the end of 2023, the Action Plan will outline the overarching steps to be taken for implementing the OGSR, serving as a statement of the government's position. It will continue to be refined beyond the year's end.

**Biodiversity and Ecosystem Health Framework:** a. Phase I: This phase focuses on co-development of a framework for managing ecosystems to maintain their natural range of variability and enhance resilience in the face of environmental changes and harvesting. b. Phase II: In this phase, new legislation will be developed, and existing legislation will be modernized to support the implementation of the framework

Indigenous involvement is a key priority in moving forward with recommendations of the OGSR and future forest management, focusing on social, economic, and ecological sustainability. The report goes beyond old growth and emphasizes the restoration of forests, inspiring youth involvement, and building community confidence in the forest sector. The timeline for implementation extends beyond 2024, recognizing the complexity of the issues at hand. Progress has already been made in terms of harvest deferrals and financial investment.

During discussions, the importance of Indigenous involvement and transparent decision-making processes was highlighted. There were varying levels of engagement among community forests, and capacity building for Indigenous-led resource management was identified as a priority. Different Indigenous nations had diverse responses to old growth deferrals, emphasizing the need for flexibility and regional considerations. The development of a biodiversity guidebook and the identification of three zones were discussed, with an emphasis on adaptability and avoiding rigid boundaries. The process of determining the desired baseline for forest management was also considered, recognizing the importance of local contexts and flexibility.

Attendees also raised the need to consider a bottom-up approach, embrace flexibility and adaptive management, and shift focus beyond a single recommendation to the entirety of the 14 recommendations presented in the OGSR.

Action Plan: By the end of 2023, the Action Plan will outline the overarching steps to be taken for implementing the OGSR, serving as a statement of the government's position. It will continue to be refined beyond the year's end.

Biodiversity and Ecosystem Health Framework: a. Phase I: This phase focuses on co-development of a framework for managing ecosystems to maintain their natural range of variability and enhance resilience in the face of environmental changes and resource extraction. b. Phase II: In this phase, new legislation will be developed, and existing legislation will be modernized to support the implementation of the framework. Legislation will affect all industries that can impact both aquatic and terrestrial ecosystems

## Pricing and Waste

**Moderator – Jennifer Gunter, BCCFA**

### Presenters

- **Debbie Zandbelt, RPF, Timber Pricing Forester & BCCFA Advisor**
- **Allan Bennett, Director Timber Pricing Branch, Ministry of Forests**

*This session will focus on the new stumpage redetermination objectives and dates for all CFAs and the new waste assessment process for Interior CFAs. We want to hear from community forest managers on how the waste assessment process is working for them and to discuss options for the future.*

The session focused on various aspects related to stumpage fees and waste. Al Bennett emphasized that stumpage fees are described as payments made for the right to harvest timber, rather than taxes. The final stumpage value is determined by subtracting provided services from the bush service value. The scarcity of timber results in higher market prices. Stumpage rates are updated quarterly to reflect changing market conditions, with the exchange rate playing a significant role.

## Community Forest Communications: Engagement, Understanding and Action Breakout Session

**Presenter - [Aleece Laird](#) Amplify Consulting Inc., CEO and Founder**

In this session, Aleece introduced the concept of a social license, which refers to the ongoing acceptance and support from stakeholders for work conducted within a community forest. Trust, earned through consistent actions over time, is a key element of a social license. Engaging with the community is not only a legal obligation for a community forest but also a means to make the engagement meaningful.

Building social licence involves establishing a deeper level of forgiveness, addressing mistakes, and preventing similar errors in the future. This humanizes the organization and transforms criticism into support. Providing timely and sufficient information is important to prevent stakeholders from forming misinformed opinions.

Stakeholder engagement is crucial in earning, building, and maintaining a social license. Various methods such as focus groups, town hall meetings, surveys, and one-on-one discussions should be employed to reach different groups of people. It is important to engage with stakeholders where they are and utilize the involvement of the board of directors to disseminate information. Leveraging negative press can also generate an audience to listen to the organization's efforts. Incentivizing participation, such as providing good food, can also be effective.

