



Interior Logging Association

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# THE ILA INSIDER

JULY 2021

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

**MODERNIZING THE FORESTRY SECTOR AND DRIVING CHANGE** 1

**MODERNIZING THE FORESTRY SECTOR AND DRIVING CHANGE CONTINUED** 2

**CONTINUING TO IMPROVE SAFETY OUTCOMES** 2

**CONTINUING TO IMPROVE SAFETY OUTCOMES CONTINUED...** 3

**TIMBER HARVESTING CONTRACT AND SUBCONTRACT REGULATION** 5

**STEEP LEARNING CURVE - HOW TO SUCCEED WHEN LOGGING IN STEEP GROUND** 7

**STEEP LEARNING CURVE - HOW TO SUCCEED WHEN LOGGING IN STEEP GROUND CONTINUED...** 8

**APPLY FOR ILA SCHOLARSHIPS** 9

**JOBS, ADVERTISING AND MORE!** 10

## MODERNIZING THE FORESTRY SECTOR AND DRIVING CHANGE

SUBMITTED BY: KATRINE CONROY, MINISTER OF FORESTS, LANDS, NATURAL RESOURCE OPERATIONS AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT



Forests are at the heart of our identity as British Columbians. We work in them, we live in them, and play in them.

We all want a forest sector that is diverse, sustainable and competitive. It must be responsive to the needs of local communities and it must align with the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous People.

It's for this reason; the province is taking action to modernize the forest sector to meet with today's current challenges and the opportunities in front of us. Modernization starts with setting intentions to change forest policy.

The vision and policy changes set out in the intentions paper released on June 1 are a result of listening to many groups. Since 2017, our government has engaged Indigenous peoples or First Nations industry, local government,

labour, environmental groups and the public seeking opinions on what forest management and the future of our forest sector should look like.

I've heard directly from your members that you want to help guide government so that these new policies will reflect the needs of contractors. I have always appreciated the collaborative and forward-thinking vision your association has brought to discussions and we will continue to engage with you and your colleagues as we make B.C.'s forest industry better.

I am happy to let you know we've made progress on modernizing the forest industry, by finalizing the Contractor Sustainability Review that began in 2018. The amendments to the Timber Harvesting Contract and Subcontract Regulation are the first deliverable, beyond old growth deferrals, that we shared in the intentions paper. I understand how important this was to your members, and I was pleased to see it move forward.

During the initial phase of the review, we learned that almost half of forestry contractors were losing money or insolvent. We heard that tenure conditions can span many decades, but many of the people they employ are smaller contractors, truckers, and logging companies. Current forestry policies were put in place over two decades ago, and they have failed to deliver the most benefits to the most people. Despite record high prices, many forestry communities are struggling.

We want to make sure forestry con-

tractors and subcontractors can better count on a stable income, support their families, invest in their businesses and communities, and stay competitive. Our vision for a sustainable forest industry is focused on making sure everyone benefits from our public forests.

In September 2019, we created the Forest Employment Program to provide \$15 million over three years to create short term employment opportunities to support contractors and workers impacted by mill closures and curtailments. In September 2020, as part of the Stronger BC Economic Recovery Plan, this program was expanded to include the Coast region and received an additional \$12M in funding. As a result, the program has funded over 200 projects in its first two years of operation, and we estimate it has created over 500 employment opportunities.

Forest policy will be guided by sustainability, good-paying, community-supporting jobs, and improved stewardship as we adapt to an ever-changing environment. The new approach will align with the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous People to enhance reconciliation by ensuring forest resources fairly benefit the Indigenous peoples on whose ancestral territory forests grow.

We're laying out a road map for change that will ensure a competitive future for forestry workers and communities.

Continued on Page 2.....



EMBRACING A SUSTAINABLE BRAND NEW DAY FOR TIMBER HARVESTING

## MODERNIZING THE FORESTRY SECTOR AND DRIVING CHANGE CONTINUED...

SUBMITTED BY: KATRINE CONROY, MINISTER OF FORESTS, LANDS, NATURAL RESOURCE OPERATIONS AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT



It includes moving forward to support the shift from a high volume to a high value forest sector. And that means supporting local manufacturing and taking steps to capture value at every step in the production chain. It will include dedicating a portion of the allowable annual cut to high value producers who are creating jobs right here in B.C.

