



Also Serving – Interior Logging Association (ph 250-503-2199) & North West Loggers Association (ph 250-635-6801)

Issue # 524 Week of August 10, 2009

The CILA's Board of Directors meets next Friday at our offices in Prince George. It's a regular meeting to review our recent activities, and to plan our initiatives for the next few months. Our meeting space is limited, so CILA members who would like to attend should call the office before noon Wednesday to reserve.

Around the industry

Two Prince George bioenergy projects that made B.C. Hydro's first call to produce energy from wood waste have had their energy purchase agreements approved by the B.C. Utilities Commission. Canfor Pulp's electricity project at its PG Pulp and Paper mill is expected to begin producing electricity under the agreement by next month. P.G. Interior Waste to Energy has been awaiting BCUC approval before beginning construction of its planned \$50-million project.

Cheslatta Forest Products' planer mill southwest of Vanderhoof is running again for at least two months, after a 10-month shutdown. The start-up will employ about 20 workers, and about 25 million board feet of lumber is in the yard, ready to process.

West Fraser continues to run its lower-cost Williams Lake operations three shifts a day on a five-day a week schedule, but has shut down its mills in 100 Mile House and Chasm for two weeks.

Gitxsan Forest Enterprises received a \$72,650 grant to do environmental clean-up work that will help get the old Kispiox Forest Products mill site in South Hazelton Sawmill back into use.

Finning shares sank on the stock market this week after its revenues and earnings fell more than expected as the recession hit all of its businesses.

Ainsworth earned \$24.7 million for the quarter ended June 30; the earnings included a \$50.4-million gain on foreign exchange. The company had an operating loss of \$19.1 million compared with an operating profit of \$900,000 a year ago.



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CILA members get wildfire costs guide

With the wildfire season creating challenges to contractors in several ways, from meeting fire control requirements to managing costs, the CILA has developed a second Confidential Guide for members about dealing with wildfires.

This most-recent Confidential Guide gives contractors valuable information about what operating costs can be claimed as a result of fire management activities.

The first Confidential Guide regarding wildfire operations, prepared a few weeks ago, outlines the requirements contractors must meet when conducting logging operations during the wildfire season.

There now are seven Confidential Guides for CILA Members in our series, with at least three more in the planning stage.

Blewater Business Solutions, a Prince George company that has developed computer software to cost timber harvesting, has received \$229,000 through a federal tax credit program meant to foster scientific research and experimental development. The software also has applications in other areas like road building, pipeline construction and transmission line maintenance,



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We've got the goods, we're delivering

For newsletter readers who filled out our CILA Issues and Services survey and have been wondering what we do with all the information, here's a quick look at that we learned, confirmed, and are doing.

First, we asked about the issues you find most challenging, and the services you need. As expected, several topics turned up on both lists.

For example, many of you expressed big concerns about contract and rate negotiations, wondered how Bill 13, the Timber Harvesting Contract and Subcontract Regulation, and also said you needed rate negotiation assistance – no surprise there.

On this one, we quickly developed a CILA guide to the key features of Bill 13 as they relate to such points as rate proposals, amount of work and other concerns. We also work directly with CILA members to inform them of processes and other tools, and refer them to specialized help when they need it.

Back to the survey: Those who responded highlighted 12 issues of greatest concern. The top five are Bill 13 (what it does and doesn't offer), contracts and rates, BC Timber Sales concerns, business opportunities, and picking one's way through WorkSafe BC regulations. We have been working on all of them.

On the services side, 16 service needs were identified, and we have nine of them covered to varying degrees – benefit program and affinity purchase plans, rate negotiations help, safety information and help, legal, accounting and equipment referral services and a computerized operating cost program.

The survey – your input – also gave us some great ideas on how to provide even better levels of service to our members, and with both MaryAnne Arcand and I now splitting the workload, we're moving fast to ensure the CILA is the best it can be, and the 'go-to' organization for loggers, truckers and suppliers who need help and want to grow their businesses.

Roy Nagel, Executive Director, Policy and Regulation
