



Interior Logging Association

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THE ILA INSIDER

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Happy New Year from the Interior Logging Association

SUBMITTED BY: TODD CHAMBERLAIN, RFT, ILA GENERAL MANAGER



Happy New Year Everyone, we are excited to start the year off with Volume 6—yes the 6th year—of our newsletter the ILA Insider!

We do hope this edition finds you all well, and feeling rested after the hustle and bustle of the Holiday Season, however you celebrated!

We are starting off 2025 with a new Minister of Forests, and some new challenges with potential impending US tariffs and changes to the industry. It is our continued goal to lead productive change and continue to advocate and move our industry forward in a positive way. We want to thank everyone who participated in the survey we sent out in October, the results and insight collected from your replies were extremely valuable, and will lead us as we continue to be the voice for our industry, and all those attached to it.

Planning is already well under way for the 67th AGM and Conference coming up May 1st, 2nd and 3rd, 2025. We are excited to release more information soon on our guest speakers, planned events and partner events. Our theme for this years' show will be "A Forest of Possibilities", and a message that we stand firm in our belief that forestry can be a sustainable and stable industry again for many years to come.

Please stay tuned to our website for more information on the upcoming AGM and Conference, and to reserve your show spaces soon! You can find all the details as they come available by clicking [here](#).

On behalf of everyone at the Interior Logging Association, we wish you a prosperous and profitable 2025!

Regards,

Todd Chamberlain, RFT

Interior Logging Association General Manager



EMBRACING A SUSTAINABLE BRAND NEW DAY FOR TIMBER HARVESTING

OPINION-EDITORIAL

SUBMITTED BY: HON. RAVI PARMAR MINISTER OF FORESTS



premier John Horgan at the time had asked me to work with Ravi Kahlon, then-parliamentary secretary for forestry. Our task: hit the ground and talk with people. And that's exactly what we did.

The relationships and community connections we made stayed with me throughout my career as a ministerial advisor. These ties set me up to become a strong MLA and gave me the motivation to ask the Premier to appoint me as his minister of forests. I was not prepared to leave these communities behind and it's become clear that I will never be.

When the Premier offered me this opportunity, I sat down and developed the three priorities

that would guide my work as minister. First, we must restore confidence in the forestry sector. Our forests have supported our home since time immemorial and it's time to remind people everywhere that B.C. has one of the most robust forest economies in history.

Second, my ministry will stand up for the workers who drive our forest industries. Without the hardworking people who operate machinery, who transport logs and who work in our mills, our sector would grind to a halt. They need a strong advocate who will keep that reality front and centre, who will support them, and who will create new opportunities for them to advance and to flourish.

Finally, we will honour the commitments our government has made to biodiversity and to reconciliation through the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act Action Plan.

These three principles have been at the heart of every conversation I've had since becoming minister, whether with the Forest Service, industry, workers, First Nations or environmental organizations.

As I took my oath and began my work, I knew one file would occupy much of my time: softwood lumber duties. These unfair and unjust tariffs are set to increase massively in 2025, compounded by new tariffs, proposed by the incoming U.S. administration.

Continues on page 4...

I've been getting this question a lot lately: Why forestry? With all of the challenges on the horizon, what made you ask Premier Eby for this task?

One word: people.

When I served as an advisor to a former minister of forests, I was taken out of my element completely. A kid from Langford found himself engaging with people from remote, rural communities. Communities that had been devastated by mill closures and curtailments. Former

Join Us in Kamloops for the Interior Logging Association

67th AGM & Convention

May 1-3, 2025
"A Forest of Possibilities"

Outside & Inside displays at the
Tk'emlups Powwow Grounds

Events at Coast Kamloops Hotel & Conference Centre

MAY 1:

Set-up Tk'emlups Powwow Grounds
Thursday Evening Meet & Greet

MAY 2 & 3: Inside & Outside Displays,
Tk'emlups Powwow Grounds

MAY 2:

Breakfast
A.G.M.
Luncheon: Guest Speaker (T.B.A.)
Friday Night Dinner & Dance

Learn, discover and network.
Don't miss this opportunity
to meet face to face, discuss
current issues, learn about
industry trends in person.

