



Interior Logging  
Association

VOLUME 5, ISSUE 1

# THE ILA INSIDER

JANUARY 2024

Happy New Year! Welcome to 2024!

SUBMITTED BY: TODD CHAMBERLAIN, RFT, ILA GENERAL MANAGER

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

**HAPPY NEW  
YEAR! WEL-  
COME TO  
2024!** 1

**TWO EXCIT-  
ING NEW  
PARTNER-  
SHIPS FOR  
ILA MEM-  
BERS** 2

**IT'S 2024-  
UPDATES IN  
PAYROLL  
AND BENE-  
FITS!** 3/  
4

**THE ILA  
BOARD AT  
WORK  
-MAKING  
CONNEC-  
TIONS AND  
DRIVING  
CHANGE** 7

**WORKSAFE  
B C CONSUL-  
TATION ON  
PROPOSED  
AMEND-  
MENTS TO  
THE OHSR** 9

**ILA UPDATE** 11

**MEMBER-  
SHIP RELA-  
TIONS  
LEADING TO  
NEW PRO-  
JECTS** 12

**SEEING THE  
FOREST  
FOR THE  
TREES** 14  
/ 15

# Happy New Year!



Happy New Year Everyone! And welcome to 2024!

It's hard to believe we are starting volume 5—our fifth year—of the ILA Insider! We are glad that this has proven to be a great source of usable information for our members, and a resource to look back on for information and direct links to important programs and services that can help your business.

Believe it or not, planning is well under way for our 66th show coming up in May! If you have any ideas, suggestions, or requests, we are always open to adding new and exciting things to attract more people and improve your experience. Please keep your eyes open for the opening of registration which will be happening soon.

Inside this edition you will see lots of updates and information including what the ILA board has been doing in the background on various committees to improve Forestry and increase work opportunities for everyone. We are advocating and driving change more than ever before as a cohesive Team, and will be sharing more over the coming months/year as things continue to evolve in our partnerships and strategies.

We also have 2 new value added partnerships for members only outlined on [page 2](#) With [Park N Fly](#) and [Hearing Life](#). More on additional partnerships will be released as details are finalized along with member only benefit codes sent via email! Stay tuned!

Regards,

*Todd Chamberlain, RFT*  
General Manager, Interior Logging Association



Interior Logging  
Association

EMBRACING A SUSTAINABLE BRAND NEW DAY  
FOR TIMBER HARVESTING

## TWO EXCITING NEW PARTNERSHIPS FOR ILA MEMBERS

SUBMITTED BY: INTERIOR LOGGING ASSOCIATION



The Interior Logging Association is committed to seeking out value added partnerships that can improve both your business and personal health.

We are pleased to announce two new partnerships to the Interior Logging Association with Park 'N Fly and Hearing Life.

These new partnerships are in addition to our current 10% Discount with Mark's Work Warehouse, our benefits plans with Johnstone's Benefits, and our Coast Hotel Flex rates which gives our members a 30% discount.

Hearing Life has more than 400 locations to serve you,

and will have special promotions running throughout the year including an additional 10% off hearing aids and custom ear plugs, 360 Aftercare with service, support and warranty for 3 years post purchase, Air Miles Reward Miles, and 3 years of complimentary batteries on any purchase of hearing aids.

Please see the ad on [page 8](#) for more information, our exclusive ILA Code will be supplied via email or contact our office.

Park N' Fly has offered the ILA exclusive rates on their services at all lots in Canada including Edmonton, Halifax, Montreal Express A/B Self Park and Valet, Ottawa, Toronto Self Park A/B and Valet, Vancouver Valet and



Winnipeg Valet.

For current rates, please see the chart below the article and see the advertisement on [page 10](#) for more information. The exclusive ILA member code will also be provided via email.

If you would like to offer exclusive benefits, discounts or client perks to ILA Members, we welcome your partnerships! Please contact

Todd Chamberlain at [todd@interiorlogging.com](mailto:todd@interiorlogging.com) or at 250-308-8100 to discuss how you can become an exclusive provider.

We are still working hard behind the scenes to secure additional partnerships and look forward to announcing more new member benefits in the future!

Not an ILA Member yet? Click [HERE](#) for more information!

City / Facility	Daily	Weekly
Edmonton	\$10.99	\$52.99
Halifax	\$14.78	\$73.92
Montreal Express A/B (self park)	\$21.99	\$119.99
Montreal Valet	\$23.99	\$139.99
Ottawa	\$13.99	\$65.99
Toronto Self Park A/B	\$16.99	\$89.99
Toronto Valet	\$21.99	\$114.99
Vancouver Valet	\$20.99	\$97.99
Winnipeg Valet	\$20.99	\$99.99



**Not an Interior Logging Association Member yet?**

**Membership has its benefits!**

**CLICK HERE  
TO JOIN TODAY**



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## IT'S 2024- UPDATES IN PAYROLL AND BENEFITS!

