



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

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Around the industry

B.C. will spend \$5 million more in the coming year to market wood products in China, focusing on near-term commercial opportunities, while continuing to develop longer-term projects such as promoting multi-storey wood-frame construction. It's now a \$13-million effort.

Ainsworth and the United Steelworkers will soon begin talks on finding ways to restart the company's Lillooet and Savona operations. Ainsworth closed the sawmills that manufacture concrete forming products in June, laying off 250 workers. It blamed a rising Canadian dollar and poor markets.

\$3.2 million will be spent to improve 440 kilometers of Forest Service roads in the Hazelton and surrounding areas – part of a \$20-million resource road upgrade program launched by the Ministry of Forests and Range.

The provincial government introduced its Wood First Act in the Legislature this week. The intent of the Act is to set out new rules requiring provincially-funded construction projects to use wood as the primary building material. Forest Minister Pat Bell said the act is just one step in a series by the government to "promote a stronger wood culture" across Canada that will benefit the industry, forest-dependent communities and the climate.

Pulp and paper mills across Canada were to find out this week how much they'll get from Ottawa's \$1-billion green energy fund, introduced last June to counter U.S. pulp mill subsidies. Under the program, mills can apply for a credit of 16 cents per litre of a pulp by-product called black liquor that they burn to create energy.



Mackenzie mill startup close?

There are a lot of fingers crossed in Mackenzie, hoping that nothing gets in the way of an anticipated restart of AbitibiBowater's Mackenzie mill next week.

On Monday, the United Steelworkers said workers had voted in favour of a six-month deal that would result in the mill running for at least three of four months on one shift, putting 60 workers back to work.

The company hasn't confirmed any start-up plans or agreement with the union, and speculation is that bankruptcy protection proceedings might be

hampering the flow of information.

AbitibiBowater owns two sawmills and a paper mill at Mackenzie, which have been shut down since January 2008.

When and if AbitibiBowater comes through its bankruptcy troubles, what will it look like? Half of its sales have been newsprint, and that industry is in decline.

Some industry-watchers say forest companies such as AbitibiBowater must shift away from a core business of making wood products, pulp and paper because demand is declining, and move into producing bio-energy and making bio-fuels and bio-chemicals. Others say 'don't shift' – integrate the bio side into a more broadly-based operation the overall lumber, pulp and paper.

Safety awards honor two on Coast

A Powell River forestry worker has won a provincial award for advancing safe practices in B.C.'s forest industry. Roger Whittaker, safety coordinator for 3 Leaf Contracting Ltd., is the recipient of the BC Forest Safety Council's "MVP" Safety Leader of the Year Award.

The Cary White Memorial Lifetime Achievement Award was given to Jack Miller, a faller who lives in Port McNeill and is employed by Western Forest Products, Englewood Division. Miller was selected from among nine candidates for his 35-year-long commitment to forest safety and his vigilant safety advocacy work.

"Change can only happen in our industry when people stand up for safety and become advocates for a different forestry future," said Reynold Hert, BC Forest Safety Council CEO. "Jack Miller and Roger Whittaker are true safety leaders and we are proud to acknowledge their contributions to our industry through these awards."

Whittaker referred to his award as "an overwhelming surprise and honor," adding that any kind of recognition like that belongs to the people who come and go to work safely every day. "That's who the award really belongs to. All I do is organize information."



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

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The Safety MVP of the Year Award is given to an individual or group that promotes forest safety in B.C. by developing new safety initiatives or innovations that have made a difference in forest worker safety. Whittaker was selected from a dozen other forest professionals from across B.C. for his dedication to and passion for safe practices in the industry.