A Unifying Voice for 67 Years



For more information and to register for the events
Call 250-503-2199 or go to www.interiorlogging.org

OPINION-EDITORIAL CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2...

SUBMITTED BY: HON. RAVI PARMAR MINISTER OF FORESTS



Early in 2025, I will bring together stakeholders across the sector to fight these duties and ensure that the federal government steps up to support this industry that is so essential to Canada's economy.

workers and community leaders on the front lines, listening to what they need and ultimately what our sector needs for growth. At the end of the conversation, I made a commitment to return, again and again, to continue our work together. My ultimate goal is to ensure that their communities – and everyone in British Columbia – can benefit from a strong, sustainable and robust forestry sector for generations to come.

Smithers, Houston, Burns Lake, Fraser Lake, Fort St. James, Quesnell and Williams Lake. I have also honoured my previous commitment by then returning to Prince George and Vanderhoof. I look forward to visiting the Interior and Kootenays soon. While on these tours, I have let each of these communities know that I am ready to work with them, to work for them, and to get things done.

Continued from page 2...

Such measures pose a serious threat to B.C.'s forestry sector. As such, on my first day as minister, I sent a letter to my federal counterparts, urging them to stand up for B.C.'s forest economy. My end of the commitment is that I will do the same.

One of my mentors, Chief Russ Chipps from the SC'IANEW First Nation, taught me an important lesson several years ago: Before you can build a relationship, you have to build trust. I took my first steps building trust as a new minister by travelling to Prince George and Vanderhoof within my first week. I sat at the same table as the

My work didn't stop there. Over my first ten weeks, I've visited the communities of Port Hardy, Port McNeil, Campbell River, Port Alberni, Terrace,

There's a lot of work ahead and not a lot of time. People on the ground want action, and with me as their minister of forests, that's exactly what they're going to get.



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!



28TH ANNUAL

SOUTH CENTRAL TRUCKING & INDUSTRY

CHARITY GOLF TOURNAMENT



SAVE THE DATE

FRIDAY, MAY 23, 2025

RIVERSHORE ESTATES & GOLF LINKS



More details coming soon

RESOURCES TO HELP YOU IN 2025

CONTRIBUTED BY: INTERIOR LOGGING ASSOCIATION



**Interior Logging
Association**

As we start a new year, we wanted to have a reminder in the Newsletter that there are several business programs and resources available to assist you with your businesses.

We know most people do not have the time to seek them out, so we have taken the time to compile a list of things that may be able to help push your business forward and support you long term.

1. Keep in close contact with your local BC Forestry Office—many offices will have work opportunities and contracts available for bid,

or can connect you with other contractors moving ahead with work that requires additional manpower. It is important to go in to your local office to explore opportunities and let them know what you are capable of providing in the way of equipment, labor and assistance during the year including during wildfire season.

2. Keep checking the [Supports for Forestry Workers](#) page attached to the Government of BC website.

3. Currently there are several opportunities for funding and support including:

- [Forestry Employment](#)

[Program](#)

- [Bridging to Retirement](#)
- [Skills Training for Employment](#)
- [Rural Economic Diversification and Infrastructure Program \(REDIP\)](#)
- [BC Manufacturing Jobs Fund](#)
- [Employer Training Grant](#)
- Rural Business and Community Recovery Initiative: Funds advisory services that support rural businesses and communities in economic recovery. Program is administered through B.C.'s three economic trusts -

[Economic Trust.](#)

- [Community Workforce Response Grant](#)

Please also consider reaching out to your local Community Futures offices as there are additional business resources offered for free. A list of offices can be found [here](#).

If you have a specific business need, please reach out to our resident Consultant Meagan Preston via email at Meagan@interiorlogging.org and she can assist you further in finding the right support or funding resources to assist you, and how to apply.

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PROVINCE LAUNCHES BC TIMBER SALES REVIEW

CONTENT SHARED FROM: PROVINCE OF BRITISH COLUMBIA OFFICIAL NEWS PAGE—[HTTPS://NEWS.GOV.BC.CA/31896](https://news.gov.bc.ca/31896)



The B.C. government has launched a review of BC Timber Sales (BCTS) to ensure British Columbia's forestry sector is continually evolving to overcome challenges and create a guideline for a stronger, more resilient future.

