



EDUCATION AND ADVOCACY: GETTING THINGS DONE IN BC'S INTERIOR

I'm proud to report that the ILA has good news to share around our work to build the forestry workforce in BC's Interior.

First, the ILA's Board of Directors would like to congratulate the following winners of our 2015-2016 scholarship awards:

- Daniel Lussier, Williams Lake
\$1,000 Trades Scholarship,
Sponsor: Hytest Timber Ltd.
- Jennifer Meints, Houston
\$1,000 Membership Scholarship,
Sponsor: Andy Meints
Contracting
- Jared Sexsmith, Lumby
\$2,000 Forestry Scholarship,
Sponsor: Kineshanko Logging Ltd.
- Madisen Brown, Vernon
\$1,000 Associate Scholarship,
Sponsor: ILA

These four students worked hard and are committed to the forest industry. They're the next generation and we're proud of our small part in their success. Scholarship applications for 2016-2017 close July 31, 2017. For more information on our scholarship applications visit our website www.interiorlogging.org.

I would also like to highlight the recent funding the ILA received to train four log truck drivers and 16 heavy equipment forestry operators. This funding has been provided by the Government of Canada and Province of British Columbia through the Canada-British Columbia Job Fund. All 20 opportunities have been filled with qualified students and we have a waiting list of future students wishing to register when future courses are available. To date the majority of our graduating students have been able to find employment in the forest harvesting industry. The ILA thanks both governments for their support of our programs and we will continue to apply for future funding as it becomes available.

The ILA board members are pleased to acknowledge an important advocacy milestone. The provincial government's commitment to move forward with a contractor competitiveness review. As I mentioned earlier and as the Premier states in her message (page 23), the provincial government has supported the ILA's training program again. However,

Electoral Districts covered by the Interior Logging Association:

Boundary-Similkameen; Cariboo-Chicotin; Cariboo North; Columbia River-Revelstoke; Fraser-Nicola; Kamloops-North Thompson; Kamloops-South Thompson; Kelowna-Lake Country; Kelowna-Mission; Kootenay East; Kootenay West; Nechako Lakes; Nelson-

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training programs benefit no one if there isn't a prosperous industry for those trainees to work in once they've completed their programs. Contractor sustainability is the key to the success of the industry as a whole. The ILA commends Minister Thomson for taking this action and we look forward to hearing more about this work at the 74th TLA Convention & Trade Show later this month in Vancouver.

Looking toward another important lobbying effort, the ILA continues to hold meetings with Steve Haywood, Director of the Commercial Vehicle Safety and Enforcement (CVSE) Branch about further exemptions of ABS brakes on logging trucks. A final report by FPInnovations has been completed and submitted to CVSE. Also under discussion with CVSE are logging truck configurations and front axle weights.

Are you a member of the Interior Logging Association? Benefits offered by the ILA are important to your company and employees. If you reside or work in the British Columbia Electoral Districts listed here please give us a call at 250.503.2199 or review our website: www.interiorlogging.org. Contact Wayne Lintott if you have any questions, concerns or wish further information.

Creston; Peace River North; Peace River South; Penticton; Prince George-Mackenzie; Prince George-Valemount; Shuswap; Westside-Kelowna.

Finally, we are starting to organize for our 2017 Annual Conference and Trade Show in Vernon, BC. The dates are May 4-6, 2017. This is our 59th year and our theme is "Women Working in the Forest Harvesting Industry." Please mark your calendar and plan on attending this year's event. In closing, I wish everyone a successful and prosperous 2017, and I hope to see you at the TLA's conference and trade show later this month and at the ILA's 59th Annual Conference and Trade Show in Vernon in May. 🌲