



## RELATIONSHIP BUILDING AND CONFERENCE SUCCESS AT THE ILA

Chairman Reid Hedlund, the ILA Board of directors and the ILA staff would like to again thank all the trade companies and their employees for their continued support of our conference and trade show. A special thank you goes out to all the companies that co-sponsored our social events. For more details on the conference and trade show refer to Brenda Martin's article, "United Fronts and Big Machines: ILA 57th Convention and Trade Show," about the event on page 28.

### Minister Thomson discussed contractor sustainability and committed to having it folded into the provincial government's competitiveness strategy agenda.

One of this convention's successes was our interactions with Minister Thomson. We had an effective joint meeting where all three BC logging associations took part and spoke with a united voice to Minister Thomson. After the meeting, Minister Thomson gave an excellent speech at the sold-out Minister's Luncheon and touched on a number of issues important to BC's contracting community.

In his speech Minister Thomson thanked the TLA, ILA and NWLA for meeting with him together with a united voice on key issues and said he hoped these joint meetings would continue. He discussed contractor sustainability and committed to having it folded into the provincial government's competitiveness strategy agenda since it's a critical aspect of our industry's competitiveness. He also acknowledged the issues around cab guards and WorkSafeBC that had recently come to light and assured the audience they will be addressed. He then went on to talk about the First Nations negotiations taking place post the Tsilhqot'in

Decision and acknowledged it is a complicated process that will take time to resolve.

Looking forward, Minister Thomson encouraged the industry to continue to build its social license by promoting and explaining our industry to the communities we operate in and complimented the industry on our much improved safety record. He also talked about the serious investment government has made to ensure the labour supply going forward, particularly

focusing on skilled trades, and noted that this will benefit the industry in the long-term. Finally, Minister Thomson thanked Reid Hedlund, ILA Chairman, for his commitment to the industry and the good partnerships he's built with government over the years.

Moving on to the business of our conference, our 57th annual general meeting was held on May 8, 2015 and the following directors remain on the board for the 2015-2016 term.

#### Directors for One-Year Terms:

John Drayton, Kamloops  
Jeff Kineshanko, Lumby  
Dennis Cook, Princeton  
Reid Hedlund, Midway - Chairman  
Frank Etchart, Merritt  
Scott Horovatin, Kelowna  
Hedley Larsen, Vernon  
Matt Edmondson, Savona

#### New Directors Nominated For One-Year Terms:

Tim Menning, Williams Lake  
Guido Claudepierre, Kamloops

#### Directors for Two-Year Terms:

Bill McDonald, Tappen  
Len Gudeit, Lumby -  
2nd Vice Chairman  
Ed Smith, Westbank - Past Chairman  
Randy Spence, Vernon -  
1st Vice Chairman  
Lee Callow, Lake Country  
Ron Volansky, Nakusp  
Randy Durante, Monte Creek

Chairman Reid Hedlund, the Board of Directors and staff would like to thank Terry Brown and Burns Theissen, both of Kamloops, for their many years of service as ILA Directors. Terry became a director in 1992 and served as Chairman of the ILA Board from 1995-1997. Burns became a director in 1995. Terry's knowledge covering the log harvesting industry and contractor concerns along with Burns knowledge and input on log truck transportation have been a great contribution to the Board and ILA membership over the years.

As we move into the summer, the ILA in partnership with Thompson Rivers University, School of Trades and Technology has once again applied for government funding to train workers entering the forest harvesting industry. Our application covers funding for 16 heavy forestry equipment operators and eight log truck drivers. If we are successful with our application, we will post the required information on our website ([www.interiorlogging.org](http://www.interiorlogging.org)) for those interested in applying for funding. If you wish more information please contact Wayne Lintott at 250.503.2199.▲