“Forestry in B.C. is in transition, and the people and communities who rely on our forests – who are bearing the brunt of ongoing challenges – want change now,” said Ravi Parmar, Minister of Forests. “That’s why I have asked Lennard Joe, George Abbott and Brian Frenkel to look at the opportunities to leverage BCTS to set B.C.’s forest industry up for the next 100 years.”

The launch of the review recognizes the significant pressure the forest sector is under, from declining allowable annual cuts, difficulty accessing fibre, global economic conditions and heightened environmental and trade-protection efforts.

Building on the ongoing work of BCTS, as well as recent forestry-sector engagement, the review will provide recommendations about how BCTS can:

- create forestry-sector growth, competition and diversification;

- provide predictable and reliable market access to fibre;

- diversify access to fibre for the manufacturing sector, including value-added facilities;

- strengthen partnerships with First Nations and communities;

- provide more jobs for contractors, workers and communities; and

lead in innovative, sustainable forest management and silviculture practices.

The review will be led by the Ministry of Forests with support from the newly formed expert task force consisting of Abbott, Joe and Frenkel. It will use the Provincial Forestry Forum, a group that brings together all interests in the forestry sector, including contractors, value-added manufacturers, industry and labour. Work will begin immediately. Action will be taken within six months of launching the review.

“Our work to get more value out of our forests is a top priority as we grow the B.C. wood-manufacturing sector,” Parmar said. “That’s why we are doubling the amount of BCTS volume that is dedicated to value-added manufacturers, from 10% to 20%. That’s about 1.1 million cubic metres in 2025 alone.”

Managing roughly 20% of the Province’s public timber supply, BCTS has an integral role in the success and resiliency of British Columbia’s forestry sector. In 2023, BCTS launched the Value-Added Manufacturing Program that ensures small and medium-sized secondary manufacturers have a dedicated fibre supply.

Additionally, the Province is changing the criteria for the Value-Added Manufacturing program to enable groups of manufacturers to bid together within the program, benefiting more workers and communities around B.C.

Learn More:

To learn more about BC Timber Sales, visit:

<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/industry/forestry/bc-timber-sales>

PROVINCE LAUNCHES BC TIMBER SALES REVIEW CONTINUED...

CONTENT SHARED FROM: PROVINCE OF BRITISH COLUMBIA OFFICIAL NEWS PAGE—[HTTPS://NEWS.GOV.BC.CA/31896](https://news.gov.bc.ca/31896)

To read the Modernizing Forest Policy in B.C. Intentions Paper: https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/farming-natural-resources-and-industry/forestry/competitive-forest-industry/modernizing_forestry_in_bc_report.pdf

What people are saying about the BCTS review

Lennard Joe, chief executive officer, BC First Nations Forestry Council –

“I recognize the importance of participating in the BCTS review as a member of the task force. Throughout this process, the goal of the BC First Nations Forestry Council will be to ensure First Nations have meaningful opportunities to participate and that their voices are heard. It is my hope that the outcome of the review leads to a stable and inclusive BCTS program that supports healthy ecosystems, a strong

economy and vibrant communities, while fully respecting First Nations values and rights.”

George Abbott, former B.C. cabinet minister –

“The forests of this province belong to all of us, and British Columbians deserve to have the most effective forest practices possible. Partnering with experts across the sector, we will aim to find new and innovative ways to ensure fibre is getting to the right place for hard-working British Columbians to get the highest value for these resources.”

Brian Frenkel, councillor, District of Vanderhoof, and former president, UBCM –

“I’m looking forward to participating in the minister’s BCTS task force to help make recommendations to adapt the organization to the changing B.C. forest economy. Local

governments, First Nations communities, primary and value-added sectors require a reliable source of timber, developed through the BCTS organization.”

Kurt Niquidet, vice-president and chief economist, BC Council of Forest Industries –

“BCTS plays a vital role in the province’s forest sector, managing 20% of B.C.’s annual allowable cut. A review of BCTS that includes independent input and analysis is an important step to address fibre supply availability in British Columbia, which will help to re-establish the province as an attractive destination for investment in forest-product manufacturing.”

