



Interior Logging Association

VOLUME 7, ISSUE 2

THE ILA INSIDER

APRIL 2026

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Celebrating 68 Years and still “Stronger Together for Forestry’s Future”

SUBMITTED BY: TODD CHAMBERLAIN, RFT, ILA GENERAL MANAGER



We are back for our 68th year, with this years’ theme—Stronger Together for Forestry’s Future”. This years’ show will be held on April 30th, May 1st and 2nd and 3rd, 2026, with accommodations available again this year at the [Coast Hotel Kamloops](#), as well as the [Wingate by Wyndham](#) Kamloops.

The show will again be running parallel with the Interior Safety Conference on Thursday, our Meet and Greet Thursday night, Friday morning Breakfast, afternoon Luncheon, and evening Dinner and Dance, Silent Auction benefitting the Ty Pozzobon Foundation, the virtual Tree Falling Competition Friday and Saturday, and our 3rd annual Big Truck Show 'N' Shine!

We encourage all of our Members to be in attendance at the ILA Annual General Meeting at the Coast Hotel Kamloops on Friday, May 1st from 8:30am to 10:00am. We are also pleased to announce that our guest speaker at our Luncheon this year will be the Minister of Forests—Honorable Ravi Parmar. The Luncheon will be on Friday May 1st, from 11:30am to 1:30pm, and will be a cost of \$85 per person. Spaces are selling quickly for this event, so please fill out and return the form on [page 29](#) if you would like to attend.

We are looking forward to welcoming back all of our Vendors again to the [Kamloops Powwow Grounds](#) with both outside and inside displays, and we are already finding ourselves with limited space remaining for new Vendors. If you would like to attend as a Vendor, please fill out the form on [page 29](#) of the newsletter. This is an excellent opportunity for everyone to display and demonstrate their products, come and see what’s new, reconnect with Vendors, Suppliers, and each other. Now more than ever it is important for us to maintain those connections and collaborate to keep the industry thriving.

For all the details of the weekend agenda, please click [here](#). For a direct link to both forms mentioned above click [here](#).

We want to sincerely thank all of the [Co-Sponsors](#), [Vendors](#), Members, and individuals who have contributed to this show over the last 68 years. Without your dedication and continued support of the Interior Logging Association and the industry as a whole, events like this would not continue to be possible or feasible. Last but not least, I would like to thank our amazing Office Administrator, Nancy Hesketh for all of her hard work putting together the show, and our resident Consultant, Meagan Preston, for her assistance again this year.

We look forward to seeing everyone in just a few weeks!

Regards,

Todd Chamberlain, RFT
General Manager, Interior Logging Association



EMBRACING A SUSTAINABLE BRAND NEW DAY FOR TIMBER HARVESTING

ABOUT OUR LUNCHEON SPEAKER, HONORABLE RAVI PARMAR

MINISTER OF FORESTS



In November 2024, Ravi was appointed British Columbia's Minister of Forests and also serves as Deputy Government House Leader. Previously, he held the role of Parliamentary Secretary for International Credentials, where he led the implementation of the International Credentials Recognition Act.

Before his election as MLA, Ravi served for nearly a decade as Chair of the Sooke School District Board of Education. In this role, he worked alongside former Premier John Horgan to deliver the largest expansion of public education in the district's history, including the construction of several new schools and a first-of-its-kind post-secondary campus in downtown Langford.

Raised in Langford by parents who immigrated to Canada in the 1990s, Ravi has been a lifelong champion for his community. He has a strong record of standing up for people and delivering results.

The cost for this event is \$85 per person and includes lunch. You can find a digital copy of the registration form attached to this newsletter by clicking [HERE](#), as well as in the discussion section of our Facebook Event.

Don't delay on registering for this event! Spaces are limited and typically sell out fast!

If you require more information, please contact us at info@interiorlogging.org or call us at (250) 503-2199.

To directly link to the 68th Annual and Trade Show event on Facebook click on the Facebook icon below.



Or you can follow this link to the event page:

<https://www.facebook.com/share/1Aqkv4CNPNU/>

We are very pleased to announce that our guest speaker at this year's Luncheon is the Minister of Forests, Honorable Ravi Parmar.

Ravi Parmar was first elected as the MLA for Langford-Juan de Fuca in a by-election in 2023 and re-elected as the MLA for Langford-Highlands in 2024.

OUR RETURNING DINNER AND DANCE EVENT WITH AMAZING MUSIC

PERFORMED BY SHAWN LIGHTFOOT BAND



THE SHAWN LIGHTFOOT BAND is one of the Okanagan's most popular must-see live cover bands.

Shawn Lightfoot Band is a 4-piece high-octane powerhouse that will take you on an energy-packed musical journey you won't soon forget. The band is highly acclaimed for pumping out high-energy hits all night long.

The band has played on the big stage opening for headlining acts such as Platinum Blonde and Big Sugar. Performing a vast and diverse range of hits covering Rock to Country to Pop, the group has become renowned for creating an authentic and engaging musical

experience.

As one of the most intensely charismatic live acts, this is a show you don't want to miss.

"The Shawn Lightfoot Band" features veteran performers Shawn Lightfoot (Vocals/Guitar), Dennis Marcenko (Bass/Vocals), Roman Picco (Keyboards/Vocals) and Kevin Lane (Drums/Vocals).

Known for "exceeding expectations" with a "large repertoire" and having "something for everyone" we know they will be an excellent addition to this returning event!

Get ready for an inspiring and memorable live show!

This year's Dinner and Dance

will be held on Friday May 2nd from 6pm to 11pm at the Coast Kamloops Hotel.

