

BC

Forest PROFESSIONAL

MAY - JUNE 2016

Building and Maintaining Social License:

Years to Earn, Minutes to Lose

An Eye on the Future:

Meet BC's New Chief Forester

The Value of Woodlot Licenses
on the Landscape

The Semantics of Earning Public Trust and Acceptance

ABCFP's 68th Forestry
Conference and AGM:
All the Details and Photos!



VIEWPOINT

Earning and Maintaining Social License

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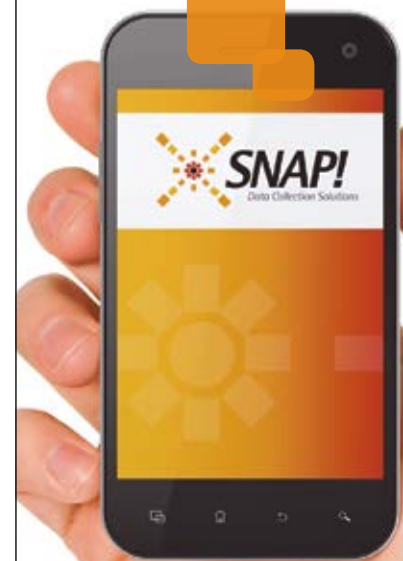
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"In the field it has saved us time and simplified field surveys. In the office it has saved us a significant amount of staff time"...

Ricardo Velasquez,
District Silvicultural Forester
Ontario Ministry of
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Advocacy or Patronage?

The issue surrounding payments to BC's political parties was reported initially in a Victoria newspaper. Michael Meagher, RPF (ret), brought it to the attention of the membership through these pages by asking some necessary pointed questions. The reply drafted by staff, also printed here, was entirely unsatisfactory, reporting the payments were in the way of travel expenses. The disparity of payments of \$9,500 to the Liberals and \$2,700 clearly suggests otherwise. At the 'Council Hot Seat Session' at the AGM held in Vancouver this year, his attempts to have his questions answered was bluntly denied. Now Alf Farenholtz's letter in the March/April issue of the **BC Forest Professional** raises the same questions but received no response. The lack of an adequate explanation of the who, when and why such payments were made suggests a high level of embarrassment on the part of this, or previous councils. The ethics of the apparent attempts to purchase favours from politicians is demeaning to any professional organization. Without adequate explanations the membership is left with an embarrassed council with, on this issue, questionable ethical standards.

D. A. Smith, RPF(ret)

ABC FP Council replies to: *Advocacy or Patronage?*

I'd like to thank Dave Smith, RPF(ret); Alf Farenholtz, RPF(ret), Life Member; Mike Meagher, RPF(ret); for sharing their concerns about an aspect of the ABCFP's advocacy work. Whether you agree or disagree with us, we want to hear from you!

Part of our advocacy work involves liaising with senior decision makers. One way we do this is by attending political events such as dinners. Of course, we also meet with FLNRO executives and Minister Thomson in their offices whenever appropriate and appreciate the good relationships we have with FLNRO staff. At the AGM, I spoke to the business decision of council and senior staff to pay to attend political events. Given new correspondence since then, I thought it would be helpful to share more broadly the information provided by staff directly in response to specific member inquiries, as well as my take on the business rationale.

Advocating to government on stewardship issues affecting forests and their ecosystems is a key activity in the strategic plan. Stewardship challenges are complicated and often require government officials, in addition to FLNRO staff, to help create and pave the way for solutions. Attending political events gives us unprecedented access not only to forestry politicians and staff, but politicians in related ministries such as education, environment, and jobs, and skills training. Unlike scheduled meetings in Ministers' offices, the interactions at these events are not bound by a pre-set agenda so we can raise several issues with many different individuals.

Effective advocacy takes strong relationships and a multi-pronged approach – these political events are just one small part of what we do but have, without a doubt in my mind, improved our working relationships and ability to engage with key people on difficult challenges when they arise.

The fees the association pays to attend political events are tracked under Forest Stewardship expenses. Over the past three years fees paid have been:

BC Liberal Party	May 2013	\$1,500
	March 2014	\$4,000
	February 2015	\$4,000
BC NDP Party	February 2013	\$1,575
	September 2014	\$1,12

I understand some members may disagree with the approach; however, we may be in a situation where we have to agree to disagree. I have been a part of the decision to advocate in this manner, as well as being a participant in some of the events, and I feel confident that the relatively small expenses are returning dividends to the association and its achievement of its goals. As forest professionals, we know from our practice there are many different ways to achieve an outcome. I think this path is one of the more expedient in today's operating world.

Jonathan Lok, RFT
Immediate Past President

Have a Compliment or Concern? Write us!

The **BC Forest Professional** letters section is intended primarily for feedback on recent articles and for brief statements about current association, professional, or forestry issues. The editor reserves the right to edit and condense letters and encourages readers to keep letters to 300 words. Anonymous letters are not accepted. Please refer to our website for guidelines to help make sure your submission gets published. Send letters to:

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Focus on Strategic Planning

Chris' first column is an excerpt from his speech that was delivered at the Forestry: Branching Out conference and AGM held in Vancouver in February 2016.

I am very privileged and honoured to be serving as the association's 69th president. In the association office, there is a wall of pictures showing all of the members of past councils. The last time I was in the office, I spent a couple of minutes looking at them all. As I looked back at all the great people who have served as president before me, it really sunk in that I have a lot of work to do in order to measure up to these icons of forestry.

In recent years, presidents have picked two or three areas in which they want to focus their efforts. We only get one year in this position and I think it's important to have focus areas so we can concentrate on making an impact in a few places instead of spending the entire year chasing one shiny object after another.

When I stood for election to council, I identified a few areas where I wanted to try to make a difference. In a nutshell, they were governance, operational excellence, and providing the support to our members they need during a time of great change and uncertainty.

In my opinion, the association has made great strides in all of these areas over the past five years. With respect to governance and operational excellence in particular, I think we have arrived

at a very good place and it's now a matter of basic performance management and continuous improvement. We have a very functional and mature council and an extremely promising new CEO and I feel the stage is set for an excellent year.

So with that in mind, my main priority for the year is strategic planning. Under that umbrella, there are a few specific areas I'd like to focus my efforts. First, the value proposition to our members, both active and retired; second, building and strengthening external relationships; and third, making our association more relevant to Aboriginal Peoples and communities.

By virtue of timing, strategic planning will be a major focus for council this year. We are working on the final year of our current three-year strategic plan. In September we have to re-examine the strategic direction of the association and build a new plan to guide staff work for the next three years.

Council is not planning on setting the new strategy in isolation. As before, we will reach out to members and stakeholders, in addition to doing an environmental scan, to make sure we know what's going on in the world around us and what is important to our members.

Member outreach will have a dual purpose as we want to get our new CEO, Christine Gelowitz, RPF, out to meet members early in her tenure. Watch for a series of member meetings

to be announced in **The Increment** or through e-mail.

A big part of member outreach will be to gauge whether our members are getting the support they need from the association. We are referring to this, in part, as the value proposition, and we will be looking to the membership to let us know where we can improve.

My next priority is to strengthen relationships and find common and collaborative ground amongst government, industry, and consulting members. Starting very soon now, Christine and I, and likely select council members and senior staff, will meet with key stakeholders. We want to know what they think of the ABCFP and the profession, as well as hear their ideas for improvement. One particular item I'd like to discuss with them is professional reliance. Professional reliance has been working really well in some areas and not so well in others. We want to capitalize on relationships we already have, as well as build new relationships to promote and improve professional reliance across the province.