John Gillis, chairman, board of directors, BC Wood Specialties Group Association –

“It is time for renewal in

the BCTS system and today’s announcement of the BCTS review from the Ministry of Forests shows the commitment the Government of B.C. has to supporting local business as they grow, innovate and generate high-value products and jobs. We are pleased to see the Government of B.C. recognize the important role that access to raw materials is to B.C.’s value-added wood products sector.”

Todd Chamberlain, general manager, Interior Logging Association –

“This is a positive step forward. The Interior Logging Association board of directors looks forward to actively participating in this review to ensure the government’s revised BCTS program meets the current and future needs of the industry. It is essential for creating opportunities and

PROVINCE LAUNCHES BC TIMBER SALES REVIEW CONTINUED...

CONTENT SHARED FROM: PROVINCE OF BRITISH COLUMBIA OFFICIAL NEWS PAGE—[HTTPS://NEWS.GOV.BC.CA/31896](https://news.gov.bc.ca/31896)

supporting sustainable practices. We look forward to seeing the results of this review.”

Jeff Bromley, chair, United Steelworkers (USW) Wood Council –

“The review of BCTS is an important step in the renewal and revitalization of B.C.’s forest industry. BCTS is a key part in setting the market price for timber in B.C., but they could also bridge the gap between log supply, First Nations timber rights and permitting to ensure workers, communities, industry and the Province sees more value from our timber resource. Improving and ensuring BCTS can get the timber out to market will be key.”

Joe Nemeth, general manager, BC Pulp and Paper Coalition –

“Those of us in the pulp and paper industry are always on the lookout for improvements, so everyone can get the most value from B.C.’s forests.

We need to make sure our industry remains strong going into the future. That’s why we are excited to work with BCTS on innovating the sector, ensuring that the best silviculture and forest management practices are used to strengthen all aspects of forestry in B.C.”

Ted Dergousoff, president, Interior Lumber Manufacturers’ Association –

“Today’s announcement of the BCTS review, and the commitment to increasing Category 4 volumes, shows the government’s acknowledgment and commitment to support local business throughout the province. The results of the review will ensure that a framework exists to provide these local businesses with a solid foundation to allow them to continue to generate high-value products and

well-paying local jobs. The Interior Lumber Manufacturers’ Association fully supports the Ministry of Forests in their efforts.”

Andy Rielly, chair, Independent Wood Products Association, a member of the BC Value-Added Wood Coalition –

“The Independent Wood Products Association appreciates government’s decision to review the BCTS program. This program is the only way for non-tenured manufacturers to secure competitively priced logs for lumber trading, which is crucial for creating value-added wood products and encouraging more investment and job growth. We also appreciate government’s commitment to enhance the Category 4 program. We believe this represents an important step forward for small

and medium-sized independent wood-products manufacturers.”

Geoff Dawe, national president, Public and Private Workers of Canada (PPWC) –

“The PPWC welcomes Minister Parmar’s announcement to review the BC Timber Sales program as a step forward in ensuring sustainable and equitable forest management for all British Columbians involved in the forest sector. We are optimistic about the opportunities this process presents and PPWC looks forward to actively participating as a member of the Provincial Forestry Forum to champion responsible stewardship of our forests for generations to come.”

<https://news.gov.bc.ca/31896>

THE ILA—IN THE COMMUNITY

CONTRIBUTED BY: INTERIOR LOGGING ASSOCIATION



Above: The Interior Logging Association’s Directors and staff met with Forest Minister Ravi Parmar at the TLA Convention to affirm the importance of our members contributions to our changing industry and offer our services to ensure our interests are protected moving forward.



Left: Tim Menning, Chairperson of the Interior Logging Association had the opportunity to talk about the challenges facing our membership with Minister Ravi Parmar during his recent tour of the Central Interior.



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EMBRACING A SUSTAINABLE BRAND NEW DAY
FOR TIMBER HARVESTING

LOOKING AHEAD TO THE 2025 WILDFIRE SEASON

SUBMITTED BY: BC WILDFIRE SERVICE



British Columbia experienced another challenging wildfire season in 2024, with over 1,600 wildfires and several wildfires which continued burned deep underground from the 2023 season. The new starts and holdover wildfires burned more than one million hectares across B.C. The Prince George Fire Centre saw the most hectares burned last season, attributing 803,000 hectares to this total. Across Canada, wildfire impacted 5.3 million hectares in 2024 showing that B.C. was not alone in experiencing heightened activity.