Tickets are \$105 and on sale now. You can find a copy of the Ticket order form by clicking [here](#) or download the brochure with ticket order form on our website by clicking [here](#).

Check out a preview of his music by clicking [HERE](#) or head to their website:

<http://shawnlightfootband.com/>

They're back! Great music will once again be at the show this year according to the ILA General Manager Todd Chamberlain!

"We are very excited to announce that the return of The Shawn Lightfoot Band as our entertainment at the Friday night Dinner and Dance!"



ILA has partnered with
HearingLife

*Canada's largest hearing
healthcare provider*

HearingLife's vision is simple: "help more people hear better." Hearing better matters because when people hear better, they live better. Conversations are easier. Relationships are more rewarding. So HearingLife provides cutting edge hearing solutions through personalized hearing care—a lifechanging combination.

ILA members can take advantage of exclusive benefits at HearingLife and Network Partner locations. PLUS, these benefits can also be shared with immediate family!

**Simply mention your ILA membership at any of our
400+ clinics to receive your exclusive benefits below:**



Save an **EXTRA 10%** on the final purchase price of hearing aids and custom ear plugs**



360-AfterCare:
3 years of all the service and support you need including a 3 year warranty



50 AIR MILES® Reward Miles for completing a **FREE** hearing test.* Up to **2,000 AIR MILES®** Reward Miles with the purchase of select hearing aids***



3 years of complimentary batteries with the purchase of a hearing aid

Have any questions or want to book an appointment? We are "hear" for you.
Contact us at **1-833-523-3519**

Promo Code [Contact ILA](#)

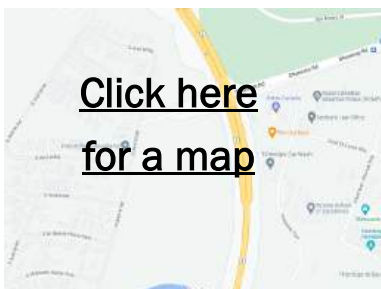
*A comprehensive hearing assessment is provided to adults ages 19 and older at no cost. The results of this assessment will be communicated verbally to you. If you request a copy of the Audiological Report, an administrative fee will apply. Child hearing tests are conducted at select locations for a fee, please contact us for more information. Offer not available in Quebec or for industrial hearing tests. This promotion is valid for select hearing aid models and cannot be combined with more than 1 partner promotion or discount unless stated otherwise. **The extra 10% will be applied to the remaining balance on hearing aids and accessories after all other discounts (if applicable). Offer applies to private sales of select hearing aids and discount is applied after any Government funding has been deducted. Some conditions apply, see clinic for details. AIR MILES available only at participating locations. ® **Please allow 45 days for Miles to be posted to your Collector Account. ***Reward Miles value is non-transferable and depends on select models purchased.

SHOW ATTENDEES CONFIRMED AT TIME OF PRESS FOR THE 67TH ILA AGM AND CONFERENCE

Show Attendees Confirmed At Time of Press

- [Acera Insurance Services Ltd.](#)
- [Anser Manufacturing Ltd.](#)
- [Aspen Custom Trailers](#)
- [Axis Forestry](#)
- [BC Forest Safety Council](#)
- [BC Timber Sales Kamloops](#)
- [Brandt Tractor](#)
- [Brandt Truck & Trailer](#)
- [Brutus Truck Bodies By Nor-Mar](#)
- [Bosch Truck Group](#)
- [Dearborn Ford](#)
- [Diligentools Trading Ltd.](#)
- [Finning Canada](#)
- [First Nations Emergency Services](#)
- [First Nations Forestry Council](#)
- [Forestry Works For BC](#)
- [Freflyt Industries](#)
- [Inland Group](#)
- [Interior Logging Association](#)
- [Kal Tire](#)
- [Kamloops Ford Lincoln](#)
- [Logging and Sawmilling Journal](#)
- [NORS](#)
- [Nicola Valley Institute of Technology](#)
- [Peerless](#)
- [Peterbilt Pacific Inc.](#)
- [Pro Pac Industries](#)
- [Quadco](#)
- [RJames Managment Group Ltd.](#)
- [Stinson Aerial Services Inc.](#)
- [Streamline](#)
- [Transportation Tech Supply Post](#)
- [T-Mar Industries Ltd.](#)
- [TEAAM Aeromedical](#)
- [The Carving Lot](#)
- [Top-Down Enterprises Inc.](#)
- [Ultra-Traction](#)
- [Valhalla Equipment Inc.](#)
- [Velocity Truck Centres](#)
- [Waratah Forestry](#)
- [Watt Direct](#)
- [Woodland Supplies](#)
- [WorkSafeBC](#)

Location of the Interior Logging Association 66th Annual AGM and Convention



Kamloops Powow Grounds
345 Powwow Trail,
Kamloops, BC



ILA Group Benefits Members

Optional coverage is available to ILA and NWLA Association members.



Optional Critical Illness

Critical Illness insurance provides a lump sum benefit following the diagnosis of a covered condition that can be used any way the insured wishes.



- Conditions covered include Cancer, Heart Attack, Multiple Sclerosis, Parkinson's and more.
- Coverage available to employees, spouses and dependent children under 70.
- You and your spouse may each purchase up to \$100,000 of coverage in units of \$25,000 without medical evidence.
- You can also add \$5,000 or \$10,000 of coverage for your dependent children.

Health Spending Account (HSA)

A Health Spending Account (HSA) is a flexible and tax-efficient way for incorporated small businesses to provide health and dental benefits to owners and employees. The corporation pays for eligible medical expenses through the HSA, and these reimbursements are 100% tax-deductible to the business and tax-free to the employee. HSA's offer cost control with no monthly premiums, coverage for a wide range of expenses and are easy to administer. For an owner-operated corporation, an HSA is a clear and strategic choice.