The final priority I'd like to address is the relevance of our association to Aboriginal peoples and communities. We have received our right to practise from the provincial government and historically we have measured our social license to manage Crown forests by surveying the general public. While we haven't been ignoring Aboriginal rights and title, this area is rapidly evolving across Canada and especially so right here in BC. As a result, the way we view our roles will probably have to evolve too. We need to ask the question: Do Aboriginal Peoples trust us to be the right group to manage the forests?

How to answer that question will be an area of focus for our strategic plan. I think it is important that the association engage more with Aboriginal communities to understand their perspectives. While working with Aboriginal Peoples has been a focus of our strategic plan for a couple of years now, I'd like to take the engagement up a level or two by reaching out to key Aboriginal leaders to seek their advice on the best way is to get on the radar screen of Aboriginal Peoples and how best to engage at the community level.

So, there you have it, my plan for the next year: focus on strategic planning; improve the value proposition for our members; strengthen external relationships; and improve our engagement with First Nations.

I'd love to hear from you anytime during the year. Let me know your thoughts on my priority areas or about anything concerning the profession or the association. Better yet, help make a change yourself by writing an article for the magazine, volunteering for a committee, or even running for council. ✪



As the Forests Change, So Should We

In February, as I was entering this new role as CEO, a member of the public raised questions and concerns about the state of BC's forest management in a letter to the editor in the Prince George Citizen. I responded by challenging the notion that BC had a poor record of resource management in addition to indicating the association welcomed a conversation with the public about our forests. Harry Coates, the member of the public who wrote the letter, as well as some others took me up on my offer. I spent an hour talking with Harry on the phone and the following week, Mike Larock, RPF, director of forest stewardship and professional practice, was able to take the time to meet with Harry. I thought I'd use my first CEO Report to tell you more about what we learned from this member of the public and his suggestions for our profession.

Harry Coates, although not an ABCFP member, is both passionate and knowledgeable about our province's forests – especially those around his home in Prince George. Harry spent his career doing forest research for various ministries and since his retirement in the mid-1990s, he has continued to visit planting trials and sample plots he monitored over decades. Living in Prince George, Harry, like others is alarmed by the huge impact the mountain

pine beetle and other forest disturbances have had. He's also perceives there to be less emphasis on silviculture education, research, monitoring of seedling growth and planting trials, and silviculture investment than in years past. All this when we just might need it the most.

Climate change, insects like the mountain pine beetle and spruce bark beetle, in addition to longer and more intense fire seasons are changing what forests look like across the province. The past several years have also seen a number of changes at the Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations – the organization responsible for the province's forest policies. Both natural and organizational changes are creating uncertainty for some forest professionals and others working on the frontlines in the forest. This uncertainty also brings concern about long-term sustainability of our forest for our members and the public alike.



From Harry's point of view, the changes mean forest professionals will need "...more silviculture education because specialized knowledge is necessary to deal with the level of disturbance we're seeing. Professionals will need the results of monitoring and research especially in regard to planting and seedling growth, to best determine management approaches." Harry also encourages the profession, and its young professionals, to "be independent in professional practice and to spend more time in our forests." Field time should be seen as some of the most enjoyable work in one's career and is needed to bring a richer understanding and context into one's future professional work.

For me, this experience has underscored the importance of conversations about forestry. People like Harry get people talking about forest professionals and forest management — and conversations lead to opportunity. The response to these changes and overall state of forest management is controversial, but it is important the forest professional, and this association, remain at the centre of the discussion and respectfully listen to differing perspectives from each other and the public.

I recently had lunch with one of the first recipients of our profession's Distinguished Forest Professional award* who reminded me of what Dr. Fred Bunnell once said, "Forestry isn't rocket science. It is much more complicated." It is going to take our profession working together to build solutions to the complex challenges facing our forests and the province. Professionals have to be ready to adapt to change and develop ways to mitigate uncertainty. In doing this, above all as professionals we must always remember to listen, to honour our ethics and independence and keep focused on our most important responsibility; to protect the public's interest in the province's forests. 🌲

** The Distinguished Forest Professional is the highest honour for a member. First awarded in 1970, the award recognizes an individual for outstanding service to the forestry profession and for furthering the association's principles.*

New Registration Process Update

Visit the New Registration Process page on the website (click on Become a Member) for detailed information, including an 'Overview of the Six Experience Areas' document and the 'Roadmap to Registration' infographic (which illustrates how to proceed through the six new experience areas).

Apply to Transfer into the New Registration Process

Members enrolled on November 30, 2015 or earlier, who would like to transition to the new registration process, can now visit the Transition page on the website (click on Become a Member/New Registration Process) for more information to apply to transfer into the new process.

Annual Report Now Available

The 2015 ABCFP Annual Report was distributed at the recent AGM in Vancouver and is also available on the Publications page of the website (click on The Public). We revamped the layout to make it a more dynamic read and to focus more on the accomplishments of members and volunteers.

This report also contains the condensed financial statements. The full financial statements are also available on the Publications page.

Congratulations to the ABCFP Award Winners

On February 25th, at the *Forestry: Branching Out* conference in Vancouver, we presented awards to six individuals and one group who have made significant contributions to the profession and study of forestry. The 2015 ABCFP Award Winners are:

Bruce Blackwell, RPF, RPBio - Distinguished Forest Professional
Jason Hutchinson, RPF - Jim Rodney Memorial Volunteer of the Year

Barry Jaquish, RPF - Climate Change Innovator Award

Joe LeBlanc, RPF - Professional Forester of the Year

Lorraine Maclauchlan, PhD, RPF, RPBio - Distinguished Forest Professional

South Chilcotin Stewardship Plan - Award of Merit in Sustainable Forestry

Frank Varga, RPF - Climate Change Innovator Award

Strategic Plan Update Online

The ABCFP Strategic Plan has been updated with the progress made in 2015 and is now available on the Governance page of the website (click on About Us).

Reflections on Ethical Requirements

Among the responsibilities of forest professionals to the public is *"to advocate and practise good stewardship of forest land based on sound ecological principles to sustain its ability to provide those values that have been assigned by society"* (Bylaw 11.3.1). Forest professionals have a privilege of right-to-practise with the expectation of their commitment to competent practice in the public interest. This exchange is public trust.

Sustainable management of forest resources requires the ability of the forest professional to balance economic, social, and ecological values to meet the public interests. The code of ethics calls the forest professional to honour the public trust and pursue sustainable management of forest resources. The idea that keeping community buy-in aligned with your professional practice will bring you closer to practising in the public interest and to maintaining social license.



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The DLA Piper (Canada) LLP Forestry Law Group advises and represents clients across Canada and abroad on virtually all issues affecting the forest sector.

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Earning and Maintaining Social License

The theme of this issue is **Earning and Maintaining Social License**. Social license is tricky. It can take years to earn and can be lost in a few short minutes. Lisa Marak gives us the woodlot owner’s perspective on social license, while Megan Hanacek, RPF, RPBio, provides the ABCFP’s perspective, and Brian Pate, RFT, discusses the four levels of social license and offers advice on how to build and maintain it.

This issue also includes our conference feature. *The Forestry: Branching Out* conference held in Vancouver in February was a huge success with the highest attendance in several years. Award winners and inductees were feted, old friends caught up over a beverage, and attendees discussed many forestry related topics. We’ve tried to capture the event in photos so be sure to take a few minutes to look at this feature.