Contending with multi-year drought and holdover fires smouldering through the winter, wildfire activity began in the spring of 2024 in the province's northeast and south into the Chilcotin. The northern fire centres have been facing elevated drought conditions since

2022. The drought contributed to extremely dry forest fuels which were very receptive to new wildfire ignitions. New and existing wildfires were exhibiting rapid rates of spread and volatile fire behaviour very early in the fire season. The increased fire behaviour caused evacuation orders as early as April.

In mid-July, fire activity increased significantly in southern regions as numerous thunderstorms and lightning events ignited hundreds of new wildfires. From July 17 to 24, there were over 86,000 lightning strikes across B.C. and 445 new fire starts. High temperatures, erratic winds, dry fuels and little to no precipitation resulted in wildfires growing rapidly, threatening communities and homes province wide. There was little to no reprieve from the challenging conditions through August.

We would not be able to succeed in response without the participation of our partners, including heavy equipment owners and operators. Over the 2024 season, hundreds of operators contributed time and effort into fire response and rehabilitation operations. Local knowledge combined with the skill of operators is

increasingly relied upon by BC Wildfire Service (BCWS) operations staff to achieve effective and minimal impact outcomes in wildfire response. At peak response, we had over 500 heavy equipment personnel engaged in response and rehabilitation activities across the province. Strike teams formed across the province throughout this season have again proven their effectiveness in immediate and local response to wildfires once detected. I would like to personally thank all ILA members who tirelessly contributed to wildfire response efforts in our province.

In recognition that fire seasons are getting longer and more challenging, the Premier's Task Force on Emergencies was launched following the 2023 wildfire season. The Task Force provided recommendations which supported our organization in shifting our response tactics to focus on prevention and long-term planning aimed at developing a strategy that manages climate change and prepares communities for the risks of wildfire. Many of these recommendations were successfully implemented before and during the 2024

wildfire season. We increased aircraft and heavy equipment contracts and expanded BCWS' on-the-ground firefighting equipment, including pumps, fire camp equipment, safety gear, and medical and hygiene equipment. We utilized technology that can produce real-time wildfire behaviour predictions based on information coming from the field. This technology provides wildfire decision-makers more data to proactively respond to wildfires, giving people more time to act during an emergency. Additionally, the creation of a dedicated wildfire training and education centre at Thompson Rivers University will advance wildfire science through training, education, research, and innovation. Finally, the Province is supporting community and partnership-based resilience projects that are helping reduce the risk of wildfire on the natural landscape.

The Ministry of Forests land base recovery staff are, and have been for months, fully engaged in rehabilitation efforts. Recovery can be a variety of activities from repairing damaged infrastructure and ecological values to improving the resiliency of forests to better withstand future disasters.

Continued on page 14...

LOOKING AHEAD TO THE 2025 WILDFIRE SEASON CONTINUED FROM PAGE 13...

SUBMITTED BY: BC WILDFIRE SERVICE

Continued from page 10...

Post-wildfire recovery requires collaboration across provincial and local governments, First Nations, industry partners and other stakeholders to maintain and restore wildfire affected areas. Prescribed fire is another activity which aids in restoring ecosystems and helps create landscapes more resilient to wildfire. Fortunately, we experienced favourable fall-like weather conditions ideal to carry out many prescribed fire projects for a variety of ecological, land management and wildfire risk reduction objectives.

One of the largest opportunities to mitigate wildfire threat is through the wildfire risk reduction program. In the BC 2024 budget, the Forest Enhancement Society

of BC (FESBC) was allocated \$30 million for the next three years to assist the province of B.C. in reducing wildfire risk on provincial crown land and increasing community resiliency to wildfire. Key strategies in this program include land managers implementing strategic wildfire risk management priorities and opportunities with the Ministry of Forests, coordinating and supporting the effective delivery of funds for wildfire prevention planning and fuel management treatments near higher-risk communities and critical infrastructure, and optimizing the recovery and

utilization of low-value residual fibre resulting from wildfire risk reduction treatments. Continued effort in this space will improve resiliency across the province, and the forestry sector has a key role to play in its success.

