

LOOKING FOWARD: BUILDING STRENGTH IN MEMBERSHIP IN THE NORTH WEST



This article begins with the news of big changes in the North West Loggers Association. Bill Sauer, General Manager of the NWLA for the past 25 years, has decided to pursue other opportunities in the southern Interior. Bill's work over the years as General Manager has been of great benefit to the NWLA and its members. He provided excellent representation of our interests within the forest industry and was involved in numerous committees and government consultations. Bill was instrumental in fostering positive relations with both the Interior Loggers Association and the Truck Loggers Association. These relationships have unified and increased our presence and standing within government ministries and with key stakeholders. I am certain the entire membership joins me in wishing Bill great success in his current endeavor and any future endeavors he may pursue.

I have agreed, at least on an interim basis, to try and fill Bill's boots. I have a long history in both the forest industry and the NWLA. I have served as Director, Vice President, and President of the NWLA for decades and I have been a partner in a logging and hauling business.

With the recent management change in the organization, I intend to shift focus somewhat. The first job will be to rejuvenate membership involvement in the NWLA. Strong membership involvement is crucial to providing input on the various challenges the forest industry faces today and the ones we'll face in the future. Our membership includes a wide variety of industry players who work across the spectrum of the forest industry including reforestation, consulting, independent saw millers, log brokers, small licensees, trucking contractors, logging contractors, and road builders. All of these contractors

face similar challenges related to the forest industry and the NWLA is willing and able to represent those interests.

Another project needing attention is the NWLA truck wash. The truck wash provides a good facility at reasonable rates. One way to increase usage is making the equipment owners in other local industries aware of it and its competitive pricing. It provides a simple, cost effective way to clean up equipment and relieves the burden of maintenance and waste removal from equipment owners. The NWLA truck wash is located on Novotny Street in Thornhill and the rate is \$25 for NWLA members and \$40 for non-members. If you're interested in using the NWLA truck wash and want more information, please get in touch with Lisa Lapointe, 250.615.6866 or lapoint.nwla@outlook.com.

it up to you." The make-up seldom happens. The other tactic is, "That's the offer, take it or leave it." It's clear what the results have been over the last few decades. There is very little new equipment in the area and in fact a lot of the good equipment has been sold off to other parts of the world. I want to be clear that the lack of contractor sustainability in BC affects both Bill 13 contractors and non-Bill 13 contractors. Government has met with the TLA, ILA and NWLA about contractor sustainability and is working to come up with solutions to address the issues. I look forward to working with them and hope we can even the playing field for contractors and, in doing so, protect the forest industry's supply chain.

I'm excited to step into the role of General Manager of the NWLA. While I've been involved in the organization for a

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The feature article, "A Path to Mutual Successful Change: Contractor Sustainability & Industry Competitiveness" in the Spring 2016 issue of *Truck LoggerBC* magazine really hit home for me. The coast and southern Interior have a very different licensee makeup than northwestern BC because those areas are dominated by a few consolidated licence holders. In the northwest, the fibre basket is made up of several small licence holders and BC Timber Sales. Most of the volume harvested in BC's northwest is sold through log brokers. Despite these differences, the issue remains the same. For at least 20 years, contractors have had to compete with each other in order to secure fibre. In turn, those that control the fibre use the hat-in-hand approach saying "Markets are poor, do it for this and when things improve we will make

long time, this is a new perspective and I'm looking forward to rolling up my sleeves and getting to work. If you have any questions for me, I can be reached at 250.635.0240 or houlden@telus.net.▲