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

CHAIRPERSON'S NOTE FOR THE SHOW

SUBMITTED BY: TIM MENNING



I want to welcome back all of our Interior Logging Association Members, delegates and friends for the 68th ILA AGM and Convention!

We are so glad we can continue to run this amazing event with some great networking and business opportunities! We understand that times continue to be

challenging for everyone in the industry, but we continue to see we are “Stronger Together for Forestry’s Future”.

This years event will once again feature inside and outside displays, located together on the Powwow Grounds. As always, all displays are open to the General Public and NO ALCOHOL will be permitted on grounds. It is important to note that speed zones are in effect on school days.

We will once again be offering many opportunities for networking events and gatherings. This years show will include our Meet and Greet, Breakfast, Luncheon, and Dinner and Dance events. We will see the return of the Mechanical Tree Falling

Competition on simulator sponsored by Inland Truck and Equipment, and our 3rd Annual Big Truck Show 'N' Shine!

We are also pleased to welcome back the Interior Safety Conference again this year put on by the BC Forest Safety Council as part of our event. We ask that you please register directly with them, the information is included in the Weekend Agenda panel of our show pamphlet.

For all ILA Members, please plan to attend our Annual General Meeting on Friday, May 1st, 2026 from 8:30am to 10:00am at the Coast Kamloops Hotel.

On behalf of the Interior Logging Association Board of Directors and our Staff, I would like to thank all of the new and returning Co-Sponsors and Suppliers for their continued participation in our event year after year. We are very happy to be celebrating an incredible 68 years!

Last but not least, please know that we appreciate your support and attendance at this years' event. We look forward to seeing all of you in Kamloops!

Yours Truly,
Tim Menning
ILA Chairperson

REMINDER OF THE NATIONAL DAY OF MOURNING

SUBMITTED BY: BC FOREST SAFETY COUNCIL



BC Forest Safety

Safety is **good** business

Day of Mourning: Remembering, Reflecting and Renewing Our Commitment to Safety

Every year on April 28, workers, families, employers and communities come together to observe the National Day of Mourning and remember those who have lost their lives to work-related incidents or

occupational diseases.

In BC's Forest sector, the impact of serious incidents is felt deeply by families, coworkers and communities. In 2025, 138 BC workers died from a workplace injury or disease including seven fatalities in forestry. The Day of Mourning reminds us that be-

hind every statistic is a person whose life was changed forever and loved ones who continue to carry that loss.

Preventing injuries and fatalities requires a shared commitment to working safely, even when pressures or distractions exist. On April 28th, take time to reflect, talk with your crew and stay committed to safe work practices. The most meaningful way to honour those we have lost is to ensure that every work-

er goes home safe – every day.

BC Forest Safety Council has several resources to help you observe this important day. Visit our Day of Mourning resource page to download materials and take part in this important day of remembrance. Or visit the Day of Mourning website to find a ceremony in your community.



NEW CARVING ARTIST AT THIS YEARS' SHOW

SUBMITTED BY: DAVE MCKAMEY, THE CARVING LOT



The ILA is pleased to welcome a new on site carver to this years 68th AGM and Convention from Penticton BC.

Meet Dave McKamey, the Okanagan craftsman behind The Carving Lot. Specializing in custom chainsaw carving, wood refinishing and timber maintenance, Dave transforms

raw logs into high end art and functional custom builds.

Becoming a new regular on the pro division carving circuit, Dave travels to competitions and on-site projects across the region alongside his partner and their doggo. He is a proud member of the carving community and is looking forward to showcasing

his work and connecting with industry peers at this year's ILA AGM and Convention.

We welcome Dave and his talent as a wonderful addition to the show!

Check out The Carving Lot on Facebook!

<https://www.facebook.com/thecarvinglot/>

Or on Instagram:

<https://www.instagram.com/thecarvinglot/>



Manual Load Securement



- MSI injuries
- Slip & fall hazards
- 10 mins to secure load
- 10 mins to unsecure load



Log Load Securement

Automated Load Securement



- Fully automatic hydraulic system with control from inside or outside of cab
- 2 mins to secure load
- 0 min to unsecure load
- Exte Com90: [COM 90™ bunk with remote control | ExTe](#)



- Wrapper Thrower and Auto Tensioner pneumatically operated and controlled from ground
- One thrower and two tensioners per bundle
- Trinder Wasp: [Innovative solutions for primary sector - WASP](#)



Come check out Automated Systems at the ILA Conference, Powwow Grounds, Kamloops, BC On May 1st & 2nd, 2026

LOG LOAD SECUREMENT DEMONSTRATIONS AT THE SHOW!

SUBMITTED BY: BC FOREST SAFETY COUNCIL



BC Forest Safety

Safety is **good** business

The motion of throwing and securing log load wrappers can cause considerable stress on drivers' shoulders and overexertion-related musculoskeletal injuries are quite common among log truck operators. The [Log Truck Technical Advisory Committee](#) (LTTAC, which focuses on initiatives that reduce the risk of injuries to log truck operators), is conducting a multi-phase research project looking to reduce or eliminate injuries due to securing loads. To achieve this, industry is looking at automated load securement as a potential viable option. Two of these systems will be at the ILA Conference at the Powwow Grounds, in Kamloops, B.C.

The [Exte Com 90](#), produced by a Swedish based manufacturing company, will be available for

demonstrations. Tolko, FPInnovations and the BC Forest Safety Council have completed a pilot to test the Exte Com 90 within central BC. Read [final report here](#).

