

REAL-TIME RESPONSES AT CONVENTION

By Brenda Martin

For the second year in a row, the TLA surveyed convention delegates in real-time to get their thoughts on the issues that matter to them. What we learned from the responses re-confirms much of the TLA's advocacy efforts.

Softwood Lumber

With so many unknowns overshadowing your business, including the softwood lumber dispute, how do you view the outlook for your business for 2017?



- Positive – 21%
- Neutral – 48%
- Negative – 31%

This shows the concern and the lack of clarity many have regarding softwood negotiations. With 79 per cent responding with either neutrally or negatively, it reflects that contractors know they are at the start of the supply chain and—as the TLA predicted—it is the beginning of the chain that gets squeezed first and hardest when markets get tough.

Community Support

As rural residents, do you find support for the forest industry in your community?



- Strong support – 33%
- Some support – 60%
- No support – 7%

This was a good news story for us. A full 93 per cent of those polled felt they had some support from their community and more than a third felt they had strong support. This reinforces the TLA's belief that rural communities recognize that timber harvesting contractors and their suppliers are the economic backbone of their communities.

Working Forest

Would a reduction in the working forest impact your business?



- Yes – 97%
- No – 3%

The working forest on the BC coast has shrunk significantly over the last 20 years. It has impacted our industry and played a role in the closing of many forest product manufacturers. As we see from this resounding response, further reductions will be damaging to today's forest industry.

Recruitment

Do you have a need over the next year to recruit new employees?



- Yes – 80%
- No – 7%
- Maybe – 13%

Are you concerned about future employee recruitment given the demog-

graphics of your workforce and competition from other resources?



- Yes – 84%
- No – 16%

Asked at two different sessions, these two answers make it clear that members know they will need to recruit new employees. So it is good news the provincial government has added another string to our bow with the training tax credit announced by Premier Christy Clark in her speech at the convention.



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