



Interior Logging Association

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THE ILA INSIDER

OCTOBER 2023

The ILA Final Quarter of 2023 Update

SUBMITTED BY: TODD CHAMBERLAIN, RFT, ILA GENERAL MANAGER

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Happy Fall everyone!

It's no secret it's been a long Summer for many, with drought conditions and a slough of wildfires in what seems like almost every single region of the Province. So while the hot sunny weather has come to a close, the cooler wetter weather does spell relief and a return to work for many before the snow falls.

Behind the scenes we have been already been working on the 66th Annual AGM and Convention being held on May 9, 10, 11, 2024 in Kamloops BC. Todd, Staff and the Board have been traveling to different regions for meetings, engaging with key stakeholders, gathering information to take forward to different arms of government, actively connecting our Members with opportunities, and of course planning for next year.

We have been sending more communication via email and asking for feedback over the last couple of months. If you are NOT receiving our emails, please let Nancy know and provide her with your up to date email address so that you do not miss out on important opportunities and information. You can reach her at nancy@interiorlogging.org or call the office at 250-503-2199.

Also, a friendly reminder, our FIR (Forestry Impact Recovery) Advisor, Meagan Preston, is available to ANY Interior Logging Member to assist you with your business. If you are looking for programs, loans, grants, connection to other resources, business ideas or help, she will be with us until December of 2024 to assist you. You can now reach her directly on her ILA email at meagan@interiorlogging.org.

We hope you enjoy this issue of the ILA Insider, and hope everyone had a Happy Thanksgiving.

Regards,

Todd Chamberlain, RFT
General Manager, Interior Logging Association



EMBRACING A SUSTAINABLE BRAND NEW DAY FOR TIMBER HARVESTING

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE 2023 SCHOLARSHIP ILA WINNERS

SUBMITTED BY: INTERIOR LOGGING ASSOCIATION



The recipient of the 2023 Trades Scholarship of \$1000 is Trayton Watson of Langley BC, who is attending a Technical School to train as an Electrician and will be on his way to earning his Red Seal over the next 4 years with a company he hopes to manage in the future so he can mentor new electricians.



The recipient of the 2023 Forestry Scholarship in the amount of \$2,000 is Emily Stewart of Vernon, BC. Emily is pursuing her Bachelor of Natural Resource Science. She has enrolled in a University that will allow her to take courses that incorporate forestry, fire management, fisheries and conservation.



The recipient of the 2023 Member Scholarship is the amount of \$1000 is Sydney Polacik of Fernie BC. Sydney is pursuing her diploma in Bakery and Pastry Arts at a highly accredited culinary school. Her long term goal is to work for an experienced pastry chef to gain more knowledge before traveling the world to share her knowledge.

It's that time of year again, the return to school for many young people in our communities. The ILA is proud to once again provide financial aide by way of scholarships to deserving young people in our communities that are starting on their paths to meaningful careers.

TASK FORCE INPUT REQUEST

SUBMITTED BY: TODD CHAMBERLAIN, RFT, ILA GENERAL MANAGER



We have enclosed a link below to the recent Government news release about the new emergency management legislation and task force for resilient communities.

<https://news.gov.bc.ca/releases/2023EMCR0064-001534>

Since the announcement of the task force, and our quick reply with a press release stating our desire to be a part of it, we have received multiple emails and a large amount of feedback from the membership that they would like passed on. As the central voice of our members, we are prepared to do this.

We would like to give the entire membership the opportunity to submit completely unfiltered feedback, good and/or bad, so that we may bring accurate and undiluted information forward. We are encouraging anyone who feels that they have something

to contribute, to contact Todd Chamberlain directly with your thoughts via email at todd@interiorlogging.org.

If you wish for your feedback to remain anonymous, we will ensure that it remains anonymous. However, if you would like to supply your name, company and contact information for possible further discussion, we can also ensure that it is provided along with your feedback.

The more feedback we receive from the membership, the more we have to take to the table and be heard. This is our chance to

collectively drive change.