On behalf of the BC Wildfire Service, I would like to once again thank all ILA members for their support and effort. Wildfire management in this province takes a broad and a whole of society approach and will not be successful without the heavy equipment owners, operators and contractors playing a key role. I am committed to strengthening the relationship we have built over the last decade of increased wildfire

activity and look forward to our joint effort in all phases of wildfire management.



Rob Schweitzer

Assistant Deputy Minister
BC Wildfire Service

It will be here before you know it!



**INTERIOR LOGGING ASSOCIATION'S
67TH AGM AND CONVENTION**

MAY 1ST - 3RD 2025, KAMLOOPS B.C.

Registration opens early 2025! Check us out at www.interiorlogging.org for the latest news and information

Contact us by phone at 250-503-2199, or email us at info@interiorlogging.org



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- 2. Reserve as a Rewards Member:** Existing Park'N Fly Rewards members, sign into your rewards account, and access the lowest parking rates by saving your corporate discount code to your profile. Sign into your account via the Park'N Fly Canada app or online at www.parknfly.ca/rewards.
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EMBRACING A SUSTAINABLE BRAND NEW DAY FOR TIMBER HARVESTING

PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT (PPE) PROGRAMS

SUBMITTED BY: BC FOREST SAFETY COUNCIL



BC Forest Safety

Safety is **good** business

Although we shouldn't rely on PPE alone to protect us from injuries, it is an important part of safety programs. PPE should be chosen to make sure it offers the best protection available. This alert focusses what supervisors and owners should consider when developing a PPE program.

Components of a good PPE Program:

1. Regulation check – The [Occupational Health and Safety Regulation Part 8: Personal Protective Clothing and Equipment](#) should be the first stop when planning a PPE program. There are sections in the Regulations relating to on safety headgear, eye protection, footwear, high visibility apparel and respirators. A list of required PPE supplied by both employers and workers should be included. The regulations also reference the PPE Standards required such as CSA or ANSI).

2. Planning – A thorough hazard identification and risk assessment process is the next step to help identify other ways of protecting workers in addition to using PPE. For example, a safety program with a system of identifying and removing overhead hazards is much more effective than just requiring workers to wear hard hats.

3. Selection of appropriate PPE –The people closest to the work have the most valuable feedback on which types of PPE work best for the tasks at hand. PPE manufacturers can also help narrow down the options. It's important to remember that PPE shouldn't create a hazard to the wearer. For example, if a respirator doesn't fit properly then it won't be able to mitigate the risk and ill-fitting or the wrong safety glasses or gloves could

impair a worker's senses.

4. Fitting –Have workers test a variety of equipment and get their opinions on what fits best for the work. With that feedback, you can consider purchasing larger amounts.

5. Education and training – Take the time to do regular training sessions on using PPE. More complex PPE, such as respirators, will require more time and effort compared to simpler items like gloves and/or safety glasses. An important part of PPE training is explaining its limitations.

6. Supervisor and management support – Make it easy for workers to wear PPE. Have it readily available and provide options to replace worn out or damaged items. Consider any barriers that may deter someone from wearing PPE and identify situations when someone may be tempted to take a shortcut and not use PPE correctly. Take all necessary steps to remove these barriers and situations.



PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT (PPE) PROGRAMS CONTINUED...

SUBMITTED BY: BC FOREST SAFETY COUNCIL

7. Inspection and maintenance

Workers are responsible for inspecting their PPE before use and reporting any damage or malfunction to their supervisor or employer. Check the manufacturer's guidance on the type and frequency of maintenance.

8. Auditing the program –

Regular checks of how PPE is being used is necessary to ensure it is protecting the workers as planned. If deficiencies are found, go back to planning step and work through the process again to find and implement better PPE.

Specific PPE Tips:

Footwear – Use different types of boots to match the conditions and ensure traction. For example, caulk boots for areas with blowdown, lighter footwear for driving, and boots with protective toes if there is a risk of crush injuries.

Hard hats – Chin straps or other effective means of retention must be used when workers are climbing or working from a height exceeding 3 m (10 ft) or are exposed to high winds or other conditions that may cause loss of the headgear.

