



EDUCATION FOR FORESTRY EQUIPMENT OPERATORS CONTINUES IN THE INTERIOR

Once again the Interior Logging Association has been successful in applying for and receiving grant funding from the Canada-British Columbia Job Fund Agreement. The new training program has allowed us to train 16 new heavy equipment operators for the forest industry and four logging truck drivers. Applications have been coming in from all over the Interior and some from the coast as well. We have received over 60 requests to register but, unfortunately, we have had to turn down many students because we just don't have the space. It has been very encouraging to see the applications coming in and it has made training one of our main goals moving forward. We are sourcing all possible government funding programs to continue our four-year-old heavy equipment operator and log truck driver training efforts.

I would like to thank Amanda Black from West Fraser Timber and West Fraser Timber itself along with their

contractors who have stepped up to help us with the on-site field training of our students. Without their continued support our program would not be functional today. Thank you also to Rocky Ashton of Rocky Forest Management Ltd. for his classroom

is "Be the Change for Forestry Safety." We are pleased to announce that this year we have combined our conference with the 2nd Annual Interior Safety Conference. Last year, this conference was held in Prince George along with Canadian North Resources Expo. We

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instruction and on-site field supervision. And a thank you goes out to Thompson Rivers University at Williams Lake and Kamloops for their continued support of our program. Finally, thank you to Gillian Watt of Holmwood Resources, she is our program manager and ensures we are all on schedule and within the guidelines of the program.

Its start-up time again for our 2016 Annual Conference and Trade Show. The date this year is May 5, 6 & 7 in Vernon, BC. This is our 58th year and our theme

are looking forward to welcoming the Interior Safety Conference delegates to our conference in Vernon. Be sure to mark your calendar for this event! For more information, check out our website at www.interiorlogging.org or call the ILA office at 250.503.2199.

In closing, I wish everyone a successful and prosperous 2016. I look forward to working with our affiliated associations, members and government agencies to make sure our concerns are put forward. ♣

LEFT TO RIGHT:

Rocky Ashton
Owen Sutton
Jason Earwaker
Ivan Haines
Kelly William
Kaleb Carpenter
Amanda Colebank
Amanda Black
Kenneth Paterson