The Com 90 system includes:

- Bunks with telescoping stakes
- Automatic lashing arms
- In cab display
- In cab system monitoring
- System remote
- Hydraulic components
- Constant load securement pressure

The [Trinder WASP](#), produced by a New Zealand based engineering company, will also be available for demonstration. This system is currently being piloted by J. Bueckert Logging LTD.,



FPInnovations and the BC Forest Safety Council. This system is retrofittable to folding stakes.

The WASP system includes: Wrapper thrower with custom stakes fitted to each bolster for lifting the wrapper Auto tensioner which engages with the wrapper to secure the load and maintains constant tension

Load monitoring which measures the tension in the wrappers and alerts the driver to any faults initially and in transit

With innovative technology currently being tested, throwing wrappers is still the

reality for the Forest Industry. Earlier work of this study contains a set of Contractor Toolboxes for each of the top six alternative throwing methods. Read the [final report here](#). These are resources for employers and drivers to use to address the risk of injury from load securement activities. Each toolbox includes description for use, musculoskeletal injury (MSI) risk reduction measures, time requirements for use, estimated costs, safe work procedures, risk exposure, risk controls and other implementation resources.

All the load securement project reports can be found on the [Log Hauling page](#) of our website along with the resources listed above. If you have any questions, please contact the BC Forest Safety Council by calling 1-250-741-1060 or emailing transport.admin@bcforestsafe.org.

Contractor Toolboxes	Video Demonstrations
ContractorToolboxA_ImprovedThrowingMethodC.pdf	Toolbox A - Improved Throwing Method Demonstration Video
Contractor-ToolboxB_ThrowAssistUsingaPole.pdf	Toolbox B - Underhand Throw Using Lead Demonstration Video
ContractorToolboxC_ThrowAssistUsingaPole.pdf	Toolbox C - Throw Assist Using A Pole Demonstration Video
ContractorToolboxD_RotatorSaver.pdf	
Contractor-ToolboxE_LightweightWrappersOrTiedowns.pdf	
ContractorToolboxF_ElevatedPlatform.pdf	Toolbox F - Elevated Platform Demonstration Video



ILA MEMBER SPOTLIGHT—RJAMES MANAGEMENT GROUP

SUBMITTED BY: INTERIOR LOGGING ASSOCIATION

How well do you know our other members? Meet the team at RJames Management Group Ltd!

We want you to get to know each other better, so we have created our Member Spot-

lights. Over time we will introduce you to the people in your forestry community!

First established in 1968 Art James made the decision, with his wife Norma, to leave International Harvester after a great career there. Art decid-

ed to enter the dealership purchase program offered through IH and take over the freshly defunct Heathfield Equipment in Kamloops, B.C.

It was the only motor truck, agriculture, and construction equipment dealership in Can-

ada at the time. Read the entire spotlight below!

Follow us on social media for more spotlights in the future!



Interior Logging Association

ILA MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

RJames Management Group Ltd.

In 1968 Art James made the decision, with his wife Norma, to leave International Harvester after a great career there. Art decided to enter the dealership purchase program offered through IH and take over the freshly defunct Heathfield Equipment in Kamloops, B.C. It was the only motor truck, agriculture, and construction equipment dealership in Canada at the time. As well, Kamloops was a Pacific Truck dealer. In 1986 the James family decided to take on the Western Star product line, and, in turn, the IH product was removed from the dealership. In 1986 Rob James was moved to Williams Lake to work with Graham Keith to open the Williams Lake store. In 2018 Rob James purchased two dealerships in Alberta (Calgary and Red Deer), a parts and service location in Golden BC (2022) and opened a new dealership in West Kelowna in 2025.

We pride ourselves in an operating a personal and family-oriented business and we will always strive to give the best possible customer service. Everyone who works here is accessible and approachable. It is our intention to solve customer issues with outside the box thinking and having the customer's business goals in mind. We don't consider the job done until the customer is back on the road or happy with their new purchase. We are also heavily involved in the community and give back when and wherever we can. Without the people in our community, we are nothing.

We have been active ILA members since January 15th, 1974! We choose to be a member of the ILA because it is an important part of our community, and we understand the gravity of supporting the community we work and live in.



ILA BOARD OF DIRECTORS SPOTLIGHT—RON VOLANSKY
SUBMITTED BY: INTERIOR LOGGING ASSOCIATION

We know you, but how well do you know us? Meet Ron Volansky, the Interior Logging Association Board Of Directors Past Chairperson.

We want you to get to know all of us better, so we have created our Board of Directors Spotlights. Over time we will intro-

duce you to each of our Board Members and tell you about their connection to the forestry sector, areas of expertise, and why they choose to sit on the Board for the Interior Logging Association. These will be posted on our social media like Facebook, Instagram and

LinkedIn.

We pride ourselves on having a diverse, well rounded and experienced board who are well versed in the Forestry industry and the challenges we all face.

These are the people out there working and advocating for

YOU!

Follow us for all of the most up to date announcements and information!



Interior Logging Association

BOARD OF DIRECTORS SPOTLIGHT

Ron Volansky

Meet the Interior Logging Association Past Chairperson Ron Volansky.

Ron has been in the industry for over 35 years. He began his career working part time in the summer while going to school running a line skidder, and eventually full time once he was out of school in 1990.

In 1996 Ron took the reigns family owned R&A Logging with his Brother. Operating in BC's Southern Interior, R&A Logging is a "stump to dump" company, handling all phases of logging operations from Road Construction to Log Hauling.