High-vis clothing – There are lots of different types of high-vis out there that may not meet the requirements for the work that you do. [This poster](#) will help you determine if your PPE is adequate.

Ear protection – Hearing loss is a common injury claim for forestry workers. Make sure hearing protection is readily available and is for hearing loss. Implement training, noise testing, and hearing tests as required.

Gloves – Make sure that gloves have sufficient tactile dexterity for the work, otherwise people may be tempted to remove their gloves.

Respirators – Ensure that respirators are rated for the hazards present and that workers are properly fit tested. At a minimum, the fit testing must be completed with the individual worker before the first use and at least annually after that. Also, re-test the fit when there is a change to the respirator or the worker's facial features.

Resources

[PPE Resource Page](#)



[CCOHS - PPE Programs](#)

BCFSC crew talks:

[PPE Inspections](#)

[Hard Hats](#)

[Eye Protection](#)

[Hearing Protection](#)

[Safety Footwear](#)

[Hi-Vis](#)

BCFSC Latest News

[New Course – Legal Requirements for Forestry](#)

[Blasting](#) – This FREE two-hour course reviews legislation and regulations that govern blasting activities in the forest industry. Completion of this training helps certified blasters achieve the six-hour annual training requirement.

SAVE THE DATE: The 2025 Interior Safety Conference (ISC) will be held on Thursday, May 1, 2025 at the Coast Kamloops Hotel and Conference Centre. This conference is held in partnership with the Interior Logging Association's 67th AGM & Convention May 1 – 3, 2025 in Kamloops, BC.

Visit the [BCFSC Website](#) for ISC registration and conference details available in the coming weeks.

Welcome to **Specsavers Corporate Eyecare**



We've been providing eyecare and eyewear in locations around the world for about 40 years now. So, while we're pretty new to Canada, we've always been about making affordable eyecare and eyewear accessible to everyone.

Why your eye health matters

An eye exam is similar to having a check-up with your physician, although a lot of people don't see it that way. Because getting an eye exam is not just about checking how well you can see, it's also an important eye health check. In fact, an eye exam can detect serious health issues, including high blood pressure, diabetes or glaucoma. We use an advanced 3D eye scan, called an OCT (optical coherence tomography), for every patient, to make sure that there's a record of your eye health and that your optometrist can detect the earliest signs of eye conditions before they become a more serious problem.

What we offer

- 30% off lens upgrades exclusive to all members.
- Comprehensive eye exams with an independent optometrist, including diagnostic testing and OCT scanning as standard, from \$99.
- A range of glasses styles, starting from just \$69, as well as designer brands from \$99, contact lenses and lens upgrades to choose from.
- Make your vision insurance benefits go further with our two pairs of glasses from \$149 offer.
- Great offers and promotions for your company throughout the year.
- With over 33 locations (and counting) in British Columbia, you're sure to find a location with a friendly team of optometrists and opticians near you.
- Most of our locations are open seven days a week, so it's easy to drop by at a time to suit you.

Ready to start?

You're already signed up, which means that you're ready to take advantage of some great eyecare and eyewear perks.

All you need to do is drop by your nearest Specsavers to get started. Just bring along the code for 30% off lens upgrades and something to confirm you're a member and we'll sort out all the rest for you.

Call the ILA Office for Promo Code

Book an eye exam today at [specsavers.ca](https://www.specsavers.ca)

Terms and conditions

Discount only available for ILA members on presentation of proof of employment and voucher in store. Offer can be used in conjunction with our two pairs from \$149 offer. Offer cannot be used in conjunction with any other vouchers or offers including when you purchase a single pair of glasses from our \$149 range and above, as a lens upgrade is already included in this bundle. Excludes safety eyewear. Discount is applied before taxes. No cash surrender value. Cannot be applied to past transactions. Offer details are subject to change. \$99 eye exam. Applies to comprehensive eye exam. Eye exams are provided by independent optometrists. Prices may vary by location. Contact store for details. Additional charges may apply for other optometric services dependent on the patient's health requirements. Such additional charges may be covered by provincial health care plan for eligible patients. Glasses from \$69: includes single-vision lenses. Two pairs with vision insurance: includes standard single-vision lenses.