We’re also pleased to bring you an interview with BC’s new chief forester Diane Nicholls, RPF. Diane shares with us the path that led her to be chief forester as well as some of the issues she’s working on over the next few years.

A few of the ABCFP’s dedicated volunteers have recently retired from their committees so we wanted to highlight and thank them for their work. Be sure to read the story honouring Peter Mashall, PhD, RPF; Norm Shaw, RFT(ret), ATE; Dennis Bendickson, RPF(ret); and Peter Schroder, RPF.

Finally, it gives me great pleasure to introduce **BC Forest Professional’s** new editor, Cheryl Waddell. Cheryl joins the ABCFP with experience in journalism, magazine editing, adult education, community engagement, and more. She’s looking forward to using her skills to work with the editorial board to produce **BC Forest Professional**, beginning with the July/August issue. If you have a story idea or a comment about the magazine, don’t hesitate to contact her at 604.639.8103 or cwaddell@abcfp.ca. ✪



The Principles of Stewardship¹ and Social License

The ABCFP Principles of Stewardship are directly tied into social license for local interests of communities and local stakeholders.

In order to maintain ecological integrity and ensure resilience of forest ecosystems, stakeholders can provide valuable ecosystem data at the site and regional levels. Information and understanding of an area must be reliable and reasonably up to date.

Forest stewardship requires a multi-disciplinary approval using data from a variety of sources (including local stakeholders) to endure successful, on the ground results. Forest stewardship values are determined by society and the landowner. Forest professionals are expected to integrate the range of values present and to plan for the desired outcomes of forest management activities. In order to achieve and maintain social license, forest professionals must balance the needs of stakeholders and communities today and into the future. This requires a clear understanding of all values important to local communities and stakeholders.

Temporal and spatial scale forest activity impacts must be considered in all decision making. Not only should site level impacts be gauged, landscape and global cumulative effects need to be considered.

Impacts from forest activities need to be documented to ensure adequate adaptive management of practice and successful achievement and maintenance of social license.

¹ The main document can be seen at http://member.abcfp.ca/WEB/ABCFP/Practising_in_BC/Practising_in_BC.aspx

Photo: Annie Stock

Achieving Social License to Operate in British Columbia's Forests

Considering there are 55 million hectares of forested Crown land in British Columbia and the forest industry provides over 60,000 direct jobs, achieving social license to operate (SLO) is crucial, not only for the business bottom line but also for communities intertwined with the local forests.

The legislative requirements that govern forest professionals and forestry activities in British Columbia provide the starting point for discussions regarding SLO. Under the *Foresters Act*, the practice of professional forestry requires specialized education and training of those advising and providing judgement related to forests, forest resources, and forest ecosystems. Forest Stewardship Plans (FSPs) are one of the primary plans governing forest activities on Crown land in BC; these plans incorporate the requirements outlined under the *Forest and Range Practices Act* (FRPA) and the *Forest Planning and Practices Regulation* (FPPR) for 11 key values. Numerous other pieces of statute govern management of values such as fisheries, species at risk, and water and land values and are also included in these FSPs.

However, unlike legal requirements and contracts, SOL is not formally measured by legal paperwork but rather, the current acceptance and credibility of forestry activities to local Aboriginal Groups, stakeholders and communities. SLO is granted for local forestry activities based on the type of relationship companies and their employees develop within local communities; when values of the companies align with values of the people, social license is granted. These values may be satisfied by legislative requirements but more often than not, social license status must be revisited and maintained.

What does social license to operate mean to local BC communities?

A recent survey¹ commissioned by Triton Environmental Consultants showed that while a variety of factors play a role in driving public support or opposition to a resource development or energy project in BC, the most significant factor is “the degree to which the safety and well-being of people in the local community could be affected.” In addition, other findings from the same survey showed that “strong leadership and oversight, including transparency, respect for regulation and ethics” were the most important to which the public views certain steps as being important in the process of planning, approving, and delivering resource development projects.

It is important to understand that while legislative requirements and ethical conduct is necessary, it is the considerations for local citizens and also the method by which materials are delivered, in a timely, understandable manner that needs to be incorporated for forest activity outreach.

How are we doing with social license to operate?

In the 2014 ABCFP Public Opinion Poll², over half of British Columbians (57%) are satisfied with the quality of forest resources management in BC today. The level of satisfaction continued its upward trend since 2009 and is slightly higher than the 2013 results. On the converse, 29% of British Columbians are dissatisfied. Although these results are 4% lower than 2013, there is still room for improvement.

The 2015 Forest Practices Board report “Forest Stewardship Plans: Are they Meeting Expectations?”³ concluded that after sampling 43 of 290 active Forest Stewardship Plans that:

- 1) FSPs alone continue to be inadequate as tools for public review and comment. They are difficult to understand, do not provide the type of information the public wishes to see, and often overlap with other FSPs that may have different results, strategies, and measures, and

Please see **Woodlot** continued on page 30

Megan Hanacek, RPF, RPBio, forest stewardship specialist with the ABCFP, has an extensive stewardship and climate change portfolio, including planning, strategic and operational forest professional guidance, and environmental management to help protect the public's interest in BC forests and associated ecosystems. Megan gained experience working for industry, government, First Nations, NGO's, and her own company on environmental assessment projects throughout North America, including the Great Bear Rainforest.

1. Triton Environmental Consultants. 2014. Social license through the public eye: Survey of the BC Public's Perceptions and Expectations. 48pp.

2. ABCFP. 2014. 2014 ABCFP Public Opinion Poll Results. 12pp (Login Access: http://member.abcfp.ca/web/Files/surveys/2014_Public_Opinion_results_report.pdf?WebsiteKey=4b6af123-da4f-4a97-a963-579ada9e5955&=404%3bhttp%3a%2f%2fmember.abcfp.ca%3a80%2fWEB%2fbcfp%2fFiles%2fsurveys%2f2014_Public_Opinion_results_report.pdf)

3. Forest Practices Board. 2015. Forest Stewardship Plans: Are they Meeting Expectations? Special Investigation. FPB/SIR/44. (Access: <https://www.bcfpb.ca/sites/default/files/reports/SIR44-FSP-Are-They-Meeting-Expectations.pdf>). 41 pp.



Photo: Adobe Stock

Social Licence and B

BC's forests are a publicly owned resource, which must be managed and administered in the best interests of British Columbians. The provincial government is the designated caretaker, while those with forest tenure are the practitioners and have been entrusted by the public to manage and care for their forests.

The origin of BC's Woodlot Licence Program dates back to 1948 when government amended the *Forest Act* to allow farmers to obtain small areas of Crown forest to manage as farm woodlots. This is seen by many as an early form of social licence; i.e. to achieve a broader societal objective which, in this case, was to help support and promote farming.

As the program has grown over time, it has remained connected to the farming and ranching sector, but has been expanded to address other social values notably:

- As a form of tenure available to local residents to manage forests in close proximity to their residence or community;
- To encourage the long term, sustainable management of private forest land by allowing it to be included in a woodlot; and
- To provide a source of wood for small milling and manufacturing operations.

But perhaps most importantly from a social licence perspective, are the contributions woodlot licences make on the landscape. Societal demands on our forests include such things as clean water, recreation, visual quality, recreation, cultural heritage, healthy plant communities, wildlife, and timber. By virtue of being a small, area-based tenure managed by an individual who lives nearby, licence holders are closely connected to local interests and values. A licensee is more sensitive to concerns as they must interact with their neighbours and community members on an ongoing basis. Communication tends to be better and the individual responsible for managing the forest and its multiple values is readily accessible.