Ron loves being out in the bush, loves the industry, and the camaraderie that comes with it. He chose to be a part of the Interior Logging Association Board of Directors to ensure that the Association has enough voices so that the struggles of the industry are heard by those who need to hear it.

We thank Ron for his years of dedication to the industry and to the ILA.





Community Futures North Okanagan offers programs and services to help businesses thrive. We provide support so you can focus on what truly matters.



Finding Staff

Struggling with hiring? Our Employer Support Services specialists help you navigate the labor market, overcome hiring barriers, and attract and retain the right talent. We'll work with you one-on-one to build a strong team, allowing you to focus on growing your business.



Business Loans

As a community-minded lender, we offer flexible business loans for start-up capital, seasonal needs, or expansion. Whether you're just starting or looking to seize new opportunities, we provide the capital and business advising to help your dreams become reality. Your success benefits the entire community.



Selling Your Business

Ready for a change? We help you create a succession plan to ensure a smooth, rewarding sale of your business. Attract the right buyer quickly, get a strong offer, and transition confidently to your next adventure.

Book an appointment: [Click Here!](#)

WHAT HAPPENS WHEN ANGER TAKES OVER

REPUBLICATED FROM THE VANCOUVER ISLAND COUNSELING NEWSLETTER CHOICES



What Happens When Anger Takes Over and What We Can Do Instead?

Republished with permission from the February 2026 edition of Vancouver Island Counselling's newsletter Choices.

When communities experience loss, betrayal, or sudden change, anger is a natural response. When businesses close it's not just an economic event; it is an emotional one. For many families, it meant lost livelihoods, broken routines, and a sense that decisions were made far away by people who would never feel the consequences. In moments like these, the urge for revenge, blame, or "getting even" can feel justified. But science tells us something important: revenge rarely heals what anger breaks.

Why Revenge Is Addictive

Revenge doesn't just feel emotional — it's chemical. When we imagine or act on revenge, the brain releases dopamine, the same neurotransmitter involved in addiction, gambling, and social media engagement. That surge creates a temporary sense of power, control, and relief.

But like any addictive loop, the effect fades quickly. The brain then seeks another "hit," which often means more outrage, more blame, more conflict. Over time, this conditions the mind to crave anger as stimulation, trapping people and communities in cycles of resentment and escalation.

In simple terms: revenge rewards the brain short-term and drains the soul long-term.

Anger Is Not the Enemy — Suppression Is

Anger itself isn't bad. It's a signal that something matters. What harms us is either exploding outward or stuffing it down until it turns into bitterness, burnout, or depression.

Psychologists describe healthy anger processing as having three stages:

1. Acknowledge it – "This hurts. I feel angry."
2. Understand it – What value was violated? Security? Fairness? Respect?
3. Redirect it – Channel that energy toward something constructive.

From Closure to Collective Healing

Anger often turns inward or sideways, toward neighbors, institutions, or social media arguments. That fragmentation benefits no one. What actually rebuilds resilience is shared meaning and forward momentum.

This can look like:

- Supporting retraining and local job initiatives
- Preserving community identity through storytelling and history
- Advocating for fair transition policies instead of personal retaliation
- Turning frustration into civic action rather than personal attacks

How to Deal with Dark Thoughts When They Show Up

When revenge fantasies or intense anger surface, try this science-backed approach:

- Pause the body first – Slow breathing (4 seconds in, 6 seconds out) calms the nervous system.
- Name the emotion – Simply labeling "anger" or "grief" reduces intensity.
- Ask the better question – Instead of "Who's to blame?" try "What would actually help me heal?"
- Limit outrage fuel – Doom scrolling and rage-based content amplify stress and distort reality.

Choosing Strength Over Satisfaction

True strength isn't found in retaliation — it's found in refusing to let loss define our future. Communities that recover best aren't the ones that suppress anger, they are the ones that transform it into purpose.

Anger can burn bridges. Or it can light the way forward. The choice, collectively and individually, still belongs to us.

NEW CARVING ARTIST AT THIS YEARS' SHOW

SUBMITTED BY: DAVE MCKAMEY, THE CARVING LOT



CONNECTION
TO CARE



MONDAY - FRIDAY 8AM - 8PM

778-247-2273 (CARE)

Connection to care is a **FREE** phone service providing anonymous and confidential support to BC Forestry workers.



A PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN:

BC ASSOCIATION
of CLINICAL
COUNSELLORS



BC MUNICIPAL
SAFETY Association



BC Forest Safety



Your mental health and wellbeing matters.

ConnectionToCare.ca



Do you have your tickets yet for the Meet & Greet, Breakfast, Luncheon or Dinner & Dance?

Tickets are selling FAST! Get yours today!

Click [HERE](#) to be redirected to our website!



ILA 3RD ANNUAL BIG TRUCK SHOW 'N' SHINE

DATE: MAY 1ST 9:30AM TO 4:30PM &
MAY 2ND 2026 9:30AM TO 3:00PM

LOCATION: KAMLOOPS POWWOW GROUNDS - 345 POWWOW TRAIL



**\$25 + GST
ENTRY
FEE!**

ENTER TODAY AT
WWW.INTERIORLOGGING.ORG AND CLICK
ON EXHIBITOR REGISTRATION

2026 INTERIOR SAFETY CONFERENCE - STRONGER TOGETHER: SHARING RESPONSIBILITY FOR SAFETY

SUBMITTED BY: THE BC FOREST SAFETY COUNCIL



BCFSC's Interior Safety Conference

Thursday, April 30, 2026, in Kamloops, BC

Mark your calendar for the [Interior Safety Conference \(ISC\)](#) taking place on Thursday, April 30th at the Coast Kamloops Conference Centre, in Kamloops, BC. This annual event is a must-attend for BC forestry professionals, offering a unique opportunity to delve into safety-related issues and learn ways to enhance safety across industry.