These amendments conclude work done in collaboration with representatives of the forest contracting industry and large tenure-holders. It is important that hard-fought rights to wages

and working conditions endure through time. We will also support the Ministry of Labour in advancing their Industrial Inquiry Commission as previously announced to review contract retendering in the forest sector, within the context of Indigenous interests.

We know this process has taken a few years. These are the amendments:

- Require licence holders to provide contractors with clearer work specifications. This will help contractors better negotiate their rates.

- Require licence holders to demonstrate they are providing contractors with the amount of work their licence requires them to provide.
- Amend the test rate that arbitrators use to determine fair rates of pay in contract disputes. This will better balance competitiveness for the industry with the viability of the contractor or subcontractor's business.
- Redefine what is considered "changed circumstances" under a contract, who can trigger further rate negotiation and how it can be triggered.
- Provide government with the authority to request information on the nature and

number of replaceable contracts that licence holders have. Knowing how many contractors and subcontractors have replaceable contracts will help the government develop future policies and resolve issues

We are committed to protecting good jobs and putting people and communities first, by helping forest sector contractors stay in business and prosper.

We look forward to continuing to work with you.

Sincerely,

*Katrine Conroy*

Minister of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development

## CONTINUING TO IMPROVE SAFETY OUTCOMES

SUBMITTED BY: ROGER HARRIS, BC FOREST SAFETY OMBUDSMAN



In 2005 the Forest Sector experienced 45 fatalities. As a response to this unacceptable situation and demands from the public to bring about change, the BC government along with the forest sector established the BC Forest Safety Council (BCFSC); an organization comprised of representatives from every sector of the industry; regulators, licensees, contractors, sub-contractors, owner-

operators, contractor associations, faller etc. The mandate of this organization was to shift the forest industry from being the most dangerous occupations in Canada to becoming a leader within industry, in terms of worker safety. The intent of the BCFSC was to shift the management of safety from a company-by-company to a broader industry-wide approach to dealing with the

systemic and structural safety issues that were plaguing this industry and contributing to injuring way too many workers.

One of the challenges for this new organization, whether real or perceived, was the reluctance on the part of industry players to feel able to raise issues. From provincial regulators - licensees - owner-operators each sector of the forest industry held an economic leverage over the other. This leverage and fear of economic retribution, was preventing the candid conversations required, to drive the changes needed to improve safety outcomes for workers and their families.

In an effort to provide a safe place for people to bring issues forward, the BC forest Safety Council in 2006 established the independent office of the BC Forest Safety Ombudsman. The purpose of the Ombudsman office was to provide a safe, confidential environment for the discussion of issues and facilitate an impartial and timely resolution of concerns. In order for the Ombudsman to act on enquiries, the BCFSC provided the office with a number of tools to utilize including; facilitation, negotiation, arbitration or the use reports to raise awareness, profile issues and provide recommendations.

## CONTINUING TO IMPROVE SAFETY OUTCOMES CONTINUED...

SUBMITTED BY: ROGER HARRIS, BC FOREST SAFETY OMBUDSMAN

Initially the Ombudsman office fielded a number of calls from individuals, companies and/or regulators where the Ombudsman intervened between parties as a facilitator/mediator to resolve issues or provide recommendations. What became apparent over time was maintaining a confidential space for individuals or companies that raised concerns was much more complex than originally anticipated. As a result, one of the ways of managing those situations was for the Ombudsman office to take on and represent the issues utilizing a "Report" format to explore the topics. The advantage of this approach is it allowed for more detailed analysis of the subject matter, provided confidentiality to the individuals or groups who had raised the concern and generated a report which targeted a much larger audience (including the general public), bringing a greater degree of awareness to the issues.

Over the years a number of reports have been generated across a wide-range of topics, some include; "No Longer the Road less Travelled" a report which undertook a review of resources roads in BC dealing with a broad range of construction, maintenance and regulatory issues. This report and its recommendations continue to garner attention and was referenced recently in the solutions to correct the Bamfield Road deficiencies.