A good example of where this worked is Quadra Island, where, in decades past, industrial operators and BC Timber Sales found it difficult to operate. Relations between the community and forest resource operators (including initial woodlots) were contentious. Today woodlot licences are able to thrive because the individuals managing the woodlot licences are connected to the land and community. Over time, woodlot licensees have gained community

confidence in their ability to operate sustainably and responsibly on the landscape. With 11 woodlots this was no small feat. The heart of sustainable development is the ability to collaborate with community stakeholders – residents, tourism groups, trail committees (10+km of maintained trails within woodlots), and government. It is not uncommon for a licensee to modify plans or systems to accommodate a favorite mushroom picking site, a mountain bike trail, or an adjacent landowner's viewscapes.

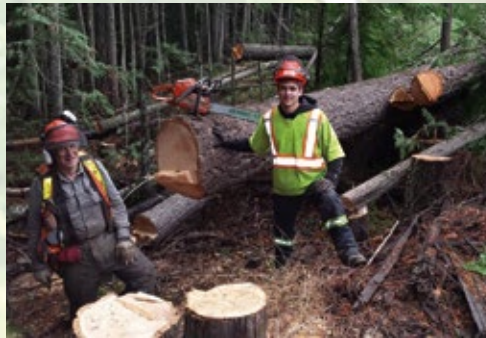
The current Woodlot Planning and Practices Regulations requires a Woodlot Licence Plan to describe how a licensee will manage an area to achieve management plan objectives while taking into account the local operating conditions. It is an effective vehicle for engaging society as it involves a call for all those interested to bring forward their values, including social values, to be considered and incorporated into the plan both at the strategic and operational levels.

The challenge for woodlot licensees is balancing multiple and competing values and delivering these values in a way that satisfies all parties. Sometimes what is being asked for is not deliverable and often compromise is needed. Sometimes there are trade-offs that need to be made; keeping in mind that a key social objective is for a woodlot licence to be financially viable and help support families.

This can be particularly challenging for woodlot licences often located in what could be considered contentious or hard to manage areas, such as being located in close proximity to settlement areas and in transportation corridors where the supply of environmental goods and services are at a premium.

As part of the social licence, woodlot licences provide socio-economic benefits back to the community through the creation and development of small community based forest businesses by employing people and buying goods and services. Woodlot licensees are a diverse group with many interests and as a local business they tend to invest their money back into the community in which they live.

Some of the woodlot licences in BC have a unique social licence, as they are managed for timber as well as for educational or recreational purposes, such as high school forestry programs, camps,



BC's Woodlot Licences



This page and inset photos courtesy of: Lisa Marak

Lisa Marak manages her family's ranch lands and woodlot licence, some of which is within the City of Kelowna's viewscape and Mission Creek watershed. Lisa is a director of the ShuswapOkanagan Woodlot Association, secretary of the Federation of BC Woodlot Associations, and she chairs the Federation's communications committee.

As the woodlot program grew, licensees formed local associations and eventually the Federation of BC Woodlot Associations, a provincial organization to promote small scale forestry and represent the interests of the more than 860 woodlot licences around the province today.

For over 60 years, BC's Woodlot Licence Program has been meeting the public's expectations regarding the management of the province's forest resources, often in some of the most challenging areas to manage. Given its past successes and considering society's ever increasing demands on forests, woodlot licensees are well positioned to be a forest tenure of choice when considering social licence. After all, a measure of success for most woodlot activities is public acceptance of a job well done. 🌱

cross country ski clubs, and research forests to name a few.

While the small size of a woodlot licence may have advantages when it comes to social licence, when the program began it was a relatively unknown forest tenure. The citizens of BC were unaware of the woodlot licence and associated the forest industry with large



Forest Professionals, Social

"A universal feeling, whether well or ill-founded, cannot safely be disregarded."

Abraham Lincoln, Peoria, Illinois, 1854

Professionalism is a privilege that entails special responsibilities.

In BC much of those responsibilities are based upon the provincial government perceiving a need for foresters and technologists then instituting that demand through the *Foresters Act*. Social license to practise forestry in BC is really nothing more than the public's confirmation of governmental perception through social acceptance and public trust of forest professionals' professional abilities. The foundation of this acceptance and trust is constantly improving professional performance.¹

Yet the meaning of social license to operate (SLO) has become something other than acceptance and trust. It is now an expression that can often derail public expectations. Instead of working to improve performance, SLO focuses attention on some hazy concept of governance or process. As a result, an increasing amount of confusion surrounds public decisions, especially for forest resource projects. Decisions now often require the inclusion of this amorphous idea of social license or consultation if they are to proceed. The bewilderment thickens when it comes to one special public, BC's Aboriginal Peoples. To have a project go forward on their traditional lands, a result of court rulings, and the status of their title or land claim or treaty, Aboriginal Peoples have to be consulted, their interests accommodated, and, if title is demonstrated, give their consent – except in the face of a pressing and substantial public interest.

Just exactly what is the public interest? Is it all British Columbians, collectively? Is there a local or regional public interest? How about national and global? If a balance could be found between the provincial, local, and regional publics, no matter how exhaustive the process, the hearings, and the research, some special public be it composed of environmentalists, Aboriginal Peoples or tax payers; will still insist it

was not adequately consulted. Or, in other words, they did not agree with the activity, decision, or the proposal and went into the process knowing their opinion would not change.

A working definition of social license was developed by an Australian, Robert Boutilier, and a Canadian consultant, Ian Thomson, speaking for the mining sector.² It is the level of acceptance or approval continually granted to an organization's operations or project by local community and other stakeholders. In the case of BC forest professionals, the local community is often the sum of the regions of the province. Social license, according to Boutilier, has four levels from lowest to highest: withdrawal, acceptance, approval, and psychological identification. Most organizations like the ABCFP or their projects are usually in the acceptance or approval range. It varies across time or between stakeholder groups in response to actions by the organization and/or its stakeholders.

Public trust, a key component of social capital, involves a willingness to rely on those with formal authority and responsibility to develop public policies and make public decisions. A measure of public acceptance used by BC forest professionals is the opinion poll. One of the questions in the poll considers the public impression of forest resources management in BC over time, which is also presented by region. The categories of particular interest are labelled: forest resource management is much better, somewhat better, much worse, and somewhat worse during the last five years. The "much better" or the "much worse" categories tend to be the most vociferous and draw the most involvement.

About ten years ago, the Strategic Policy and Planning Branch concluded a study titled, "An Evaluation of Public trust in the British Columbia Forest Service" (February 16, 2005). It documented wan-

1 Performance evaluation is a subject area of another paper and beyond this opinion.

2 http://www.stakeholder360.com/Boutilier_Black_Thomson_From_metaphor_to_mgmt_tool_w_AUSIMM_permission.pdf Accessed April 4, 2016

License, and Semantics

Photo: Adobe Stock

Public Approval of BC Forest Management in BC (%)³

	2001	2002	2003	2004	2006	2009	2011	2013	2014	Mean
Much better	6	5	4	6	12	3	4	4	6	5.56
Somewhat better	15	13	12	18	44	34	26	21	21	22.67
Satisfied	21	18	16	24	56	37	30	27	27	28.44
Somewhat worse	13	18	18	16	16	30	19	16	16	18.00
Much worse	9	12	16	14	13	21	8	7	6	11.78
Dissatisfied	22	30	34	30	30	51	27	23	22	29.89
Same/Don't know	56	51	51	46	0*	12	43	52	49	45.00
	99	99	101	100		100	100	100	98	103.00

*There was no "Same/Don't know" option in 2006.