The ISC is FREE for anyone who works in any phase of the forest industry from silviculture to harvesting to wood products manufacturing.

This year's theme, Stronger Together: Sharing Responsibility for Safety, promises to deliver powerful insights and practical knowledge through a series of compelling presentations by industry experts and speakers.

Featured Speakers

- **Katherine Jones** from Lariat HR Consulting: Katherine will be hosting a session on Mental Health as a Safety System, specifically aimed at supervisors and employers to recognize mental health concerns and understand their roles in crisis management.
- **Mike Kay**: A retired trauma paramedic will talk about the importance of understanding your equip-

ment and the initial First Aid treatment for serious injury medivac in remote locations.

- **Chris Miller**: Chris is an Occupational Safety Officer with WorkSafeBC. He will share insights on Prime Contractor regulations in forestry.
- **Darcy Kulai**: A former mill worker will share his life-altering story of being seriously injured on the job while working on the green chain when he was only 20 years old.
- **Rob Schweitzer** is the Assistant Deputy Minister (ADM) for BC Wildfire. He will be talking about contractor safety and processes during wildfire season.

Event Highlights

- **Engaging Presentations**: Hear real-life experiences that will help you think about transforming safety in your company.
- **Networking Opportunities**: Connect with fellow professionals and industry leaders.
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[tion \(ILA\) Conference](#), which is celebrating its 68th Annual AGM and Convention from April 30 – May 2 in

Kamloops, BC. This partnership enhances the value of attending, offering even more opportunities for learning and networking.

Registration: Closes April 17, 2026 [Register Online](#) or scan the QR code to access the registration link.



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VALUE CHAIN PANEL AT THE 2026 COFI CONVENTION

REPUBLISHED FROM TREE FROG NEWS, WRITTEN BY KELLY MCCLOSKEY, EDITOR



Value Chain Panel Points to Regional Clusters, Workforce Gaps and Public Narrative as Keys to Forest Sector Resilience

The Value Chain panel at the 2026 COFI Convention brought together perspectives from across the sector’s supply chain, with participants including Nick Arkle, CEO of Gorman Group; Kelly Marciniw, Chief Operating Officer of Zirnhelt Timber Frames and Chair of BC Wood Specialties Group; Todd Chamberlain, General Manager of the Interior Logging Association; and Blair Dickerson, Vice President of Public Affairs Canada at Domtar. The session was moderated by Sonya Zeitler Fletcher, Vice President of Market Development at Forestry Innovation Investment.



Asked by Zeitler Fletcher about where Gorman Group is moving as it relates to a regional cluster, Arkle described an approach to bringing together First Nations, communities, manufacturers, and value-added producers within a defined geographic area around a shared and secure fibre supply. He said the cluster model is not about subsidization but about competition and collaboration — attracting investment, ideas, and talent to a region where the conditions for success exist.



He described First Nations involvement as the first step in the value chain, not an afterthought, and pointed to the First Nations Forestry Council’s Business Connect initiative as a grassroots example of the kind of relationship-building that underpins the model. He said the goal is to bring together

all those who depend on wood flowing in a region — from primary manufacturers through to mass timber, biofuels, and biochemicals — and said everything that can be produced from hydrocarbons today can potentially be produced from wood in the future. The foundation for all of it, he said, remains predictable, affordable access to fibre.



Chamberlain raised workforce as one of the most pressing challenges facing the logging contractor community — and one that does not get enough attention alongside the fibre access conversation. He said the sector has an aging workforce, with some log truck operators still working in their seventies, and that the pipeline of younger workers is not keeping pace. He said regulatory requirements for commercial driver training add cost and complexity, and that equipment operators need a formal trades designation and training pathway — including simulator-based programs of the kind used in US forestry colleges — if the industry is going to attract and develop the next generation of skilled workers. He said the ILA is

working with the First Nations Forestry Council and BCIT toward a trades program for equipment operators and sees it as essential.