SUBMITTED BY: JOHNSTONE'S BENEFITS



## It's 2024- updates in Payroll and Benefits!

Johnstone's provides group benefit packages with life, disability, extended health and dental coverage. In addition we offer, health-care spending accounts, group savings and pension plans such as group RRSPs, group TFSAs, protection programs such as additional life insurance, critical illness, individual disability, and accidental death and disablement plans.

Our service model aligns perfectly to clients who are keen on cost-effective, personalized, simplified, sustainable services with a benefits partner who understands 'your' business isn't benefits, but understands how benefits and our services can help your business.

On that note, here are some changes you may want to be aware of as we enter into 2024!

## Tax Returns Starting 2023 Reporting Year

Employers will be required to report on a tax slip whether an employee, former employee, or a spouse of a deceased employee was eligible on December 31st of the reporting tax year, to access dental insurance or dental coverage of any kind, due to current or former employment. This includes access to ongoing (not one-time occurrence/exceptional) dental care coverage, reimbursement, or insurance as an employee or retiree benefit.

Employees that have a Health Care Spending Account are considered to have access to dental care.

Whether or not an individual made use of, or accepted coverage/insurance is not reported. Reporting covers only whether it was available to them. Employers may include Pension Plan Administrators and other organizations that complete T4As and T4s annually. This reporting requirement will be mandatory beginning with the 2023 tax year reporting cycle and will continue to be required on an annual basis.

As a result, the following new boxes will be added to the T4 and T4A slips for the 2023 tax year:

T4 Box 45: Employer-Offered Dental Benefits

T4A Box 015: Payer-Offered Dental Benefits

Along with specific codes:

Code 1 - No access to any dental care insurance, or coverage of dental services of any kind.

Code 2 - Access to any dental care insurance, or coverage of dental services of any kind for only the payee.

Code 3 - Access to any dental care insurance, or coverage of dental services of any kind for payee, spouse and dependents.

Code 4 - Access to any dental care insurance, or coverage of dental services of any kind for only the payee and their spouse.

Code 5 - Access to any dental care insurance, or coverage of dental services of any kind for only the payee and dependents.

Registered Retirement Savings Plan (RRSP)

Maximum contribution room for 2024 is 18% of the previous year's active earned income (dividends not included) up to the annual maximum of \$31,560 (increased from \$30,780 in 2023).

NOTE: the 2025 RRSP contribution limit will be \$32,490; if you get to choose your income and are basing it on RRSP, you may use the 2025 limit to determine your 2024 income.

Tax Free Savings Account (TFSA)

Canadian residents will earn \$7,000 in additional contribution room in 2024, in addition to any contribution space from previous years. If this is your first year contributing to a TFSA, the total contribution room is now \$95,000.

Canada Pension Plan (CPP)

CPP Benefit: For those collecting the CPP, your payment is expected to increase by 4.4% in 2024. The amount of CPP income is based on your earnings history.

Continued on page 4...

## IT'S 2024- UPDATES IN PAYROLL AND BENEFITS!

SUBMITTED BY: JOHNSTONE'S BENEFITS



CPP Contributions: Effective January 1, 2024, employees will pay 5.95% of income to the YMPE (\$68,500, up from \$66,600 in 2023), and the employer pays the same. Beginning in 2024, a year's additional maximum pensionable earnings (second higher ceiling) is being introduced. A secondary additional CPP contribution (CPP2) of 4% (employee and employer) is made on these earnings, beginning at the first earnings ceiling and going up to the second earnings ceiling. The second

earnings ceiling for 2024 will be \$73,200.

#### Old Age Security (OAS)

OAS Benefit: Those collecting OAS receive an inflation adjustment every three months. The payment is expected to increase 0.8% in January 2024 for a total increase of 3.7% during 2023.

OAS Clawback: If you are collecting OAS and your income exceeds the Minimum Income Recovery Threshold, your maximum

OAS benefit will be clawed back by 15 cents for every \$1 of net income above the Threshold. This Clawback Threshold will increase from \$86,912 to \$90,997 in 2024.

#### Employment Insurance (EI)

Premium Rate: effective January 1, 2024, the employee EI premium rate is \$1.66 taken as a payroll deduction for every \$100 an employee is paid until the maximum insurable earnings (MIE) is reached for 2024. For workers in Quebec, the premium rate will be \$1.32. This rate is lower than in the rest of Canada because Quebec has been collecting premiums since January 2006 to administer its own maternity, parental, and paternity benefits under the Quebec Parental Insurance Plan.

Premium Reduction Plan: For the year 2024, the best reduced EI rate available to all employers is for an acceptable enhanced cumulative paid sick leave

plan (category 2) at 1.175, and 1.177 is available to all employers with an acceptable weekly indemnity plan.