Will Wagner, PhD, RPF, resides in Campbell River where he is continuing research initiated with the Canadian Forest Service. He studied forestry at UC Berkeley, forest engineering at Oregon State, and the economics of forest resources at the University of Victoria. He has practised forestry in three regions of the US, in the Interior, and on the Coast of BC.

ing public confidence in the BC Forest Service and indicated that the largest percentage of respondents (27%) indicated that improved transparency, greater citizen participation and education would increase confidence in the effectiveness of BC Forest Service. Changing and/or improving government policies and practices (17%) were the second leading suggestions. The third largest percentage of respondents (13%) indicated that greater efforts to protect the environment would increase their confidence. Supposing the association was developing a strategic program to improve public trust in forestry and strengthen its license to operate as a professional organization, then the three thematic categories listed above should rank highly as action items.

Over the years, the mean of the “much worse” category outweighs the “much better” category by 11.8 to 5.6 percent respectively. Yet, it may very well be that the “same/don't know” categories that will speak most forcefully about the future of public forestry in BC because they make up about 45% of the public.

The term license suggests a specific permission when, in fact, many positive activities by forest professionals like timber management may only achieve a reluctant tolerance, even when moving toward variable retention in a dedicated effort to gain social acceptance. Ultimately, resource development decisions in BC must be grounded on a reasonable and transparent assessment of the social, environmental, and economic risks and benefits. SLO will likely become a fixture in society given its widespread use, but understand its abstract metaphorical nature and its limitations. Professionals need to speak in language that directs attention to best practices and social responsibility. Social acceptance and public trust will be earned by performance, not abstract metaphors. ●

³ Association of BC Forest Professionals Various years. "Public Opinion Poll Results " Viewed online April 2016 at: https://abcfp.ca/WEB/ABCFP/The_Public/Publications/ABCFP/Publications/Publications_Overview.aspx?hkey=f0479924-5de5-41ac-abeb-d041b534995b

Social License in the Forests of BC

Social license. What is it, why do we need it, how do we get it, and how do we retain it? According to Thomson and Boutilier (2011) *a social license to operate (SLO) is a community's perceptions of the acceptability of a company and its local operations*. Why is it important? We often see the results of social license being withheld or withdrawn from projects such as hydro dams, mining operations, pipelines, and within our own industry, resulting in front page headlines, court battles, road blocks, and stalled projects. In order to carry out our business, we need something more than the legal rights, permits, and authorizations that form the backbone of the forest industry. We need to have social license (social permission) and we need to strive to maintain and improve on it if we want to be successful. Social license is usually described in four levels:

withheld or withdrawn, acceptance (tolerated), approval, and psychological identification (where both parties have the same goals, desired outcomes, and coinciding benefits). We can operate at the acceptance level but don't really receive community support until we get to the approval level.

In some rare instances we do get to the identification level where all sides have similar goals, all will benefit, and all support each other. An example of this alignment is the Klinse-Za Caribou Maternal Penning Project lead by West Moberly and Saulteau First Nations in the Peace River area. (<http://news.nationalgeographic.com/2015/09/150903-saving-woodland-caribou-wolves-British-Columbia/>). This alignment is a collaborative project between industry coal, oil and gas, and forest companies, the BC government and First Nations working together to save a dwindling caribou population. The caribou are important spiritually and culturally to the First

a social license to operate is a community's perceptions of the acceptability of a company and its local operations

same partners are now working towards a habitat restoration project for next year. Each of the partners has worked on attaining social license in their own way and through that process have come together with other industries, First Nations, and government to support each other and attain an outcome that none could do alone.

The forest industry is fortunate in that we often live and work in the very communities that we seek approval from and have the opportunity to build long-term relationships. We don't just see each other once or twice across a table, but also at hockey practices, doctors' offices, shopping, or volunteering. We get to know people, groups, and communities in much deeper ways, giving us insights in to what is important to them and what they want from us.

The forest industry has another real advantage over one-off projects such as natural gas processing plants, hydro dams, wind farms, and coal mines in that we have time on our side. In contrast to forestry's long-term relationship with the land and communities, these mega projects are often completed over a short few years, create significant impacts, and then the builders and proponents move on. Forestry is here for a much longer term. This gives us time to build long-term relationships with First Nations, time to right wrongs of the past, time to build trust, time to show performance, and time to show that we will go beyond doing just what is necessary to achieve profitability. All these aspects lead to relationships which are the cornerstone of acceptance, approval and identification.

However, social license is complicated by many factors. We need approval from a broad cross section of the community or in some cases multiple communities, some made up of very disparate members, such as First Nations, environmental groups, chambers of commerce, and others. Even within a group there is rarely a consensus with everyone in agreement. We may have approval locally but not at a regional or nation level, we may have half the group backing us and the other half wanting to run us out of town, or we may be doing a great job but our competitor across town may not be. We will never please everyone, so we need to have strong core values that reflect the overall needs and wants of the people that are potentially impacted by our actions and maintain a steady long-term performance that reflects those values.

How to achieve social license? Firstly, by understanding the numerous wants, needs, and values of the people we interact with and by being open, transparent, and following through on our commitments. We are judged more by what we do than what we say we

Brian Pate, RFT, is a project manager for Wildlife Infometrics, Inc. and has worked for the government and the forest industry for over 40 years, with experience as a harvesting superintendent and planning supervisor for West Fraser Mills Ltd. He has a deep interest in relationships, both with the land and with the people who manage it. He is currently active in wildlife and habitat restoration work in North Eastern BC.

Nations, government is committed to rebuilding caribou across BC, and industry needs to show performance that they are maintaining or augmenting the overall health of the ecosystem while operating on that same landscape. This synergistic enterprise has built trust, relationships, and understanding of each other's communities. These

Please see **Social Licence** continued on page 30



Photo: Adobe Stock

The 68th ABCFP Forestry Conference and Annual General Meeting

The 68th ABCFP Conference and AGM, called Branching Out, was the largest in recent memory. A combination of an excellent professional development program, networking opportunities, and celebrations to honour both the inductees and award winners attracted over 300 members to the conference in Vancouver.

The pre-conference urban forestry tour took participants to Surrey to see what the city was doing to manage its parks and urban forests. The tour stopped in several spots, including the Green Timbers Urban Forest where participants were able to explore in the February sunshine!

The opening session to the conference on urban forestry was well-attended and participants reported liking the change in format we implemented a couple of years ago that had the conference starting on Wednesday afternoon and ending after lunch on Friday.

We were lucky to get talented RFT and DJ Mike Nelson to work his musical magic during both the Ice Breaker and President's Awards Banquet. Thanks to Mike's employer Meridian Forest Services for sponsoring his attendance.

Thursday's keynote speaker, Mark Brand, intrigued the crowd with his messages of incorporating social enterprise and community building into business. Friday's keynote CEO panel included Reid Carter, RPF; Ken Kalesnikoff; Ken Shields; and was moderated by Murray Hall. These two excellent sessions were surrounded by a number of other plenary and breakout sessions designed to educate and spur debate amongst the attendees.