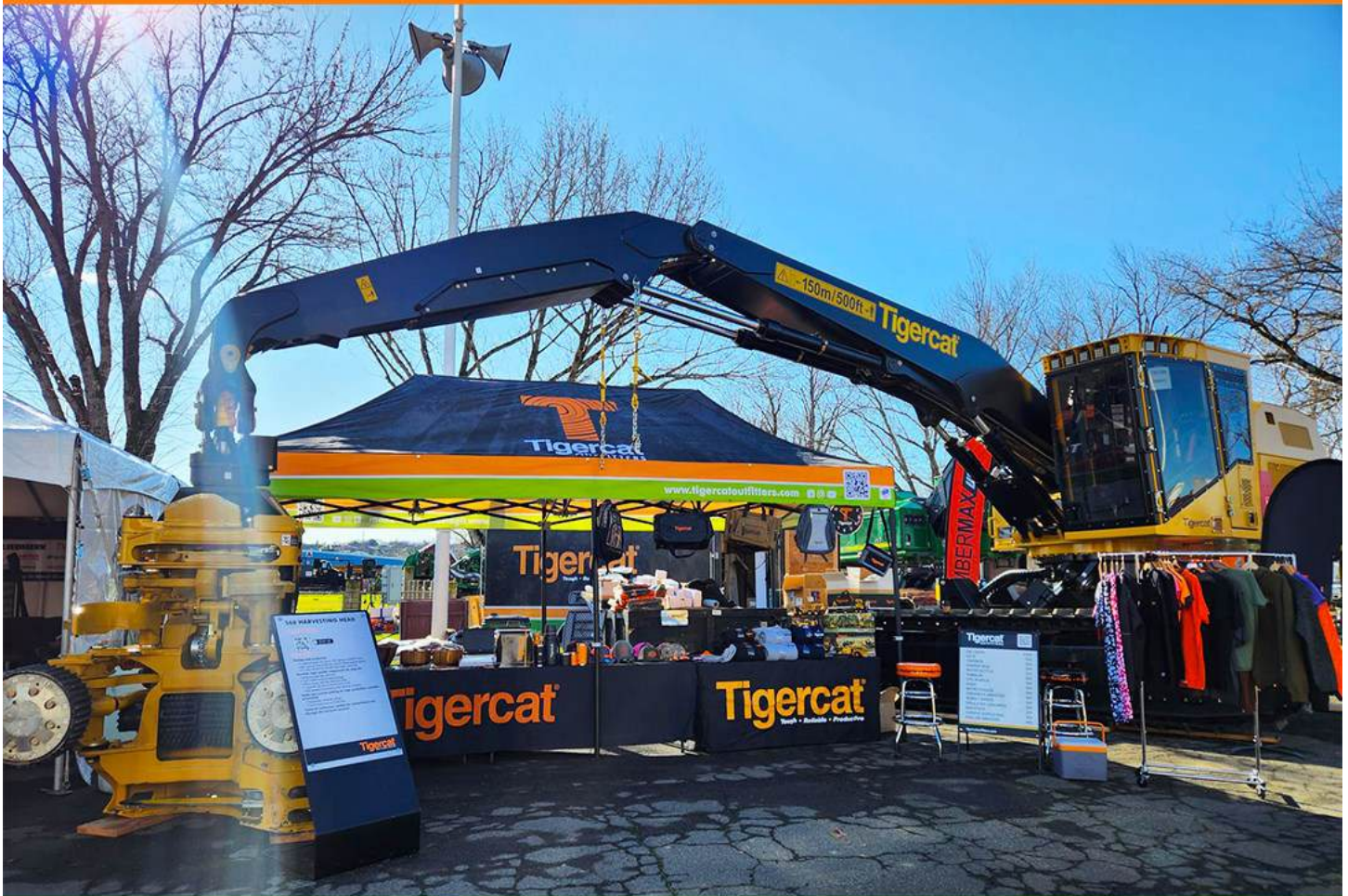


Dickerson said Domtar’s experience operating across multiple Canadian provinces has produced consistent lessons. Working with communities and showing them the benefits of the industry at every step is non-negotiable, she said, and high-trust Indigenous partnerships — such as Domtar’s long-standing relationship with the Meadowlake Tribal Council in Saskatchewan — produce the kind of stability and responsiveness that makes difficult situations manageable. She said those lessons need to be replicated and shared across the country, continued on page 20...

SEE YOU AT THE

Interior Logging Association's 68th AGM & Convention

April 30 - May 2, 2026 | Kamloops, BC



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OUTFITTERS



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NEW CARVING ARTIST AT THIS YEARS' SHOW CONTINUED FROM PAGE 18...

SUBMITTED BY: DAVE MCKAMEY, THE CARVING LOT

and that the sector's goal of supplying jobs is ultimately what enables communities to flourish.



Marciniw said that from the perspective of BC Wood members — most of whom do not hold tenure and depend entirely on the value chain for their input materials — supply reliability is critical. She said having only one supplier for certain materials creates significant risk, and that the interconnected nature of the value chain means one link's fibre challenge becomes everyone's problem downstream. She also

pushed back on the idea that forestry is a sunset industry, arguing that the message going out to students and career-changers will determine whether the sector attracts the people it needs. She said students deciding where to focus their careers will not choose an industry they hear described as in decline, and that getting a positive and accurate message out is as important as any policy change. Asked whether their organizations can move at the speed of opportunity, all four said yes — with conditions. Arkle said yes if the right conditions can be assembled, and that the regional cluster model is precisely about creating those conditions at a local level. Marcinew said yes because the industry has no choice — forestry is a solution to too many pressing global

challenges, from housing to biofuels to carbon sequestration. Chamberlain said yes because logging contractors are inherently adaptable, and said his members will do what it takes to keep their employees working and their communities supported, even when it means reconfiguring equipment at their own cost to access a different market.

On the question of public support and social licence, the panel echoed a theme that ran through the conference. Bruce Anderson had told delegates the day before that the industry worries too much about social licence relative to the actual level of public support that exists for forestry. Arkle built on that while pointing to how much further there is to go — recalling a

conversation with the head of the Swedish Forestry Association who visited BC to understand the differences between the two jurisdictions. The most significant difference identified, Arkle said, was not land use policy or watershed management but the fact that Swedish society broadly accepts and supports its forest industry in a way that BC's does not yet. He said the momentum toward more collaborative thinking between industry, communities, and First Nations that he has seen develop over the last five years needs to be sustained and built upon.

Drafted with the assistance of digital tools to streamline the process.

Images © Tree Frog News

We are excited to announce the Hungryysh Food Truck will be on-site at this years show!



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BC Forest Safety



INTERIOR SAFETY CONFERENCE



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COAST KAMLOOPS HOTEL & CONFERENCE CENTRE

Stronger Together: A Shared Responsibility for Safety

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Darcy Kulai | Young Worker Safety



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Chris Miller | Prime Contractors



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ILA SILENT AUCTION—GIVING BACK TO THE COMMUNITY

SUBMITTED BY: INTERIOR LOGGING ASSOCIATION



The Interior Logging Association, it's Staff and Board of Directors continue to strive to ensure they are contributing to the community, either through our scholarship funds, sponsorships, advertising, or by volunteering in the community. This year, we are excited to announce the return of our Silent Auction during the show.