Following the best practices of the International Association for Public Participation (IAP2), treating stakeholders fairly and avoiding manipulation or coercion is important. Purposeful, intentional, timely, and consistent communication is key, and monitoring communication success through metrics like website visits is essential. Building social licence is a long-term process that requires consistent effort.

## Community Forest Board Governance Essentials

### **Susan Mulkey, Presenter**

*All community forests have a board of directors. Many community forest boards are not aware of the important and essential requirements and responsibilities of community forest organizations and their boards. In this session, we looked at the governance history of community forest organizations in BC, what works and the pitfalls to avoid. Community forests have a responsibility to the community they serve, and board governance plays a crucial role in fulfilling this responsibility effectively.*

Board Governance is an essential aspect of the community forest program. The program has eight provincial goals that are unique to community forests.

All community forests have management plans that serve as the foundation for their operations. These plans provide the rationale for the allowable annual cut (AAC) and link community values to the management practices. The management plans include values or guiding principles, social, economic, and resource management goals, and demonstrate the alignment between agreement goals and provincial goals. They also require annual reporting to the community. It is recommended to review and renew management plans periodically to reinforce community goals, engage stakeholders, and improve communication.

A mission statement is a requirement for the management plan and defines the core purpose and focus of the organization. It states what is important, who will be impacted, and provides direction. While goals and objectives can be altered to adapt to changing times and opportunities, the mission statement remains relatively unchanged.

Community forests can select from different legal structures, but they all must report annually to the community. All community forests have a board of directors, and elected officials are sometimes barred

from holding the chair position. The board members have legal obligations, including the duty of loyalty to act in the organization's best interests and the duty of care to exercise diligence and skill.

Limited partnerships are a common legal structure, especially when there are Indigenous and non-Indigenous partners, where the risk is carried by the general partner, and shareholders have limited liability and cannot participate in day-to-day operations. Roles and responsibilities are clearly laid out, with shareholders appointing the board of directors, who provide organizational oversight and fiduciary responsibility, and management handling day-to-day activities and operationalizing strategic direction.

Community forests have a responsibility to the community they serve, and board governance plays a crucial role in fulfilling this responsibility effectively.

## The Future of Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) Management

Moderator – Jennifer Gunter, BCCFA

### Presenters

Kelly Osbourne, Fire and Fuel Management Officer, BC Wildfire Service

Julie Castonguay, RPF Manager, Forest Landscape Planning, Forest Science, Planning and Practices Branch, Office of the Chief Forester

Allan Bennett, Director Timber Pricing Branch, Ministry of Forests

*The Forest and Range Practices Act reforms include a new wildfire objective and provisions for Government to establish mandatory forest practices within WUI areas to address the critical need to protect human health and safety. In this session we learned more about the proposal and the work of the BCCFA to identify the challenges and help find solutions for successful implementation.*

Julie Castonguay and Kelly Osbourne addressed the importance of the new Wildland-Urban Interface (WUI) regulation and management in the context of fire safety and public protection. Julie highlighted the need for a multi-pronged approach, emphasizing that everyone has a role in WUI management. Kelly talked about WUI zoning, stressing that modifying fire behavior is vital for safety. Allan explored cost implications, noting that if WUI treatments become a requirement it will have an impact on stumpage cost, especially for small licensees. The session underlined collaboration, with Jennifer Gunter acknowledging the partnership between Community Forests and wildfire services, and called for incremental targets and more focus on WUIs.