Forestry: Branching Out

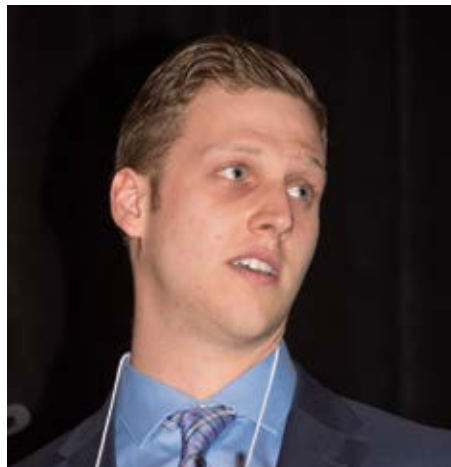
The Inductees' Recognition Luncheon was a great celebration with member Roy Strang, RPF(ret) piping the inductees into the ballroom. Later that evening we celebrated the award winners with a gala dinner.

The ABCFP was also pleased to have several groups use our conference as a meeting place. UBC's alumni reception was rocking as usual, The Society of Consulting Foresters of BC held their AGM at our conference, and Forests without Borders also held a meeting that was open to all attendees.

To close out the conference, Steve Thomson, Minister of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations, used his speech to make several significant announcements. By now, everyone will have heard about the new Forest Enhancement Society and extra funding for forestry. Minister Thomson also took the opportunity to formally announce that Diane Nicholls, RPF, is now officially the new Chief Forester. You can read about Diane in an article in this issue.

Finally, the ABCFP held a Twitter contest and asked all participants to tweet about the conference using the hashtag #ABCFP2016. Everyone who used the hashtag had an opportunity to win a full package to next year's conference in Prince George. Congratulations to Genome BC (a sponsor of the 2016 conference) for winning the Tweet and Win contest! ✨

Attendees at the Inductees' Recognition Luncheon heard from (L TO R) RPF valedictorian Austin Tate-Teti; RFT valedictorian Craig Campbell, and Deputy Minister Tim Sheldan, RFT.





CLOCKWISE FROM TOP: Attendees listen to a panel presentation; Minister Thomson stopped to chat at the Canadian Women in Timber booth in the trade show; President Jonathan Lok, RFT, paid the piper (Roy Strang, RPF(ret)) at the Inductees' Recognition luncheon with a wee dram of scotch; Jonathan Lok, RFT, and Chris Stagg, RPF, exchange the presidential gavel; and Mark Brand (wearing his forestry shirt) addresses the crowd at the Thursday morning keynote.





*Congratulations
to all our award winners!*



TOP ROW (L TO R): *South Chilcotin Stewardship Plan - Award of Merit in Sustainable Forestry*

SECOND ROW (L TO R): *Joe LeBlanc, RPF - Professional Forester of the Year; Jason Hutchinson, RPF - Jim Rodney Memorial Volunteer of the Year; and Barry Jaquish, RPF - Climate Change Innovator Award*

THIRD ROW (L TO R): *Bruce Blackwell, RPF, RPBio - Distinguished Forest Professional; Frank Varga, RPF - Climate Change Innovator Award*

FOURTH ROW (L TO R): *Lorraine Maclauchlan, PhD, RPF, RPBio - Distinguished Forest Professional*



All conference photos by Sandy McKellar, Honourary Member

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*If you would like to be involved with our 2017 conference in
Prince George, as a sponsor, exhibitor or silent auction donor, please
contact Amanda Brittain at abrittain@abcfp.ca for more information.*



Meet the New Chief Forester:

Diane Nicholls, RPF

Cathedral Grove Photo: Legacy Images, Adobe Stock

At the ABCFP's recent conference and AGM held in February in Vancouver, Steve Thomson, Minister of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations, made several key announcements. One of these announcements was the appointment of Diane Nicholls, RPF, to the position of Chief Forester. Diane had been acting in this role for some time but the announcement to make this position permanent was made at the conference. We thought BCFP readers would like to know a bit more about Diane and what she's working on so we sat down with her to get the scoop.

Diane grew up in the Lower Mainland so a career in forestry wasn't top of mind. Instead, she fell into the career after spending a summer working for Parks Canada and finding that she really enjoyed working outside. She later saw some brochures at school and decided to follow the forestry career path.

"I didn't know what was involved in forestry. I didn't have a clue what caulks were," she says. "I just knew I liked being outdoors."

Diane went to BCIT first and then transferred to the University of Alberta before eventually graduating from UBC. She earned her RPF designation right after finishing her degree. Diane worked all over the province and a bit in Alberta but primarily on the BC coast with industry.

"I've been lucky to have had a very diverse career so far," she says. "I've worked for everything from a small consulting firm to a large international company. I've been involved in just about everything in forestry except for fighting fires and compliance and enforcement." Diane joined the ministry in 2006 so she has about 10 years of government experience to add to her industrial experience.

We asked Diane to tell us about some of the major issues she's been working on and ones she thinks will continue to be a priority over the next year or so.

Climate Change – there is a growing focus both from the federal government and the provincial government and forestry has a key role to play in both mitigation and adaptation.

Silviculture and Forest Health – we are moving into a time of rebuilding the forests after the mountain pine beetle and looking for innovative forest management scenarios to guide us such as the integrated silviculture strategies and co-location projects. Ensuring that the results and strategies in Forest Stewardship Plans are measurable and verifiable is also a priority.

Spruce Beetle – in March, FLNRO announced that the spruce beetle has become an epidemic in the Omineca region and assigned Heather Wiebe to spearhead efforts to mitigate damage caused by this pest. "The difficulty with the spruce beetle is that if we do traditional salvage, we run the risk of harvesting too much green mid-term timber supply," says Diane. "So instead, we are focusing on trapping and monitoring the outbreak and doing sanitation harvesting."

Sustainable Fibre Supply – to look at this issue, Diane pulled together a Chief Foresters Leadership Team which consists of chief foresters from most of the forest companies in BC. The group started with a "think tank session to identify strategic issues that impact the sector and need attention. "We are looking at what needs to be done now in order to situate the sector well for the future challenges. We discuss issues like fibre sustainability, community recognition, carbon equations, innovative practices and more," Diane says.

Research – An important goal of research in an era of climate change and cumulative effects is to ensure research is done in a way that is integrated and informs emerging policy needs. "We are moving research to be focused on intended outcomes in key topical areas within the natural resources," she says. Areas being researched right now include ecology, wildlife, growth and yield, climate change, silviculture, and hydrology. As well, the Province has a robust forest genetics and tree improvement group that will be providing practitioners with select seed and climate based seed transfer guidelines to maintain resilient forests into the future.

Timber Supply Reviews and Forest Inventory – integral to everything we do in forestry is good inventory information and data analysis to help guide forest practitioners to make the right forest management decisions.

Diane is looking forward to working on these issues and any others that may come up. Her message to Forest Professionals is to work in collaboration so that solutions are created. Engage in a culture where our entire networks are built on the values of exploring new ways to solve each other's problems; one which brings traditional rivals into dynamic partnerships. Forestry is long term and we need to always remind ourselves of this in our decisions of today. Diane is honored to be the Chief Forester of the province during this time of rebuilding of the forests of BC. ☘



"I didn't know what was involved in forestry. I didn't have a clue what caulks were."

Volunteer Appreciation

The staff and council of the ABCFP would like to recognize several longstanding members of our board of examiners who have recently completed their terms.

While some of these members will continue to contribute to the board of examiners through continued work on subcommittees or on our other volunteer committees, we wanted to take this opportunity to express our sincere gratitude for the many years of contributions of the following members:

**Mr. Dennis F. Bendickson, RPF(ret)
Member since 1973**

Appointed in 2001, Dennis has sat as a member on the board of examiners for 15 years. He was also a long-standing member of the board's many academic subcommittees, such as forest surveying, forest transportation, and forest harvesting and operations; participating from the late 1990s until 2009. Dennis joined the board of examiner's adjudication panel in 2008 and continues to assist our allied members in addressing their competency gaps by developing study materials and challenge exams for these members. We thank Dennis for imparting his vast knowledge, great wisdom and expertise in his field with the board of examiners over these last 15 years.