"Will It Be There" is a comprehensive review of Helicopter Emer-

gency Medical Services (HEMS) response. The HEMS report is still very relevant and has been referenced by a variety of health Care professional, organizations and local governments in advancing access to these services across BC; something that is benefiting both the forest sector and the general public.

"If a Tree Falls in The Woods And No One Is Around to Hear It... Review Of Failures Leading to Khaira Situation" was a review of the tragic and unacceptable practices with a silviculture company. This report has resulted in new standards for pre-qualification for silviculture companies when accessing contracts from the BC government.

More recently the Ombudsman office has been utilized by the BCFSC itself to undertake reviews of issues that are active or current to the Council and forest industry: The "SAFE Companies Review" and "Phase Integration Report" are two examples of reviews that have had an impact on the sector.

The forest industry, since 2005 has made significant progress in improving the safety outcomes for workers and their families. The BCFSC has played a pivotal role in husbanding many of the changes and initiatives that are responsible for this progress. While the relationship between the various forest industry partners has matured, there is still a need for a confidential space for forest industry stakeholders and

the public to raise concerns. Improving forest worker safety is complex and the Ombudsman office will continue to be that safe place and resource for the council, industry and public to utilize to improve the safety outcomes for forest workers and their families.

The BC Forest Safety Ombudsman is part of the BC Forest Safety Council and is mandated to investigate safety concerns and provide recommendations for improvement.

The Office of the Forest Safety Ombudsman provides a safe, confidential environment for the discussion of issues and facilitates an impartial and timely resolution of concerns.

Contact your Forest Safety Ombudsman, Roger Harris via email at:

[harris@bcforestsafe.org](mailto:harris@bcforestsafe.org)

Or contact him toll free via phone at :

1-877-577-7766.

#### About Ombudsman Roger Harris

Roger Harris is BC's first Forest Safety Ombudsman. He has experience in many areas of forestry including work as a dishwasher in a logging camp, a board member for an IWA Local and an owner/operator of a phase logging contract business.

Roger knows first-hand the importance of safety and the im-

pact injuries and fatalities have on workers and their families.



While working as a falling contractor in 1986, his right hand was nearly severed when his chainsaw kicked back and he lost his brother-in-law who was killed in a forestry accident at age 18.

"I have a passion for the woods becoming a safe place because I've been there. I've lived the worst side of it, but I think it's still the greatest occupation in the world. I want the Ombudsman's office to be a vehicle that deals with issues before we have incidents."

<https://www.bcforestsafe.org/about/ombudsman/>

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## TIMBER HARVESTING CONTRACT AND SUBCONTRACT REGULATION

SUBMITTED BY: AARON SINCLAIR, TIMBER TRACKS INC.


**TIMBER  
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*Know more.  
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The Contractor Sustainability Review (CSR) that started in 2017 finally reached a measurable milestone this past month with the announcements of changes to the Timber Harvesting Contract and Subcontract Regulation. I am proud to say that we played a small part in creating the momentum to consider change.

In 2017 we provided industry and government with an independent and audited assessment of the financial sustainability of the contractor supply chain. Our analysis findings demonstrated that a substantial portion of the supply chain was not, and had not, been earning financial returns that were sustainable over the upcoming 10-year time horizon unless there were changes.

While a long time coming, change has finally occurred that may set the stage for the forest sector supply chain to become more sustainable.

We are often asked if sustainable means licensees paying contractors more to do the same work. While that may be the outcome in some cases, that is not our definition of a sustainable supply chain. Our definition is contractors receiving an economic return that not only allows them to meet their operating costs but also replace their equipment in a timely manner and earn a profit that reflects a reasonable risk adjusted return on their capital.

Our definition is what creates the impression we mean contractors

just getting paid more. It does not. It means that contractors are set up for success so those returns can be achieved. That is not mutually exclusive to a licensee paying more. Let me provide an example.