With the help of many of our sponsors, vendors and partner companies we have managed to accumulate an amazing variety of silent auction items which will be available at this year's show.

The auction items will be available for viewing and bidding at the Coast Hotel and Convention Center from Thursday April 30th 6pm to 10pm and Friday May 1st 8am to 11pm.

This year we are pleased to announce we will again be donating to the Ty Pozzobon Foundation as our partner

for the Silent Auction. For those of you who are not familiar with this cause, here is an excerpt from the site:

"Ty Pozzobon, A.K.A. Pozzy was born to be a cowboy. He was born on November 9, 1991, and grew up in Merritt, British Columbia. Ty had a dream of mastering extreme sport animals. Eight seconds of domination, rewarded with gold buckles, glory, and fame. The young bull rider saw his childhood dreams come true. By the age of 25, Pozzobon was a three-time Canadian Finals Rodeo (CFR) qualifier. He was crowned the 2016 Professional Bull Riders (PBR) Canadian Champion. In 2016 Ty posted five event wins. He also made Canada proud by finishing fourth in the PBR Built Ford Tough World Finals in Las Vegas, Nevada.

Professional Bull Riding is a dangerous sport. The young phenom sustained his fair share of injuries. Bumps, bruises, and broken bones were not uncommon. More notably, Ty suffered several

concussions in the rodeo arena. The damage these caused was sadly irreparable. Ty took his own life, January 9th, 2017. An autopsy confirmed that he suffered from Chronic traumatic encephalopathy (CTE). The first confirmed case identified in a bull rider. Ty's life ended far too early. In his honour, the Ty Pozzobon Foundation was formed. Its ultimate goal is to prevent CTE from taking the lives of any western lifestyle participants, ever again.

Ty Pozzobon Foundation was established in February of 2017. Tanner Byrne and Chad Besplug were two of Ty's closest friends and western lifestyle participants. They were instrumental in starting the Ty Pozzobon Foundation. Chad Besplug stated, "we want to break the stigma and start the conversation about mental health". No one should have to battle this demon on their own. Bull riders would share advice on how to stay on top

of a bull. Now they are sharing advice on how to stay on top of life."

The Pozzobon family has a long-time connection to the Forest Industry, Ty's grandparents Fred and Carol Lowe were a mainstay of the Logging Community in Merritt for over 50 years. Fred just recently retired from driving truck at the "young" age of 78. Ty's Aunt Laura and Uncle Lorne have a successful trucking company in Merritt and both his mother Leanne and father Luke are well established names in the Forest Industry. Leanne has become a strong advocate to ensure the safety of all participants in the world of rodeo and we are very proud to be able to assist her in her efforts.

We invite everyone to come down and view all the amazing donations this year and bid generously as partial proceeds of this silent auction will be donated to the Ty Pozzobon Foundation.

Thank you to all the generous donators and to you the bidders in advance for making this a success!

To learn more about this cause go to:

www.typozzobon.com

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EVENT DATES AND AGENDA FOR THE 66TH AGM AND CONVENTION



ILA 68TH AGM & CONVENTION

APRIL 30TH - MAY 2ND, 2026

"STRONGER TOGETHER FOR FORESTRY'S FUTURE"

Events at:

Coast Kamloops Hotel & Conference Centre
1250 Rogers Way, Kamloops BC

&

Powwow Grounds (Inside and Outside Displays)
100-345 Powwow Trail, Kamloops BC

CONVENTION AGENDA

THURSDAY, APRIL 30TH, 2026

Interior Safety Conference—BC Forest Safety Council
8:00 am - 4:00 pm For the full agenda and pre-registration visit:
<https://www.bcforestsafe.org/news-events/safety-conferences/>

Set Up Inside & Outside Displays
8:00 am - 10:00 pm Powwow Grounds

Convention Registration
4:00 pm - 7:00 pm Coast Kamloops Hotel

ILA Directors Meeting
4:00 pm - 5:30 pm Coast Kamloops Hotel

Meet & Greet \$80.00
6:00 pm — 10:00 pm—Coast Kamloops Hotel

FRIDAY, MAY 1ST, 2026

Breakfast \$45.00
7:30 am — 9:30 am—Coast Kamloops Hotel

ILA Annual General Meeting
(ILA Members Only)
8:30 am — 10:00 am Coast Kamloops Hotel

Inside & Outside Displays No Charge
9:30 am — 4:30 pm Powwow Grounds

Truck Show & Shine & Simulator Tree Falling Competition

Convention Registration
10:30 am - 4:00 pm Coast Kamloops Hotel

Friday Luncheon \$85.00
11:30 am — 1:30 pm Coast Kamloops Hotel

Luncheon Guest Speaker: To Be Announced

Friday Night Dinner and Dance \$115.00
6:00 pm to 11:00 pm Coast Kamloops Hotel
Guest Band: Shawn Lightfoot Band

SATURDAY, MAY 2ND, 2026

Inside & Outside Displays No Charge
9:30 am — 3:00 pm Powwow Grounds

Truck Show & Shine & Simulator Tree Falling Competition

3:00 pm End Of Event on Powwow Grounds



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REGISTRATION FORMS FOR EXHIBITORS AND TICKETS

TO PRINT THIS PAGE, SELECT FILE, PRINT, AND PRINT ONLY PAGE 17



2026 ILA AGM AND CONVENTION
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