**Mr. Peter C. Schroder, MSc, MBA, RPF
Member since 1994**

Peter joined the board of examiners in 2010. Currently an instructor and woodlot manager at Selkirk College, Peter has shared his academic knowledge with the board for over six years.

Peter was also a member of the BC task force on forestry recruitment in 2008.

We are grateful to have had Peter's expertise and advice on one of our essential committees for these past few years.



Dr. Peter L. Marshall, PhD, RPF
Professor & Associate Dean, UBC
Member since 1986

Peter joined the board of examiners in 1989. In the years since, Peter has been an active volunteer for many of our (past) academic subcommittees, including our forest land management, biometry, forest mensuration, and Integrated resource management committees. Peter began volunteering for the academic appeals committee in the early 2000s, has been a long standing member of the adjudication panel, and sat as board of examiners chair in 2001. Peter was an active member of council from 1999 to 2004, acting as council president in 2003. Peter has shared his great intellect, wisdom, and dedication with our board and committees, and has shown exemplary leadership in this regard. His unlimited generosity continues to help our allied members address their competency gaps through the challenge exam process.

Our organization benefited significantly from Peter's many years of service. We are glad to know that Peter will continue to volunteer as an essential member of the complaints resolution committee, where he has been a member since 2008. He also continues to represent the ABCFP on the Canadian Forestry Accreditation Board (CFAB), where he has served as chair for the last several years.



Mr. Norman Richard Shaw, RFT(ret), ATE,
Life Member
Member since 2003

Norm Shaw joined ASTTBC in 1969 as an AScT (for) and served as forestry council member until seconded to the then Association of BC Professional Foresters as technologist representative preceding the technologist integration in 2001.

Norm was intricately involved in the integration of RFT members, by volunteering as a member of the ASTTBC/ABCFP joint task force, as well as the Forest Technology Integration Committee (starting in 2008). Norm helped to develop the ABCFP Guidelines for Scope of Practice for Registered Forest Technologists, 2010.

Norm served on the ABCFP Council from 2003 to 2005, and joined the board of examiners as council representative in 2003. In 2004, Norm served as board chair, and has been a dedicated member ever since. Norm also served on the forest measurement board of ASTTBC that developed the policies and exams associated with timber cruising. Eventually, the responsibility for cruisers came to the ABCFP. He was named RFT of the Year in 2004, and Volunteer of the Year in 2005 in recognition of these contributions.

Following retirement from the BC Institute of Technology in 2011, Norm was awarded ABCFP's Life Membership for his exemplary service to our organization. Norm is also currently a life member of ASTTBC. We are thankful for the many years of Norm's service to our profession.



In Memoriam

It is very important to many members to receive word of the passing of a colleague. Members have the opportunity to publish their memories by sending photos and obituaries to editor@abcfp.ca. The association sends condolences to the family and friends of the following members:

John Godfrey Yeatman Murray

RPF #234

1924 – 2015



On the early morning of Monday, November 30, 2015, John Godfrey Yeatman Murray passed away in the loving presence of family, at the age of 91.

On September 2, 2015, John and Florence Ellen Terry Murray celebrated their 65th wedding anniversary. He will be greatly missed by his love Florence, and his daughters Caroline (and Pete) and Jane. John was predeceased by his daughter Noreen and by his sister Molly.

John was born in Nelson, BC to John Murray and Caroline Mary Matilda Murray, on October 8, 1924. John spent his childhood in South Slokan, BC and then left to attend high school at North Shore College, in North Vancouver, BC.

At the age of 18, John joined the Canadian Army and went off to fight in WWII with the Second Anti-Tank Regiment, Second Canadian Army Overseas – Reinforcement through England, France, Holland, and Germany. Two-and-a-half years later, the war ended and John stayed on in Germany with the Canadian Army of Occupation until December 1945.

After the war, John attended the University of British Columbia, graduating with a double degree, earning himself a BA and a BSF in 1952. After university, John went on to become a Registered Professional Forester in 1954.

While in the West Kootenays, John was employed by the Passmore Lumber Company from 1952 to 1968, and then relocated to Cranbrook, BC in 1969 to be employed by Crestbrook Forest Industries. In 1989, John retired as the vice president of the Woodlands Division. In addition, he was the chairman of many committees, and prepared many policies that were implemented.

John had an active and successful career. He was a founding member and first chairman of the Interior Tree Farm Foresters,

a founding member of the Kootenay Section of the CIF and past chairman, a founding member of the East Kootenay Insect and Disease Control Committee and past chairman, a founding member of the Kootenay Steep Slope Committee, a past chairman of the committee responsible for preparing the Handbook for Ground Skidding & Road Building in BC, a founding member of the Interior Forest Harvesting Steering Committee, a founding member of the Blewett Watershed Committee, and a member of the First Western Advisory Committee for the Forest Engineering Research Institute of Canada. John chaired the board of directors of the BC Forestry Association Kootenay Region for 10 years and was the Provincial board of directors Chairperson for three years.

John also prepared a public involvement policy for Crestbrook in 1978, which is one, if not the first, ever prepared by a forest company. The policy is included in the Public Involvement Handbook published by the Ministry of Forests in 1981.

In 1981 John was a recipient of the prestigious Distinguished Forester Award (now called the Distinguished Forest Professional Award). Being presented with this award was a high honour for John. It symbolized the high personal and professional regard of his fellow foresters and recognized the unique contributions he made to the profession of forestry.

One of the main contributions of John's life was helping to found and build the Blue Lake Forestry Centre. Being a lover of animals, the great outdoors, and helping people was in John's nature, and one of his dreams was helping children experience this at the Blue Lake Camp.

Submitted by Dan Murphy, RPF

Donald Thackray Grant

RPF #255 (Retired)

August 4, 1928 – February 12, 2016

We're sad to report that Don Grant passed away on February 12, 2016. Don was a well-liked person and a much admired professional forester.

He was born in Victoria, BC on August 4, 1928 and attended the Quadra St. School built by his grandfather in 1913. He graduated from Victoria High School in 1946, where he was involved in Air Cadets and the Boy Scouts. He graduated from UBC with a degree in Forestry in 1953.

Don devoted his entire forestry career to the BC Forest Service (BCFS), which began with his first summer job as a student working on forest surveys and inventory in 1949, where he was stationed at Aleza Lake near Prince George. In 1950, he was on surveys in Princeton and Peachland, Cranbrook in 1951, Stuart Island in 1952, and Kamloops in 1953. In 1954, the year Don and Elaine McRitchie were married, they set up house at Wadhams where he headed up the survey at Rivers and Smith Inlets.

In 1955, Don was posted to Quesnel as deputy ranger and he also became an RPF. Next it was on to Prince Rupert where he worked in timber administration. In 1961, Don joined the Vancouver District in charge of Silviculture. In 1972, he moved to the newly formed Williams Lake Forest District to be in charge of forest management and then later as assistant district forester. In 1978, he became district forester at Prince George and two-and-a-half years later came to Vancouver as district forester (Forest Region today). Don retired in 1988.

Don was a 'dirt' forester who worked hard and was fun to be with. He came up through the ranks and travelled and worked in some of the toughest terrain in the province. He knew the lay of the land. Decisions he made were based on staff advice and on his experience. He handled many difficult environmental, business, and forestry issues by listening to all sides in a calm reasonable manner.