If you are NOT receiving emails from the Interior Logging Association, please contact Nancy at nancy@interiorlogging.org and update your information. We want to make sure that all of our members have the opportunity to have a voice.

Regards,

Todd Chamberlain, RFT

ILA General Manager



FOREST EMPLOYMENT PROGRAM AND PROJECT PROCUREMENT

SUBMITTED BY: MATHEW SCORR-MONCRIEFF—MINISTRY OF JOBS, ECONOMIC RECOVERY AND INNOVATION



The Forest Employment Program (FEP/the Program) was established in 2019 to provide short-term employment opportunities to forestry contractors impacted by mill closures and curtailments. The Program is administered by the Rural Policy and Programs Branch within the Ministry of Jobs Economic Development and Innovation.

FEP provides funding to regionally based staff in the Ministry of Forests, Ministry of Environment and Climate Change, and Ministry of Water, Lands, and Resource Stewardship, to administer land-based projects through government procurement processes. In fiscal year 2021/2022 the Program was provided with additional funding over 4 years (FY21/22 – FY24/25) as

part of the Forest Worker and Community Supports, a suite of programs intended to support individuals, businesses, and communities impacted by old growth deferral decisions and changes in the forestry sector.

Last fiscal year (FY22/23) the program funded 99 projects for \$12M located throughout the province. Examples of completed projects include forest service road and bridge maintenance, wildfire risk reduction activities, and recreational trail maintenance and upgrades. This year, the Program is in the process of allocating \$9.2M in program funding, with 74 projects already under way this field season. Common procurement methods used by FEP project leads include [BC Bid](#), Equipment Rental Agreements (ERA), and select Request for Proposal Processes.

BC Bid is the main procurement portal for the BC provincial government. We encourage all interested contractors to familiarize themselves with BC Bid to increase access to FEP funded opportunities, as well as other relevant opportunities posted by the Program's Ministry partners. Program staff are available to provide support in accessing and navigating the BC Bid system.

In addition, Ministry partners often use Equipment Rental Agreements and select Request for Proposal processes to procure land-based projects. These tools use pre-qualified lists of contractors and allow project leads to secure contractors quickly to take advantage of weather windows, fisheries/habitat restrictions, or the summer field season. FEP program staff can connect interested contractors with Ministry partners to learn more about these procurement opportunities.

Finally, it is important for contractors, particularly those impacted by changes in the forestry sector, to check in with District Staff from FEP Ministry partners (Ministry of Forests, Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy, and Ministry of Water, Land and Resource Stewardship). District Staff are committed to supporting contractors experiencing employment impacts, and it is important to let them know what type of work

your business can complete, what equipment and staff you have available, and what impacts you are experiencing. This information can ensure you are aware of upcoming opportunities and included in relevant pre-qualified contractor lists and Equipment Rental Agreements going forward.

FEP program staff are available to answer questions regarding the Program and provide support connecting contractors with upcoming opportunities. We are always working to improve program delivery and would welcome any feedback or suggestions. Please do not hesitate to contact us at forestemploymentprogram@gov.bc.ca. Thank you very much for your interest in the Forest Employment Program and we look forward to providing continued support to forestry contractors, workers, and ILA members.

Sincerely,

Matthew Scott-Moncrieff

Director, Rural Policy and Programs Branch

Ministry of Jobs, Economic Development and Innovation



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2023 WILDFIRE SEASON UPDATE

SUBMITTED BY: BRITISH COLUMBIA WILDFIRE SERVICE



The 2023 wildfire season has been catastrophic and impactful on many fronts. I would like to acknowledge and share my appreciation for everyone who contributed to or supported the firefighting efforts in our province.

It has been a long, demanding and emotionally challenging fire season. It is with great sadness that I reflect and honour the six courageous individuals who lost their lives in the protection of our communities and lands. These dedicated individuals exhibited remarkable courage, dedication and

selflessness; and their loss reminds us of the dangers responders face putting themselves on the front lines.