A contractor owns a late model Tigercat 845D that between loan payments and insurance costs of about \$128,000 for the year. It does not matter how much that machine is used, the bank wants its loan payments and the insurance company wants its insurance. If that machine only generates revenue for 1,200 hours per year, it needs \$107 per hour (\$2.13 per cubic metre) just to cover the loan and insurance payments. If it instead operates for 2,000 hours per year, it now only needs \$64 (\$1.28 per cubic metre) per hour to cover those payments. That's a big difference for both the contractor and the licensee.

Consider that everyone wants that buncher to have an efficient operator. A 2,000 hour per year operator might earn over \$90,000 in wages while a 1,200 hour per year operator might earn only around \$55,000 per year in wages. How many efficient operators would work for that wage at today's cost of living? The easy argument is that operator can work part-time or on other pieces of equipment but it misses the fact that a generalist who runs other equipment is unlike-

ly to be as efficient as a specialist that runs a single piece. And a part-time worker may not be available when needed.

A sustainable contractor is one who is able, with their licensee, to have a properly planned annual work program that meets their equipment fleet capacity and can obtain sufficient operating hours per year to ensure efficient utilization of equipment and workforce.

The question we are usually asked is how to determine what is a properly planned annual work program? Not all volume is created equal. Sometimes a buncher can cut over 100,000 cubic metres per year and sometimes it will be less than 80,000 cubic metres per year but in both cases the machine and operator are working efficiently. The operating circumstances can often be the major contributing factor to determining efficiency. Knowing the impact of operating circumstances on efficient utilization is key to rate negotiation.

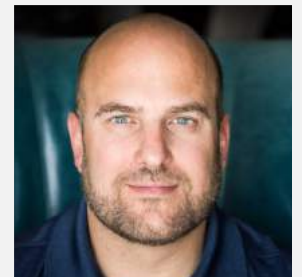
The changes in the Timber Harvesting Contract and Subcontract Regulation mean that contractors and licensees are going to need to learn how to analyze a contractor's ability to be efficient in the operating circumstances when determining rates.

It will not be good enough for one party or another to insist on their opinion of a rate. Rates will need to be negotiated using data on hourly equipment costs and the operating circumstances to determine a proper rate that is fair to both the licensee and contractor.

At TimberTracks, we have worked with contractors and licensees for many years to assist in data collection, analy-

sis, and creating rates that reflect efficient harvesting relative to operating circumstances. As an Interior Logging Association member, you will have received our 2021 Forestry Equipment Hourly Rates publication. We have done the first step of work for you already by publishing general market accepted hourly equipment rates. The next steps are determining if those rates fit your specific needs and how you take hourly equipment rates and operating circumstances to determine your harvesting rate.

TimberTracks can help contractors and licensees use real data to determine rates. Reach out to me on how we can help in your specific circumstances.



*Aaron Sinclair,  
Founder*

Timber Tracks Inc.

[www.timbertracks.ca](http://www.timbertracks.ca)

(250) 961-3114

[aaron@timbertracks.ca](mailto:aaron@timbertracks.ca)



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**STEEP LEARNING CURVE – HOW TO SUCCEED WHEN LOGGING IN STEEP GROUND**

SUBMITTED BY: BC FOREST SAFETY COUNCIL



More and more harvesting operations are moving into steeper ground where they may not have worked in the past. To do this successfully there are many considerations. This article covers some key practices and pieces that need to be put in place to keep workers safe and operations productive:

**Good Planning:**

The licensee, contractor and/or prime contractor should ensure a solid site and safety plan is in place well before work begins. Walk the block thoroughly and identify the difficult or hazardous ground before an operator discovers it. Knowing when to stop is a critical step as every contractor, piece of equipment and

worker have different capacities for working in steep ground. Some terrain may be too steep, rocky or isolated to log safely so set realistic expectations for logging the difficult ground and be prepared to work with the licensee to develop alternate plans which may include removing an area from the block's harvesting plan.