He welcomed, nurtured, and established a bond with many younger foresters in the BCFS, which played a significant role in



their future. He was a real people person. He worried about staff and how they were doing. Downsizing was very hard on him, as he had built up a rapport with the staff. He would always say hello when he saw you and he knew the names of all the staff. He also had a photographic memory.

Don was also well respected by the forest industry and the other government ministries and agencies. His word was his bond. If he said something you knew he wasn't going to back out if something went wrong.

On the home front he and Elaine had three children, Donald, Leslie, and Sylvia; and six grandchildren, Veronica, Marisa, Patrick, Jill, Jake, and Kate. He and Elaine traveled to New Zealand on a forestry trip in 1977 and in retirement to Europe. They also made several trips to Barbados and Hawaii. Unfortunately, Elaine passed away in 2011.

Don loved to camp, skied until he was 85, curled when he was younger, snowshoed, and loved taking walks up Mosquito Creek in North Vancouver. He loved being out in the woods and looking at trees.

He was an avid HAM radio operator all his life. He was always so fascinated by people from around the world.

Don, admired greatly by his peers, will be missed not only by his family but also by many as a friend, devoted forester, and loyal BCFS servant.

Submitted by Bruce Devitt, RPF(ret); with help from Sylvia Fuller; Gerry Burch, RPF(ret); Nils Sjoberg, RPF(ret); Gary Sutherland, RPF(ret); and RE Breadon, 1995 History of Provincial Forest Inventory Program.

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Membership Statistics: ABCFP — March 2015

Note: Individuals may have applied for a change to their status since this posting, check the membership directory on the ABCFP website at www.abcfp.ca for the current list of members.

NEW REGISTERED MEMBERS

Stacey Elizabeth Auld, RPF
Kevin Vander Boom, RFT

NEW ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

Derek Curtis Ramsey, ATE

NEW ENROLLED MEMBERS

Florian Bergoin, TFT
Jordan Brett Cromarty, TFT
Emma Margaret Rycroft Driedger, FIT
Matt William Engel, TFT
Daniel Edward Geier, TFT, ATC
Gregory David Hodson, FIT
Sarah Marie Leroux, FIT
Stuart Lee Michel, TFT
Aaron Douglas Neustaeter, TFT
Max Lion Ritson, FIT
Benjamin Seeberger, FIT
Kailee Dawn Elyse Woodbeck, FIT

REINSTATEMENTS FROM LEAVE OF ABSENCE (REGISTERED MEMBERS)

Rene Jacques Hermus Buys, RPF
Christel-Lynne Alice Culberson, RFT
L.R. Mark Hall, RPF

REINSTATEMENTS (REGISTERED MEMBERS)

Paul V. Hanna, RPF
Matthew Tutsch, RPF

REINSTATEMENTS (RETIRED MEMBERS)

Stephen G. Christiansen, RPF(Ret)
J. Willem Markvoort, RPF(Ret)

REINSTATEMENTS (ENROLLED MEMBER)

Andrew David Walker, FIT

DECEASED

Edward R. Mattice, RPF(Ret)
Ian Graham Priestly, RFT

The following people are not entitled to practise professional forestry in BC:

LEAVE OF ABSENCE (REGISTERED MEMBERS)

Kristin A. Arnett, RPF(on LOA)
Gordon G. Catt, RPF(on LOA)
Greg Donald Spence, RFT(on LOA)
Daniel Eugene Stanyer, RPF(on LOA)

RESIGNED - RPF

William J. Hoskin

RESIGNED - RFT

Gary Edward Newton

REMOVAL NON-PAYMENT RFT

Brian Stanley Fertuck

Correction Notice

BCFP magazine apologizes for an error with Jack Bakewell's obituary in the March/April issue. The obituary was submitted to us by Peter Sanders, RPF, not Karen Waldie as indicated in the magazine.

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WORK SAFE BC

Woodlot continued from page 10

2) The time between opportunities for full public review and comment on FSPs can be excessive. Most licensees chose to extend their FSPs meaning that these opportunities may not occur for intervals of ten or more years.

So while a licensee may be achieving legal requirements with FSP content and delivery, the opportunity for improvement with respect to content and frequency of forest activity documents for stakeholder review can be improved.

How can we secure and maintain social license to operate?

As compiled in the 2014 ABCFP Public Opinion Poll Results survey², resource professionals (including Foresters, Forest Technologists, Biologists, Engineers, Geoscientists, and Agrologists) are the most trusted source of information about BC's forest resources (scoring a rating of 7.5 out of 10). This result is consistent with all public opinion polling since 2006. Academics (5.9) and environmentalists (5.7) are the next most trusted groups. We are entrusted to provide information that is understandable to local communities and stakeholders.

The current FSP content and comment and review period schedule may not be ideal but there are several steps forest professionals can take to secure and maintain social license to operate:

- Identify local stakeholders and understand culture, customs, language, and history of the community and stakeholders;
- Involve local stakeholders and organization reps early in the

planning processes;

- Clarify documents and maps presented to highlight stakeholder values and options (e.g. map of where forest activity overlaps with trap lines);
- Clarify expectations from the onset and the role of stakeholder input in the process;
- Undertake community support, capacity building, and project partnerships;
- Ask stakeholders for the best method of information transfer (allow different forms of communication: meeting/phone/e-mail/webinar meeting);
- Use your pre-existing relationships, technology, and systems (e.g. third party certification - Forest Stewardship Council, Canadian Standards Association, and Sustainable Forestry Initiative) to help deliver materials; and
- Ensure open, ongoing communication with stakeholders (a five minute phone call goes a long way).

As John D. Rockefeller once stated, *"Next to doing the right thing, the most important thing is to let people know you are doing the right thing."* Once stakeholders have an understanding of forest activities and have had their concerns addressed early, in an integrated and comprehensive manner, there's often a willingness to fight for the activities because issues have been addressed and values have been aligned. ✖

Social License continued from page 16

intend to do. If we are given social license (permission) then we need to show performance at a high level. Doing the minimum, i.e. what can we get away with, may work in the short term, but will soon erode social license. We need to understand the community that we are approaching and work with them to achieve their goals in conjunction with our own. Involving these communities early in our planning processes is the most fundamental action we can take to gain social license. While we may not be able to accommodate everyone or everything, we need to be truthful and upfront. It is critical that we demonstrate we understand and respect their positions. We then need to show by our performance that we are doing everything that we can to achieve mutual benefits while minimizing our impact.

In Thompson and Boutilier (2011), four considerations are described which are crucial to gaining and retaining social license. Does the

project or operation offer a benefit to the members of the community? Does the company contribute to the well-being of the region, respect local ways of life, and act according to the stakeholders view of fairness? Does the company keep promises, listen, and respond appropriately? Is there a perception that relations are based on mutual regard for each other's interests?

Building our corporate and individual purpose around these values will help to develop the social license that is becoming a crucial cornerstone of all of our operations. The forest industry has a long history in BC and has been working on social license all along, often as a normal way of doing business. With a deeper understanding and focus on social license, we can expand those efforts and continue to build a successful forest industry in BC. ✖



A Moment in **Forestry**

Veteran of the Stand Submitted by Cameron McIntosh, RPF.

As the morning sun burns off the fog near Comox Lake, the roof of a 1955 Buick Special peeks out above the salal in a stand of regen younger than the car, a hidden legacy landmark to days gone by.

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