Approximately 18.5 million hectares of land has been burned across Canada, with British Columbia contributing over 2.8 million hectares to this total. This total area burned in B.C. is almost equivalent to the entire size of Vancouver Island, which puts the impact of wildfires this season into perspective.

We understand the impacts that this fire season has on timber, range forage, wildlife habitat and water quality. What is more difficult to quantify are the impacts to people’s health due to smoke exposure, indirect economic impacts to tourism and other weather dependent businesses and the mental health impacts caused by an intense fire season.

This year’s wildfire season began early due to the extended drought conditions throughout British Columbia, from the fall of 2022 which lasted into spring of this year. Since April 1, over 2,200 wildfires have burned more than 2.8 million hectares of land across the province. The Prince George Fire Centre saw the most hectares burned this season, attributing 2.2 million hectares to this total. In early May, fire activity began to increase in northern regions of the province. On May 12, the Donnie Creek wildfire was discovered in the Prince George Fire Centre and eventually grew to become the largest wildfire in BC Wildfire Service’s recorded history. Since May, there has been little reprieve from wildfire activity in the north, and management of active wildfires remains ongoing.

In late July and into August, fire activity increased significantly in the province’s southern regions. Extreme weather events and volatile fuel conditions resulted in rapid fire growth and behaviour impacting communities in West Kelowna and the Shuswap. These areas and many more across the province implemented significant evacuation orders and alerts.

The BC Wildfire Service is committed to nurturing key partnerships with the forest and ranching sectors, local governments and First Nations.

These relationships are critical to all four pillars (Prevention/Mitigation, Preparedness, Response and Recovery) of wildfire management as a collective societal endeavor.

[Continued on page 6...](#)



Interior Logging Association

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EMBRACING A SUSTAINABLE BRAND NEW DAY FOR TIMBER HARVESTING

2023 WILDFIRE SEASON UPDATE CONTINUED...

SUBMITTED BY: BRITISH COLUMBIA WILDFIRE SERVICE



Throughout this winter and heading into 2024, the BC Wildfire Service will continue working with our partners to improve cooperation with communities that possess local knowledge and expertise. A team under the Cooperative Community Wildfire Response project is currently developing solutions to expand training and equipment opportunities to communities interested in integrating with our operations in a safe and respectful way. More information can be found in the project pamphlet here.

Wildfire prevention and risk mitigation must remain a key focus for community protection, including that of critical infrastructure and special values. FireSmart BC and the funding that is allocated through the Community Resilience

Investment program needs to be fully utilized by local governments and mechanical treatments implemented by forest sector contractors.

Other proactive wildfire reduction activities, such as cultural burning and prescribed fire can help to mitigate large-scale wildfires and their negative impacts on air quality, health, and safety. Fostering collaboration with local communities and the public regarding the importance of reintroducing fire to the landscape in a planned and controlled way, either from a cultural or prescribed fire perspective is of the utmost importance. These practices are conducted in short intervals and under conditions that limit unintended smoke impacts. To prevent damage and disaster which result from uncontrolled wildfires, and to maintain the health and safety of our forests, communities and wildlife, cultural and prescribed fire needs to become a more common occurrence.

Heavy equipment and operational partnerships have been imperative to wildfire response and recovery. In addition to

providing operational support, as well as local knowledge and expertise, we rely heavily on the contracting community to assist with the rehabilitation of damage due to fire suppression related activities. An emerging area of business is our Wildfire Land-Based Recovery Program, which aims to prescribe and implement activities that assist with the overall recovery of the land base that has been damaged due to these ever-increasing disastrous wildfires.

Premier Eby recently announced the formation of an expert task force of emergencies made up of 14 experts in emergency and wildfire management. This task force will begin work immediately and provide action-oriented recommendations on enhancing emergency preparedness and response in advance of the 2024 wildfire season. There will be an opportunity for ILA members to provide input to the task force, this input continues to shape how we prepare and respond to wildfires in our province.

