
NEWS RELEASE

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Community forestry conference brings delegates from across the province to Mackenzie, BC

Mackenzie, British Columbia – *Traditional lands of the Tse'khene People of the McLeod Lake Indian Band*

The BC Community Forest Association (BCCFA) will gather in Mackenzie, BC for its annual conference from June 11-13th. This event will bring together experts and representatives from across the province to discuss topics important to community forestry and local resiliency. This year's host, the McLeod Lake Mackenzie Community Forest (MLMCF), is welcoming delegates to their northern town for a unique learning experience.

"We look forward to being hosted by Mackenzie MacLeod Lake Community Forest and getting together with folks who are passionate about community forestry in BC. We hope delegates will join us with an open heart and mind, and be ready to contribute to our discussions and celebrations", said Randy Spyksma, BCCFA President.

With significant shifts in BC forest policy emphasizing Indigenous reconciliation and forest ecosystem resiliency, community forestry stands out as a model of forest management that fosters meaningful partnerships and delivers economic, social, and environmental benefits to rural communities. Half of all community forests in BC are held by First Nations or in partnership with First Nations.

Community forests are often uniquely positioned adjacent to communities and have proved themselves as leaders in proactive wildfire risk reduction in these areas. The BCCFA and BC Wildfire Service are developing a long-term partnership to further support and enhance the wildfire resiliency efforts of community forests across the province. MLMCF has undergone measures to reduce the risk of wildfire around their community, which will be highlighted during Day 1 of the conference.

"The MLMCF is very pleased to contribute to the safety of the community in meaningful ways and we are excited to host a field tour of fuel reduction work along Highway 39. Years of fuel treatment programs in the Wildland Urban Interface and along the highway have moved the dial in the right direction, providing many lessons along the way. It is great to have the opportunity to discuss these with the conference participants," said Dan Boulianne, Manager of MLMCF

The 2024 BCCFA Conference and Annual General Meeting will be an event to remember, with one full day of the programming dedicated to outdoor field tours and recreational networking. This year's conference will provide delegates the rare opportunity to learn from a small rural community while also gaining perspective on the large, interconnected themes and ideas that affect and inspire forest practitioners today.

Learn More:

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