**Know the Regulations:**

The Occupational Health and Safety Regulation, Part 26 outlines slope percentage limits for various types of logging equipment. If the harvest plan requires equipment to operate beyond those limits, then a qualified person will

need to develop a separate steep slope risk assessment with site-specific procedures that operators must follow to keep their equipment stable. Marking steep areas on harvest maps and ribboning out difficult terrain is part of this assessment. The best assessments are co-operative processes that include both the licensee and contractor walking the block together. The BC Forest Safety Council (BCFSC) has developed a guide and forms to help conduct these assessments –

[www.bcforestsafesafe.org/resource/harvesting-resource-packages/](http://www.bcforestsafesafe.org/resource/harvesting-resource-packages/)

**Steep Slope Harvest Technology:**

In recent years, advanced technology has been developed to assist industry with steep slope harvesting operations. The introduction of winch assist systems, grapple cameras and auto return fea-

tures for yarders are great examples of these systems but there are still limits to technology and safety must be a key consideration when using it. Since some of this technology may be relatively new to some harvesting operations, experience using it may be lacking and there may be a tendency for some operators to push the limits to “see what this machine can do”. Counter this safety hazard by identifying no-go slope limits and areas in the steep slope hazard assessments.

**Mechanized Harvesting and Yarding:**

Some conventional logging operations may be moving towards cable yarding or winch assist systems for harvesting efficiency. These new harvesting techniques may be new for operators and supervisors and training may be required. The BCFSC has free, easy-to-use worker assessments and training re-



Interior Logging Association

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## STEEP LEARNING CURVE – HOW TO SUCCEED WHEN LOGGING IN STEEP GROUND CONTINUED...

SUBMITTED BY: BC FOREST SAFETY COUNCIL

sources for many harvesting occupations including yarding and mechanized harvesting - [www.bcforestsafe.org/forest-safety-training/worker-assessments/](http://www.bcforestsafe.org/forest-safety-training/worker-assessments/)

There are also winch assist best practices videos and training information available - [www.bcforestsafe.org/resource/harvesting-resource-packages/](http://www.bcforestsafe.org/resource/harvesting-resource-packages/)

### Emergency Response Plans (ERPs):

ERPs will need to be updated for areas with steep terrain. Considerations could include: How to evacuate an injured worker located on a steep hillside with lots of slash or felled trees. Your plan for a rolled over piece of equipment on a steep slope - is there another piece of equipment nearby to help right it? What happens when there is a break down on a steep slope? How would you transport parts down to the machine? The Steep Slope Resource Guide ([www.bcforestsafe.org/resource/harvesting-resource-](http://www.bcforestsafe.org/resource/harvesting-resource-)

[packages/](#)) includes helpful tips to answer these questions.

### Environmental and Phase Considerations:

The steeper the block, the more gravity will become your enemy. Rocks and logs can travel hundreds of meters down a steep slope, even passing through standing timber onto roads or operations below. Do not stack one phase above another. Phase congestion is also a greater concern on steep slopes. There is usually less room at the roadside for decking on steeper ground and this can lead to equipment working in close proximity to one another practices accordingly. The BCFSC is available to assist you and provide more information on any of these topics. Contact us at 1-877-741-1060.

### Trucking and Road Construction:

Steeper blocks will mean steeper grades on the roads and likely switchbacks. These factors require careful planning, engineering, road con-

struction/maintenance and trucking procedures to conduct a successful haul. Steep grade assessments are required for any sections over 18%. This webpage ([www.bcforestsafe.org/transportation/log-hauling/](http://www.bcforestsafe.org/transportation/log-hauling/)) has for more info including a very useful steep grade assessment app.

The Trucking and Harvesting Advisory Group (TAG) is currently working on the development of a video that will illustrate key messages for the correct planning, engineering and building of a switchback on resource roads. The video will also provide awareness to log haulers, road users, and other industry members about the value the industry places on forest safety and in ensuring these roads are built correctly. Release date for the video is planned for late 2021.

There is a lot to consider when harvesting steeper terrain. Take time to review the advice above and take action to update your practices accordingly. The BCFSC is available to assist you and provide more information on any of these topics. Contact us at :

1-877-741-1060.



Have something to contribute to the ILA Insider?

We'd love to hear from you!