The support and contributions made by ILA members towards BC Wildfire Service's efforts to

oversee all aspects of wildfire management in this province cannot be understated. Without the hardworking members of the forest industry working alongside BC Wildfire Service staff, we would not have been able to successfully navigate the challenges of the 2023 season.

On behalf of the BC Wildfire Service, I would like to thank all ILA members and look forward to continuing to build upon our already strong relationship.

Rob Schweitzer,

Executive Director,
BC Wildfire Service

For more information on the BC Wildfire status and additional resources go to:

<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/safety/wildfire-status>

Backgrounder: Occupational first aid regulatory changes

In April 2023, WorkSafeBC's Board of Directors approved amendments to Part 3 of the Occupational Health and Safety (OHS) Regulation, relating to the provision of occupational first aid. These amendments will take effect November 1, 2024, to give employers time to obtain any required first aid training and equipment necessitated by these changes.

Background

The requirement to provide first aid services appropriate to the workplace is a basic responsibility of all employers. The requirements for first aid listed in Schedule 3-A of the OHS Regulation have been in place for almost 20 years with minimal updates.

Over this time, there have been improvements in both first aid training and equipment, as well as the issuance of two standards from the Canadian Standards Association (CSA):

- CSA Z1210-17 First aid training for the workplace — Curriculum and quality management for training agencies
- CSA Z1220-17 First aid kits for the workplace

These standards provide national guidance on workplace first aid training programs and first aid kits.

WorkSafeBC also identified challenges with the current regulation requirements related to appropriate emergency transport for injured workers in remote areas.

Objective of the regulatory amendments

The purpose of the amendments is to strengthen the current requirements in Schedule 3-A, with a focus on high-risk remote industries, and to harmonize the OHS Regulation with the first aid training and first aid kits framework in CSA Z1210-17 and CSA Z1220-17.

Key amendments

Determining first aid requirements

Under the amended OHS Regulation, employers will have a two-part duty to establish their workplace first aid requirements by doing both of the following:

- Provide at least the supplies, facilities, and first aid attendants required by Schedule 3-A
- In consultation with workers, perform a written risk assessment for each workplace to determine any additional equipment, supplies, facilities, attendants, and services necessary to ensure injured workers can be promptly provided first aid and transported to medical treatment

Schedule 3-A is also being amended to consider four workplace characteristics when determining the minimum levels of first aid supplies, facilities, and attendants required:

- Number of workers at the workplace
- Hazard rating assigned to industry
- Whether the workplace is “remote” — meaning it is more than 30 minutes surface travel time from the nearest ambulance station
- Whether the workplace is “less accessible” — meaning it cannot be safely accessed by ambulance, or it includes one or more hazardous work areas that cannot be safely accessed by ambulance personnel

Terminology

Terminology for the certification of first aid attendants has been changed from Level 1, Level 2, and Level 3 to Basic, Intermediate, and Advanced to align with CSA Z1210-17. These naming convention changes will not affect the validity of first aid certificates currently held by attendants, and the Regulation allows for a three-year transition period to ensure current first aid certificates remain valid until their current expiry date.

Emergency transportation

The amendments clarify and extend the existing requirements for emergency transportation. In workplaces where emergency transportation is required under Schedule 3-A, written first aid procedures need to identify how workers will be accessed and moved if there are barriers to first aid, and the location and method of emergency transport where required. Drills will now be required annually or when first aid procedures change, to ensure procedures are effective.

The amendments allow for more flexibility in the type of emergency transportation selected for use, while providing performance-based requirements that modes of transport must meet. If air transportation is the primary or only method of emergency transport, the amendments also require employers to ensure that an appropriate aircraft is reasonably available when work is occurring, and that compatible stretchers are available.