Specsavers

REMINDER ABOUT THE WREST GRANT PROGRAM

SUBMITTED BY: INTERIOR LOGGING ASSOCIATION



We were very excited to be able to share with our membership on June 25th, 2024 that the Wildfire Reduction Equipment Support Trust (WREST) grant was finally made available!

We understand there have been several successful applications for the funding, and we want to encourage members to apply as they acquire new equipment and upgrade existing.

Purpose of the Trust:

The Wildfire Reduction Equipment Support Trust (WREST) was created on May 21, 2024 by the Trustee of the Coastal Logging

Equipment Support Trust (CLEST) after the purpose of the CLEST was completed. The WREST was seeded with a contribution of the approximately \$5.25 Million in the CLEST at that time, and the CLEST was subsequently wound up.

The purpose of the WREST is to help Eligible Contractors purchase Specified Equipment that will be used in BC forestry operations to accomplish all of the following functions:

- Remove combustible materials (including small trees and brush) from the forest floor and other parts of the forest understory

- Transport such removed material to a roadside location from which the material can be accessed for: sale, or

transport to purchasers or other users, whether for processing as wood fiber or for chipping or burning

- While performing the foregoing functions, maneuver between existing trees without damaging larger trees that are intended to remain standing, without creating significant ground disturbance, and keeping tracks or grooves in the soil to a minimum.

The immediate goal of the WREST is to provide reimbursement for the lesser of 10% of the total cost of this Specified Equipment or \$100,000. The intent is that this reimbursement will

encourage contractors to invest in this equipment and put it to use to reduce the risk of wildfire in British Columbia.

For more information and to apply for the grant please go to <https://wrestrust.ca/>

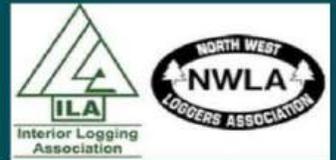
To apply click here:

<https://wrestrust.ca/eligible-equipment-reimbursement-application-form/>

If you require assistance, please contact Meagan Preston, our Forest Impact Recovery Business Advisor at meagan@interiorlogging.org

Are you a member of the ILA group benefits plan?

We want to remind you of a couple benefits that are available to you.



Consult+ Virtual Health Care

Medical professionals at your fingertips through your workplace benefits plan

- 24/7 service – phone, text or video chat
- Talk to health care professionals
- Get prescriptions or refills for most medications
- Get referrals for lab work, among others!



Go to mycanadalifeatwork.com to sign in. Go to Coverage & balances, select Health, scroll down to Other coverage and you'll see a link to Consult+

Health Spending Accounts

Optional coverage that can be added to your group benefits package, as a self-insured benefit with flexible dollars that can be used towards any CRA approved medical, vision, or dental expense.

- No set-up costs or ongoing premiums
- The corporation can write off 100% of their expenses and all expenses reimbursed are tax-free to the employee
- Works great along-side a traditional benefits plan, as a way to provide additional coverage while keeping insured rates low
- A much more tax-efficient way to compensate employees!

PHONE 604-980-6227 | TOLL FREE 1-800-432-9707 | www.jbenefits.com



Spread the News!

ILA Scholarships Deadline is July 31st, 2025!

Available Scholarships

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

- **\$2,000 FORESTRY SCHOLARSHIP**
- **\$1,000 MEMBER SCHOLARSHIP**
- **\$1,000 MEMBER TRADES SCHOOL SCHOLARSHIP**
- **\$1,000 ASSOCIATES SCHOLARSHIP**

Applications will close July 31, 2025. 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.

Download your [ILA SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION FORM](#) by clicking on the link.

Looking for funding? Opportunities arise all the time through the Province of BC



Click on the picture link above and check back often for new funding avenues!



We now have advertising opportunities available in the ILA Newsletter!

To secure your quarter, half or full page advertising space contact us today!

Email: todd@interiorlogging.org

Call: (250) 503-2199

CONTACT US

Office: 3204 39th Avenue
Vernon, B.C. V1T 3C8

Phone: 250-503-2199

Nancy Hesketh—Administrator

nancy@interiorlogging.org

Todd Chamberlain—General Manager

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

