



Beyond Sawlogs: Woodlot Opportunities & Challenges



Woodlot licensees from across the province met in Smithers October 6th and 7th for their annual conference.

This meeting came at a time when closures and curtailments have impacted the forestry sector - especially rural communities in BC.

“Beyond Sawlogs: Woodlot Opportunities & Challenges” was a fitting theme.”

Following the welcome by the Wet’suwet’en First Nation, licensees took part in roundtable discussions about operational and economic challenges facing sustainable forestry practices in BC and how they work within the multitude of competing resource management objectives, government regulations and policies. Fibre recovery zones on the coast, fuel management and post-harvest fuel abatement with the

implementation of the new Open Burning Smoke Control Regulation (Sep 15, 2019) were the main issues discussed.

As for opportunities, the renewable energy sector, increasing fibre utilization and how wood adds sustainability to ecosystems were explored.

Steve Kozuki, RPF, Executive Director of the Forest Enhancement Society of B.C. (FESBC) attended the conference and tour to learn more about the innovative practices in the area and said “The forest sector in the past few decades has seen tremendous advancements in the use of technology to inform forest management and develop improved forest products, including clean bio-energy. Woodlots in our province can provide eco-friendly biomass for the new

bio-economy. Furthermore, B.C. woodlots are very much at the innovation forefront of earning social license through their deep commitment to excellent forest management and relationships with their neighbours.”

The annual field trip included tours of three value-added facilities in Houston that are working co-operatively to utilize and convert wood fibre into wood products: Canfor Houston is a supermill which makes commodity lumber products; Corewood uses low-value logs to make wood products such as square cants and rig mats; and Pinnacle Renewable Energy uses woody biomass to make wood pellets.

The biggest opportunity identified for woodlots is future generations – a large contingent of the

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Corewood Timber Production mill tour, Houston.

second and third generation licensees attended to learn more about managing a woodlot licence and the challenges of natural resource management. Social licence, skills and knowledge of natural resource management and running a small business is generally passed on through the generations, making woodlot licences a model forest tenure for the future.

FBCWA SCHOLARSHIP

In support of youth the Federation of BC Woodlot Associations provides scholarships each year to the younger generation with preference given to those students pursuing something related to natural resource management.

Logan Sewell, grandson of Anne and Bob Davidson (W0294) from Vanderhoof was the top recipient winning \$2,000. He is currently employed by the BC Forest Service as an initial attack forest fire fighter. He plans to attend U Vic to pursue a degree in mechanical engineering. The second recipient Sonja Hadden, daughter

of Bill Hadden (W0812), from the Cariboo is currently enrolled in her second year of the Natural Resources program at the College of New Caledonia. Tye Beecroft, third place recipient and stepson of Dave Baxter (W0300) from Clearwater is in his second year at Selkirk College in their forest technician program.

“These young people are the future of sustainable and innovative forest management in BC.”

MINISTER’S AWARD

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

The Minister recognized three woodlot licensees for 2019:



Minister Donaldson recognizes the Adamson family – Northern interior and overall provincial recipients of the Minister’s Woodlot Management Award for Innovation and Excellence

- Mountain View Silviculture Ltd. (Mark and Pauline Adamson and family) - provincial award and north area
Adamson news release - <https://news.gov.bc.ca/releases/2019FLNR0246-001944>
- Son Ranch Timber Co. (Ross Gardner Freer and family) - south area
Freer news story - <https://www.boundarycreektimes.com/news/son-ranch-timber-co-wins-provincial-award-for-woodlot-management/>
- Kevco Timber Ltd. (Howie, Shari and Kevin Griessel) - coast area
Griessel news release - <https://news.gov.bc.ca/releases/2019FLNR0248-001946>

By LISA MARAK



2019 UBCM Trade Show – Lisa Marak and Coleen Maclean-Marlow, Woodlot Licensees met with local government from around BC

“

B.C. woodlots are very much at the innovation forefront of earning social licence” Steve Kozuki, Executive Director, FESBC



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