Guidelines and resources under development

WorkSafeBC is developing guidelines and additional resources on the following topics to support employers in implementing the new requirements:

- Conducting first aid assessments and developing written procedures
- What factors constitute a “less-accessible” workplace
- How to count workers for the purpose of determining minimum requirements for first aid
- Required contents for first aid kits
- Requirements for dressing stations and first aid rooms
- Requirements for emergency transportation

Updates will be released in the fall of 2023. Resources will be published on our website: visit [First aid requirements](#).

For more information

Details of the changes, including explanatory notes, are available on our website: [Part 3 – Minimum Levels of First Aid](#).

WET ROADS, FOGGY CONDITIONS AND KIDS IN THE CLASSROOM

BY MICHELE FRY, COMMUNICATIONS DIRECTOR, BC FOREST SAFETY COUNCIL



BC Forest Safety

Safety is **good** business

The fall is setting in and soon our skies will be dark and gray, our roads will be wet and slippery, and we'll be driving in inclement weather conditions. So, let's take a moment to remind ourselves what's on the horizon and what we need to do prepare ourselves for the inevitable change in the forecast.

BACK TO SCHOOL:

The kids are back in the classroom. This means more pedestrian traffic, changes to speed zones and school buses on the roads. A good rule of thumb is to expect the unexpected and keep a look out kids darting from cars, cycling or walking to school and getting on and off buses. Remember slow down, be cautious and pay extra attention in school zones.

School Zones – The school zone speed limit is 30 km/hr between 8am – 5pm on school days unless otherwise posted. Slow down, be cautious and pay extra attention in school zones.

School Buses - Over 110,000 children ride the bus every

school day from September to June throughout BC. Drivers need to Remember the rules when it comes to school buses. Be patient, be courteous and respect the rules of the road.

SLOW DOWN | STOP | KNOW THE LAW

- Every time someone doesn't stop for the bus, a child's life is at risk. In BC, drivers are legally obligated to come to a complete stop when approaching a school bus with its red lights flashing whether approaching from the front or rear. Vehicles may not proceed until the school bus moves on or the driver turns off the lights or pulls in the stop sign.
- If approaching from the front, stop at a safe distance to let children cross the road. Don't move until the lights stop flashing and the bus moves forward.
- All school buses must stop at all railway crossings, so be prepared to stop yourself. The bus does not use its flashing red lights for this, so exercise caution.

School Crosswalks – With school

back in session, pedestrian traffic on the roads will increase. In BC, almost 20% of all pedestrian accidents involve children under 15 and about 60% of those accidents occur during peak school hours in the morning, noon and late afternoon. We all need to remember that children have a different mindset when it comes to understanding cars and the rules of the road. Young children may:

- Assume cars can stop instantly
- Think if they can see a car, the driver can see them
- Have difficulty judging speed and distance
- Have a field of vision one-third narrower than an adults
- Have difficulty figuring out the direction of sounds
- Be easily distracted, lost in thought or impulsive
- Have no sense of danger
- Cannot perceive complicated traffic situations
- Overestimate their knowledge and physical strength and speed

Refresh your knowledge on crosswalk rules and regulations. Stay extra vigilant at school crosswalks, yield to all pedestrians at marked crosswalks whether in or out of school zones and wait for as long as it takes for all pedestrians to reach the curb on

the other side. If there is a crossing guard, follow their directions.

Foggy / Wet Weather Conditions

No matter what part of the province you live in, fall will bring rain, fog and wind before winter kicks in with snow and icy conditions. Wet roads and reduced visibility will affect the way your vehicle handles so be extra cautious when the rain starts up again.

Driving in Rain - As extended dry spells in BC are now commonplace, substances like oil, grease, rubber & tar form a layer of build up on road surfaces. Inevitably, when the rain starts to fall, this build-up rises to the surface and causes the roads to become very slippery.

But regardless of wet roads after dry spells or continuous rainy/wet conditions, wet roads are directly associated with higher accident rates. Take a look at some of these valuable safety tips to help keep you safe while driving on wet roads.