Contact

Todd Chamberlain, RFT  
ILA General Manager

Call 250 308-8100 or

email  
[todd@interiorlogging.org](mailto:todd@interiorlogging.org)

### The Interior Logging Association is hard at work for you in these groups and committees:

- Timber Sales Advisory Committee (TSAC)
- Trucking and Harvesting Advisory Group (TAG) BCFSC
- The Log Trucking Technical Advisory Committee (LTTAC) BCFSC
- Falling Technical Advisory Committee (FTAC) BCFS
- Board of Directors for the BC Forest Safety Council (BCFSC)
- Northern Road Health Coalition
- Contractor Sustainability Working Group
- Forestry Service Providers Compensation Fund
- Program Committee for the BC Forest Safety Council
- Industry Training Authority (ITA) Forest Sector Advisory Group



## ILA SCHOLARSHIP DEADLINE IS JULY 31ST 2021



## ILA Forestry Scholarships

The ILA awards four scholarships annually to students preparing for a bright, beautiful future in BC's forest industry.

### \$2,000 FORESTRY SCHOLARSHIP

Open to any graduating student in the ILA's operating area – southern Interior region – enrolling in full time studies in a forestry related discipline at a Canadian College or University or Vocational School.

### \$1,000 MEMBER SCHOLARSHIP

Open to graduating secondary school students or students already enrolled in college or university in any discipline who are immediate relatives of ILA members and employees of member companies. Candidates must be enrolling in a full time program at an accredited Canadian College, University or Institute of Technology.

### \$1,000 MEMBER TRADES SCHOOL SCHOLARSHIP

Open to students of an ILA member enrolling in a full time course at a British Columbia Trades School in Heavy Duty Mechanics, Professional Truck Driving or Heavy Duty Machine Operators Course, Welding Course or similar training program that leads to employment within the logging industry.

### \$1,000 ASSOCIATES SCHOLARSHIP

Open to graduating secondary school students who are immediate relatives of an ILA member or member company employees. This scholarship is awarded to the ILA affiliated applicant with the highest academic standard enrolling in a Canadian College, University or Technical School as a full time student in a Business Administration discipline.

**Applications close July 31 2021** Applications postmarked later than July 31 will not be considered.

The Fine Print Scholarships are awarded as soon as possible after the closing date of July 31. Payment will be made upon confirmation of registration in a full-time program of studies. In the event that no candidate has reached an acceptable standard in any or all scholarship categories, the scholarship committee may elect not to make an award. They may also, at their discretion, make lesser awards to more than one candidate in a category.

To download the application form, click [HERE](#)

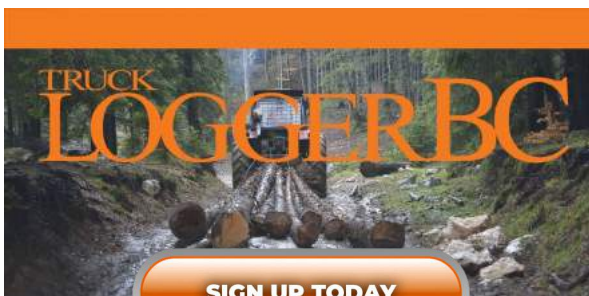
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Truck Logger BC is published quarterly by the Truck Loggers Association in partnership with the Interior Logging Association and North West Loggers Association. This magazine is distributed to over 10,000 readers who rely on the forest industry across British Columbia for their livelihoods. It is the pre-eminent source for timber harvesting and forestry perspectives, information and updates. Get Truck Logger BC Magazine delivered to your door for FREE! Click on the link to be re-directed and sign up!



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**Todd Chamberlain, RFT, General Manager**  
E-mail: [todd@interiorlogging.org](mailto:todd@interiorlogging.org)

*Forestry is British Columbia's founding industry and logging is its lifeblood. The Interior Logging Association knows the importance of timber harvesting to BC's economy and has been a strong and unifying voice for its members since 1958.*

*The strength of the Interior Logging Association lies in the commitment of our members to work together to secure a thriving industry that supports our local communities and economy—one that embraces a sustainable brand new day for timber harvesting.*

**CHECK OUT OUR WEBSITE!**  
**WWW.INTERIORLOGGING.ORG**