## Wildfire Resiliency Roundtable – Manager's Knowledge Exchange

Moderator – Jennifer Gunter, BCCFA

### Presenters

**Dr. Kelsey Copes-Gerbitz & Dr. Sarah Dickson-Hoyle, UBC Faculty of Forestry**

*Community Forests have played an important role as proponents of wildfire risk reduction treatments. In this session we want to hear from managers about what you have learned through your work so far, and what skills and tools all community forest managers need to be successful in the new era of wildfire risk and climate change. We invite you to come and share best practices in mitigating wildfire risk, and what you need to increase your capacity and overcome barriers. We will also learn about the objectives of the new project launched by the BCCFA/BCWS partnership.*

The wildfire resilience roundtable featured Dr. Kelsey Copes-Gerbitz and Dr. Sarah Dickson-Hoyle, moderated by Jennifer Gunter. Forestry professionals engaged in breakout discussions to address common barriers to implementing wildfire prevention treatments and to share best practices and identify the essential tools and knowledge necessary for effective fuel treatments and gaining social license. Key topics included landscape planning for resilient ecosystems, proactive communication with stakeholders and First Nations, and the significance of community feedback and youth involvement. Strategies for obtaining social license, such as transparency, tailored outreach, and storytelling, were emphasized. The session underscored the importance of collaboration and knowledge-sharing to bolster wildfire resilience efforts.

Jennifer Gunter provided insights on BCCFA Indicator 13, which focuses on proactive wildfire management and spoke to the partnership between the BCCFA and BC Wildfire Service (BCWS) creating jobs in wildfire risk reduction as part of the province's economic recovery funding. BCCFA and BCWS have initiated a new project called the Wildfire Resiliency Project. This project aims to provide guidance for climate change adaptation planning, prescribed fire, and cultural burning. It also aims to improve cost-effectiveness, conduct a needs assessment, and promote peer-to-peer knowledge exchange.

Dr. Kelsey Copes-Gerbitz and Dr. Sarah Dickson-Hoyle discussed their research with community forests and the diverse approaches to scaling up wildfire prevention treatments. They identify cost, community pushback, and expertise on the effectiveness of fuel treatments as common barriers. They suggest the focus of our discussions in the session prioritize building expertise and capacity, as well as addressing community concerns.

In terms of fuel treatments, several best practices are mentioned. These include starting early and conducting treatments incrementally each year, focusing on creating resilient ecosystems, proactive communication with BC Wildfire, stakeholders, and First Nations, collecting information and creating maps for emergency response preparedness, and employing adaptive management approaches. The resources and tools needed for success include community feedback, funding for innovative projects, preparation resources (e.g., georeferenced maps, helipads, water resources), professional judgment in wildfire knowledge, and youth education and involvement.

Regarding social license or community support, strategies for success include conducting demonstration work in areas where people recreate to engage with them, starting small to build success, acknowledging and listening to community concerns, maintaining transparency and visibility, tailoring outreach to different groups, leveraging passion and strong feelings even when misinformation is present, implementing youth programs and involving local contractors for long-term capacity, providing access and open houses, and offering grants to support community projects. The knowledge, tools, and resources needed for success in this area include collaboration across groups, more community meetings, platforms to share community forest knowledge, and storytelling to raise awareness about wildfires

## Flip Charts

1. Best practices
  - a. Start early and do a little bit each year
  - b. Focus on creating resilient ecosystems (landscape planning) and fire resistance will be a byproduct
  - c. Involving proactive communication with BC wildfire, stakeholders, First Nations and field visits
  - d. Collecting information and making maps to be prepared for emergency response
  - e. Adaptive management
2. What knowledge/resources/tools do you need to be successful?
  - a. Community feedback
  - b. Funding for innovative projects
  - c. Preparation (georeferenced maps, helipads, water resources)
  - d. Professional judgment/wildfire knowledge
  - e. Youth education and involvement

### Best practices

- a. Do demonstration work in/near spaces where people recreate to better engage with them
- b. Start small to build success
- c. Acknowledge/listen
- d. Transparency, no secrets, visibility
- e. Different outreach for different groups
- f. Take advantage of passion/strong feelings even when about misinformation
- g. Youth programs, local contractors, long term capacity
- h. Access, open houses
- i. Grants to support community projects

### Knowledge/tools/resources do you need to be successful

- j. Collaboration across groups
- k. More community meetings
- l. Place to share community forest knowledge
- m. Storytelling to remind people about wildfires