



CONTRACTS: UNDERSTANDING THEIR POWER AND PRESSURE

Sometimes it is hard to pick a topic or subject to write about; so for this article I have chosen, in part, to voice my concerns about log harvesting contractors and their legal contracts with their employers. Whether their contracts are five-year renewable Bill 13 contracts, one-year independent road building contracts, non-renewable master timber harvesting agreements or any other form of documentation, they are all legal, documented contracts. These contracts are prepared for the employer by lawyers, accounting firms, foresters and licensee management. Thousands of dollars are spent each year modifying and changing the terms and conditions of these contracts as they are written to protect the licensee's interests and liabilities and not those of the log harvesting contractor.

Time and time again, when contracts are up for renewal, we continue to hear: "I had to sign the document so I could continue to work" or "I signed the document because I have been working for the company for years." We have seen situations where contracts have been signed without a review by the owner, their lawyers or accounting company.

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There are many contract examples we could voice our concerns about. But for now, as an example, please refer to page 18 and read John Drayton's article, "Downloading Wildfire Costs onto the Contractor."

Looking forward, please mark your

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In some cases, contracts have been reviewed legally and financially and the contractor has been advised not to sign; but due to the pressure to continue working they sign without any further negotiations. All they can do is hope that nothing happens during the term of their contract. It is stressful. But we

calendars for next year's Interior Logging Associations Conference and Trade Show. It will be held in Vernon, BC on May 4, 5 & 6, 2017. The theme will be "Women working in the Forest Harvesting Industry." For further information, please call the Interior Logging Association at 250.503.2199 ▲

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