



MEDIA RELEASE

Tuesday October 1, 2019

Woodlots Seeking Value-Added Solutions at Conference

Smithers, BC - Woodlot licensees from across the province will be meeting in Smithers this weekend for the joint conference of the Federation of BC Woodlot Associations and the Woodlot Product Development Council.

This meeting comes at a time when closures and curtailments have impacted the forestry sector - especially rural communities in BC's Central Interior.

This year's theme is "Beyond Sawlogs: Woodlot Opportunities & Challenges".

Three of the seventeen BC Woodlot Associations - Nadina, Kispiox and Bulkley - have joined forces to host the weekend. The event will be attended by woodlot licensees, small-scale forestry operators, First Nations stakeholders, government officials, educators, logging contractors and forestry-sector consultants.

The delegates will be welcomed by the Wet'suwet'en First Nation before taking part in roundtable discussions about the issues impacting sustainable forestry practices in BC.

Minister of Forests, Lands, Natural Resources and Rural Development, Doug Donaldson, will be on hand to present the Woodlot Stewardship Awards, a peer-based award that recognizes exemplary forest management.

Tours of value-added facilities in Houston - Corwood Tahtsa Group and Pinnacle Renewable Energy - will round out the conference, and showcase a partnership with Canfor's Houston Operations that increases the value generated from the local wood profile.

The conference comes on the heels of the Union of BC Municipalities Annual General Meeting in Vancouver, which drew attention when over 200 logging truck contractors converged on the city to show their solidarity and support for BC's forestry-based workers.

The Federation of BC Woodlot Associations and the Woodlot Product Development Council are looking forward to seeking sustainable solutions during the three-day conference.

The Federation of BC Woodlot Associations was founded in 1988 and represents 17 woodlot associations, whose membership includes woodlot licensees and small private woodland owners throughout British Columbia united in an effort to demonstrate exemplary forest and natural resource management. To learn more about woodlots in British Columbia please visit us at woodlot.bc.ca.

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