



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

Issue # 534 Week of October 19, 2009

SmartDriver sessions set

FP Innovations will be presenting its training presentation entitled Smart Driver for Forestry Trucks as part of the CILA's series of community meetings around the region.

SmartDriver for Forestry Trucks is specifically designed to meet the needs of this sector of the transportation industry. The training offers information on energy efficiency to fleet managers, instructors and drivers for all aspects of transportation and trucking, from spec'ing vehicles and components to maintenance procedures, conducting haul operations and driving techniques. This is a great course for truck and pickup owners and operators, to help save money by increasing fuel efficiency and decreasing wear and tear on brakes and driveline components.

The CILA meetings will be held in the following locations, all are scheduled Saturdays: Smithers Oct. 31, Terrace Nov. 7, Prince George Nov. 14, Williams Lake Nov. 21, Valemount Nov. 28, Vanderhoof Dec. 5 and Mackenzie Dec. 12.

Tolko, Band dispute logging

Tolko is in a nose-to-nose confrontation with the Okanagan Indian Band over its plans to log beetle-killed pine from the Brown's Creek area west of Vernon.

The area, which is within Tolko's tree farm licence, has been the focus of a land claim dispute for 10 years.

A Tolko spokesman says the company delayed activities for more than 28 months in recognition of the importance of the area to the band, but now has to start logging the pine trees while they still have value, and to reduce the wildfire risk.

Okanagan Band chief Fabian Alexis says logging would disrupt an effort by band elders to preserve evidence in the area he says is vital to their court case.



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Report urges major tenure reform

A report on the future of B.C.'s forest industry, written for the BC Business Council and unveiled at its Outlook 2020 summit session this week, urges government to make reforms that put investors and capital ahead of other forestry interests.

The report's sole recommendation is to give tenancy rights to forest companies, which would allow them to make leasehold improvements on the land. The report says tenancy rights is the key to developing a smaller, well-capitalized industry, and that if government fails to transform the tenure system, B.C. will see more mill closures and industry decline.

It urges government to build a totally new tenure system that would give investors greater security and get rid of federal restrictions on forest company consolidation and provincial log export restrictions.

The forest industry is the best sector to develop bioenergy potential and to manage silviculture to sequester greenhouse gases, the report said.

Environmental groups were among the first to react, saying they have big concerns about giving forest companies more rights over land access and management without addressing environmental issues such as biodiversity and climate change.

Key points in the report raise a lot of questions about how the government will proceed with tenure reform, silviculture initiatives and opening up the forest industry to new entrants and emerging industries.



The Central Interior Logging Association's Weekly Log-Harvesting Industry Update

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SNIPPETS -- News from around the industry

AbitibiBowater started up a shift at one of its planer mills in Mackenzie last weekend, and with a sawmill due to start up right away, it will create work for about 10 more contractors and put about 60 employees back to work, says a company spokesman.

Paraagon Wood Products has reopened its Lumby operation after a year-long shutdown. The mill previously focused entirely on cedar, but now will also mill pine and fir dimensional lumber. It's also planning to market in Asia, as well as selling to Canadian and U.S. customers.

Sigurdson Brothers Sawmill near Hanceville (Williams Lake) has been sold to the Anaham, Redstone, Stone and Toosey native bands for \$780,000. The bands say they will wait until the economy improves before re-opening the mill.

The third biofuel subsidy in less than a year is on its way to becoming a reality in the U.S. This time, it's a tax credit on fuels made from cellulose, promoting cries of 'foul' from Canada's forest industry. The cellulosic fuel tax credit is designed to compensate producers of biofuel from cellulose, as opposed to corn, for the higher cost of their product. It offers a break of \$1.01 a gallon, which translates into a \$50-billion subsidy over three years.

It's a fact -- Canada's forests contain biomass that is the equivalent of about 69 years of our fossil fuel consumption at current levels -- enough to run close to 200 of the world's largest biomass energy, wood pellet and second-generation ethanol plants.
