

ILA 59TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE: WOMEN WORKING IN THE FOREST HARVESTING INDUSTRY

By Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations Minister Steve Thomson

It's always a pleasure to provide an update in advance of the yearly ILA convention, and to speak to recent government and ministry initiatives that may be of interest to ILA members.

First, I would like to expand on a commitment that Premier Christy Clark made at the TLA convention in January—namely, the appointment of an independent facilitator to assist in the second phase of the contractor sustainability review. I'm pleased that George Abbott has agreed to undertake this important work.

Also, since the TLA convention, Finance Minister Mike de Jong released Balanced Budget 2017—the BC government's fifth consecutive balanced budget.

As part of Balanced Budget 2017, government has provided \$150 million to the Forest Enhancement Society of BC. This is in addition to the \$85 million provided to the new society when it was formed last year. To date, the society has approved over \$6 million in projects around the province.

The Forest Enhancement Society has five main goals:

- prevent and mitigate the impact of wildfires
- improve damaged or low value forests
- improve habitat for wildlife
- support the use of fibre from damaged and low-value forests
- treat forests to improve the management of greenhouse gases

The Forest Enhancement Society funding complements other ministry investments, such as the \$445 million invested by Forests for Tomorrow since 2005. The increased reforestation efforts could create up to 3,000 jobs over five years.

Through the Forestry Fibre Action Plan, we can create 500 jobs by providing access to secondary fibre users of an additional one million cubic metres of residual fibre and low quality wood.

As well, as part of Balanced Budget 2017, the provincial sales tax on electricity purchases will be reduced to 3.5 per cent on Oct. 1, 2017 and eliminated by April 1, 2019. This will improve business competitiveness and economic per-

formance for resource industries. This measure was applauded by mayors of resource dependent communities.

Another tax measure of interest to ILA members is the reduction of the small business tax rate to 2 from 2.5 per cent, effective April 1, 2017. BC will now have the second-lowest small business tax rate in Canada.

On March 3, along with Premier Christy Clark, Minister of Jobs, Tourism and Skills Training Shirley Bond and Minister of State for Rural Economic Development Donna Barnett, I had the pleasure of releasing the BC Rural Economic Development Strategy.

The strategy builds on previous government programs, including the BC Rural Dividend, which is also administered by my ministry. As part of Budget 2017, the three-year \$75-million Rural Dividend was extended for another year, bringing government's total commitment to \$100 million. The first full year has been extremely successful. To date the BC Rural Dividend has provided 124 recipients with up to \$10,000 each in project development grants and provided 227 recipients with project awards of \$100,000 (single projects) and up to \$500,000 (partnership projects). The next application intake window runs from April 3 to May 31, 2017.

Our Rural Economic Development Strategy outlines a three-pronged approach that builds, strengthens and diversifies rural communities. Our strategy includes immediate investments and a long-term action plan to support thriving rural communities. These investments are expected to support up to 26,600 direct and indirect jobs with an overall impact of \$2.8 billion to provincial GDP.

In addition to extending Rural Dividend funding, government is investing \$40 million to extend high-speed internet access to rural and remote communities that will lay the foundation for new investment and jobs in BC's burgeoning tech industry.

And of course, investments in skills training continue to be important. Wayne Lintott is a strong advocate and champion for skills training for forestry



jobs. With grants from the Canada-BC Job Fund, the Interior Logging Association is partnering with Thompson Rivers University to deliver training in driving logging trucks and operating heavy equipment.

On behalf of the 140 communities around the province that rely on forestry, we're working closely with the federal government and other provinces to secure a new softwood lumber agreement with the United States. To that end, the province has hired David Emerson as Special Envoy to the US to ensure that American workers, consumers, senators and congress are aware of how much they need BC lumber. US forest product companies do not manufacture enough lumber to meet US demand.

While we're pursuing opportunities for negotiating, we're also preparing for litigation and for all eventualities should duties be imposed on softwood lumber exports to the US. We believe the strategies in the Rural Economic Development Strategy will help support BC communities. As well, I'm also participating in the Federal-Provincial Task Force on Softwood Lumber led by the federal Minister of Natural Resources. The intent of this task force is to ensure that across Canada there are the appropriate supports in place for communities and workers.

