

TIME FOR CHANGE

THE CHANGING FACE OF CONTRACTOR REPRESENTATION IN BC

TLA Editorial

The headline read: “CILA Gone” in the October 16, 2014 issue of 250 News. In its 47th year, the Central Interior Logging Association, which has been the voice of those in the forest harvest sector throughout northern BC, has shut down, closing its office on Queen-sway and pulling the plug on its website.

When the CILA was first established, most contractors were small and lacked the collective voice that the CILA provided for those working in the north. But while many contractors have grown and now have the resources to do the things the CILA provided, there still is a need for collective logging contractor representation across the BC Interior.

To the south, the Interior Logging Association (ILA) represents logging and road building contractors and suppliers in the southern Interior and, like the CILA, has had a long history of advocacy. The Truck Loggers Association (TLA) fills that role for coastal contractors and in the northwest, the North West Loggers Association (NwLA) speaks on behalf of contractors in that area.

So why join a logging association and perhaps more specifically, why should those that once supported the CILA now join one of the other associations? The answer is simple. With a common

voice and broad membership, the associations work to change policy, advocate for change and often times provide direct support for the rural BC communities where member logging, trucking

Another positive outcome followed the collective push from all of BC’s logging associations to get the *Forestry Service Providers Protection Act* (FSPPA) in place, finally replacing a decades old

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and road building contractors operate.

“Sure there are things the large contractors can do for themselves,” notes Wayne Lintott, General Manager of the ILA, “but when the issues impact a lot of members collectively and the solutions or asks of government, WorkSafe-BC, the BC Forest Safety Council or other regulatory bodies are not simple, then the collective voice of your logging association can often times make the difference.”

Such was the case when Pope & Talbot went bankrupt leaving contractors across the southern Interior holding the bag for unpaid logging invoices. The ILA worked directly with government and got the bills paid. No single contractor could have done what the collective voice of the ILA did.

statute that provided no protection at all to contractor claims for non-payment of services. While we continue to work for improvements to the Act, it has already helped some contractors who were not paid for services.

But advocacy of this type takes time and resources.

Revenues for the associations are derived from the membership dues, from affinity programs such as the medical and dental benefits for small contractors provided by the TLA and ILA, from equipment and liability insurance programs at the TLA and from membership events and conventions.

All of the associations have paid staff, but a lot of the work, issue identification, solutions development and support for the advocacy effort comes



Whether you're driving on logging roads near Prince George or near Vernon, forest contractors in both regions have many overlapping concerns.

from the volunteer boards of directors who all contribute their time for the betterment of the industry and their fellow contractors.

But one thing is clear. With more resources, the TLA, the ILA and the NWLA could do more to improve the working conditions for logging contractors across BC.


limit and we are all looking for support to get the job done.

So if you were a CILA member and benefitted from the work they did on behalf of contractors over the past 47 years, if you need health benefits or insurance, if you have some time to help with the advocacy effort or if you just want to see changes made that will help

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A permanent funding mechanism for the FSPPA Fund, resolution to ongoing ABS brake regulation issues, support for rate improvement, Blue Book assessments for logging specific equipment, improvements to WorkSafeBC regulations, steep slope harvesting guidelines and rates, industry recruitment and protecting the working forest land base are just a few of the areas that we deal with constantly. All of us are stretched to the

you, the logging contractors in northern BC to be more successful, we encourage you to heed the plead by past-CILA President Tim Menning when he noted: "With the CILA shut down, I am already discovering that getting logging and trucking concerns addressed in this part of the Interior has become much more difficult Think about the advantages the CILA gave you and seriously consider joining the ILA."▲



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