- Double check your vehicle's equipment - check your windshield wipers. Are they properly installed? Are the blades worn? Do you have the right type to drive in rain and snow? Is your wiper fluid topped-up? Have you checked your tire



WET ROADS, FOGGY CONDITIONS AND KIDS IN THE CLASSROOM CONTINUED...

BY MICHELE FRY, COMMUNICATIONS DIRECTOR, BC FOREST SAFETY COUNCIL



BC Forest Safety

Safety is **good** business

pressure? Do you have the right tires? Do they have good traction?

- Slow down, maintain a safe distance and avoid heavy braking.
- Turn on your headlights – even in misty or light rain conditions.
- Watch out for standing water – driving through standing water and puddles can not only cause hydroplaning but also hazardous water cascades to passing vehicles that can cause startling windshield blindness.
- Ventilate your car – rain causes humidity levels to rise which can result in foggy interior windows. Set your vehicle's temperature control systems to maximize air flow and position the vents to reduce and eliminate foggy windows.

Driving in Fog – Fog can make driving difficult and dangerous even for a seasoned pro behind the wheel. Driving in foggy conditions requires extra special care and attention. Remember that everyone is having trouble

seeing so play it extra safe and follow these safety tips:

- Consider delaying your trip if possible until driving conditions improve.
- If you are on the road, slow down gradually and drive at a speed that suits the conditions. Avoid sudden stops and keep a sharp eye out for brake lights in front of you and headlights behind you by checking your mirrors.
- Make sure the vehicle's full lighting system is on:
 - Use your low-beam headlights.
 - If you have fog lights, use them in addition to your low beams.
 - Don't use your high beams – they bounce back at you, which makes it even harder to see.
 - Be patient and remain calm.
 - Use pavement markings to help guide you using the right edge of the road as a guide, rather than the centre line.

- Maintain a safe following and braking distance.
- Look AND listen for any hazards up ahead.
- Stay alert and reduce distractions by turning off your cell phone.
- Keep your mirrors and windows dry and clean to maximize visibility.
- Watch your speed and don't pass if its not necessary.
- Pull off the road to a safe location if conditions become unsafe. Put on your emergency flashers, keep your low-beam headlights on and wait for the conditions to improve.

Shift Into Winter

The *Shift Into Winter* Campaign is coming up quickly. October, November, and December are the most dangerous driving months with almost 30% of all work-related motor-vehicle incidents resulting in injury and time-loss claims occurring during these three months.

October 1st marks the day when we need to dust off those winter tires and get them installed on our vehicles. As a reminder, here are the Winter Tire Regulations:

- BC provincial law requires vehicles to use winter

tires from October 1 through April 30 on most highways. The requirement ends March 31 for select highways not travelling through mountain passes or high snowfall areas.

- Drivers are responsible for understanding the conditions on roads they regularly drive, and for equipping their vehicle for those conditions.
- Ensure you're following the rules wherever you drive, check the routes you'll be driving before the October 1 deadline and obey the instructions on roadside signs.

Learn more about winter driving safety by visiting the [Shift Into Winter](#) website and find out about designated winter tire and chain routes, winter tire regulations and the responsibilities of employers and employees who drive for work.



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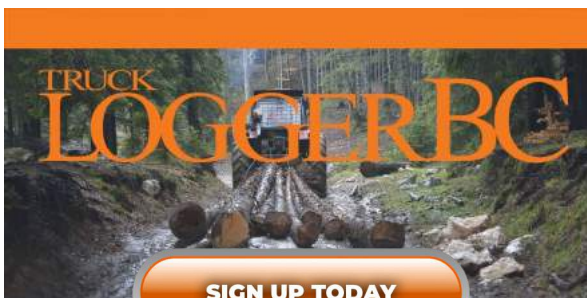
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MAY 9, 10, 11TH, 2024
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Stay tuned for more information in the coming months!!!



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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!



Spread the News!

ILA Forestry Scholarships will be offered again in 2024!

Forestry 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, 2024 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.

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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.

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