While there are some clouds on the horizon there are still lots of reasons to be positive about the future of BC's forests and BC forestry. I know forestry will remain a key contributor to BC's future prosperity, as it always has been. ♣

Interior Logging Association 59th Annual Conference & Trade Show

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**"Women Working in the
Forest Harvesting Industry"**

**May 4th, 5th & 6th, 2017
Vernon, BC**

HOST HOTEL:

Vernon Lodge Hotel
3914 - 32nd Street
Vernon, BC, V1T 1P1
Tel: 250-545-3385
E-mail: mnahirny@prestigehotels.ca

EVENTS:

May 4th: Thursday Evening, Meet & Greet
May 5th & 6th: Inside & Outside Displays, Kal Tire Place
May 5th: Friday Luncheon, Dinner & Dance
May 5th & 6th: Seminars (to be posted on website,
interiorlogging.org)



**For registration and further information,
contact the ILA office.**

Tel: 1-250-503-2199

E-mail: info@interiorlogging.org

AGENDA & EVENTS PRICING

THURSDAY, MAY 4, 2017

TLA DIRECTORS' MEETING

9:00 am – 3:00 pm | Fairview Inn and Suites

REGISTRATION

4:00 pm – 7:00 pm
Vernon Lodge Hotel (Columbia Room #102)

ILA DIRECTORS' MEETING

4:00 pm – 5:30 pm | Vernon Lodge Hotel (Room #130)

MEET & GREET **\$50.00**

6:00 pm - 10:00 pm | Vernon Lodge Hotel

FRIDAY, MAY 5, 2017

BREAKFAST **\$25.00**

7:30 am – 9:30 am | Vernon Lodge Hotel

INSIDE & OUTSIDE DISPLAYS **N/C**

9:30 am – 4:30 pm | Kal Tire Place

ILA ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING **N/C**

8:30 – 10:00 am (ILA Members Only)
Vernon Lodge Hotel Okanagan Room

SEMINAR **N/C**

10:00 -11:30 am | Kal Tire Place

1) "Supervisors Rights & Responsibilities"

Presenters: Kevin Birnie (Occupational Safety Officer) and Carol Savage, RPF (Industry Specialist-Forestry) WorkSafeBC

FRIDAY LUNCHEON **\$50.00**

11:30 am -1:30 pm | Vernon Lodge Hotel

Guest Speaker: MELINDA MORBEN, RPF; Manager, Operational Logistics, Island Timberlands
"DIVERSITY IN THE WORKPLACE"

SEMINAR **N/C**

2:00 - 3:00 pm | Kal Tire Place

2) "Prevention Enforcement and Recovery"

Presenter: Kathleen Werstiuk, Manager, Wildfire Risk, BC Wildfire Service

FRIDAY NIGHT DINNER & DANCE **\$55.00**

6:00 pm to 12:00 am | Vernon Lodge Hotel

FEATURING The Band: "EASY FIX"
(Okanagan's Premier Dance Band)

SATURDAY MAY 6, 2017

INSIDE & OUTSIDE DISPLAYS **N/C**

9:30 am – 4:30 pm | Kal Tire Place

SAFETY LUNCH AND LEARN SEMINARS **N/C**

Pre-Register | <http://www.bcforestsafesafe.org/node/2929>

10:30 – 11:20 am | Registration, Coffee and Welcome

SEMINAR 11:20 am – 12:00 pm | Vernon Lodge Hotel

1) "All Incidents are Preventable; Near Misses are Gifts"

Presenter: Cherie Whelan, Director; SAFE Companies, BC Forestry Safety Council

LUNCH | 12:00 – 12:45 pm

SEMINAR 12:45 – 2:00 pm | Vernon Lodge Hotel

2) "What is Up with this B.S. – Being Safe!"

Presenter: Eldeen Pozniak, Pozniak Safety Associates Inc.

TICKET & DISPLAY REGISTRATION

Description	Qty.	Price	Subtotal
MEET & GREET (May 4)		X \$50.00	
BREAKFAST (May 5)		X \$25.00	
ILA AGM (Members Only)		N/C	N/C
FRIDAY LUNCHEON (May 5)		X \$50.00	
FRIDAY NIGHT DINNER & DANCE (May 5)		X \$55.00	
SEMINAR & LUNCH ((May 6)		N/C Pre-Register with BCFSC	
		http://www.bcforestsafesafe.org/node/2929	
Display Space Requested & Costs:			
10' X 10' INSIDE DISPLAY	_____	X \$800.00 = \$	_____
15' X 30' OUTSIDE DISPLAY	_____	X \$500.00 = \$	_____
		Order Sub-total:	_____
		(Tax #107510125) 5% GST:	_____
		Total:	_____

PAYMENT MAY BE PAID BY VISA, MASTERCARD, AMERICAN EXPRESS OR CHEQUE

Credit Card No: _____

Expiry Date: _____

E-mail address for receipt: _____

Exhibitors must be Registered by April 22nd.

Company Name _____

Contact _____

Address _____

City _____ Province _____ Postal Code _____

Phone _____

Name Tags: (please print neatly)

REGISTRATION INFORMATION

Online Registration at: www.interiorlogging.org

or for further information, contact the ILA office

INTERIOR LOGGING ASSOCIATION

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