EI Claims: for claims beginning on or after December 31, 2023

the maximum weekly EI benefit rate increases to \$668 per week (increased from \$650)

the maximum weekly benefit rate for extended parental benefits increases to \$401 (from \$390)

#### Contact Us

Johnstone's Benefits

3095 Woodbine Drive

North Vancouver, BC V7R 2S3

Phone: 604 980 6227

Toll Free: 1 800 432 9707

Fax: 604 983 2935

Website:

[www.jbenefits.com](http://www.jbenefits.com)



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***Not an Interior Logging Association Member yet?***

***Membership has Its benefits!***

**CLICK HERE  
TO JOIN TODAY**



## The Employers' Adviser Law & Policy Bulletin



Employers'  
Advisers Office

A bulletin by the Employers' Advisers Office, Ministry of Labour, B.C. Government. The Employers' Advisers Office provides advice, assistance, representation, and educational services on all aspects of the workers' compensation system.

### **Workers Compensation Act return-to-work requirements for injured workers came into effect January 1, 2024.**

On November 24, 2022, Bill 41 – Workers Compensation Amendment Act (No.2), 2022 – received Royal Assent. Most of the changes included in this Bill have previously come into effect. Provisions of this Bill related to return-to-work requirements for injured workers are effective January 1, 2024.

As of January 1, 2024, all employers and injured workers in B.C. will have a new legal duty to co-operate with each other and with WorkSafeBC to ensure workers can return to their previous jobs or other suitable work. The duty to co-operate requires employers and workers maintain communication, identify suitable work for the worker and provide WorkSafeBC with required information to support return-to-work efforts.

Additionally, any employer with 20 or more workers that has employed someone for at least one year before an injury is obligated to maintain that worker's employment after the injury. Employers must make any necessary changes to the work or workplace to accommodate the injured person, unless the changes create an undue hardship.

These obligations are in addition to the obligations employers already have under human rights legislation.

On November 9, 2023, WorkSafeBC's Board of Directors passed a resolution with updated Policy to support the duty to cooperate and the duty to maintain employment. There are four new Policy Items that outline how WorkSafeBC will assess employer and worker compliance with the new duties.

The updated Policy Items can be viewed on WorkSafeBC's website ([www.worksafebc.com](http://www.worksafebc.com)) and the Board of Director's resolution can be viewed here:

<https://www.worksafebc.com/en/resources/law-policy/board-of-directors-decisions/bod-2023-11-09-06-return-to-work-obligations-duty-to-cooperate-duty-to-maintain-employment?lang=en>

Employers who are non-compliant could face administrative penalties while non-compliant workers risk having their benefit entitlement lessened.

For further information, please contact our office, and review the Ministry of Labour's news release, available online:

<https://news.gov.bc.ca/releases/2023LBR0035-002002>

#### Contact Us

Phone: 1-800-925-2233; Fax: 1-855-664-7993

[www.gov.bc.ca/employersadvisers](http://www.gov.bc.ca/employersadvisers)

Inquiries/Subscribe/Unsubscribe: [EAO@eao-bc.org](mailto:EAO@eao-bc.org)



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## THE ILA BOARD AT WORK ~MAKING CONNECTIONS AND DRIVING CHANGE

SUBMITTED BY: INTERIOR LOGGING ASSOCIATION



1. Interior Logging Association Board Member Reid Hedlund had the opportunity to meet with Premier David Eby in October and discussed the difficulties that are currently plaguing the Forestry Industry.
2. ILA General Manager Todd Chamberlain and ILA Director Guido Claudepierre met with Premier Eby in Vancouver and extended an invitation in person to come to Kamloops in May to attend the ILA's 66th AGM and Convention.
3. ILA Member Tony Bertoia met with Premier Eby and Forest Minister Bruce Ralston to discuss fibre utilization and the concept of Value over Volume!

## MARK YOUR CALENDARS! THE AGM AND CONFERENCE IS COMING!!

SUBMITTED BY: INTERIOR LOGGING ASSOCIATION



Mark your calendars! The Interior Logging Association 66th AGM and Conference will be here before you know it! May 9th—11th, 2024 in beautiful Kamloops B.C.!

This year will see the return of the Interior Safety Conference, our Silent Auction once again benefitting the Ty Pozzonbon Foundation, Dinner and Dance, Luncheon with special guest

speaker(s) and the introduction of the first annual **Truck Show 'N Shine!**

Stay tuned to our website - <https://interiorlogging.org/annual-agm-convention/> watch your

email over the coming weeks, and our Social Media platforms on Facebook and Instagram for more information on registration, participation and conference and accommodation details.

Want to be a highly advertised show sponsor or silent auction donor? Please contact Todd Chamberlain at [todd@interiorloggin.org](mailto:todd@interiorloggin.org) or at 250-308-8100 today!

We can't wait to see everyone in a few short months!

ILA has partnered with



*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** Call for ILA Code

\*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.



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FOR TIMBER HARVESTING**



# WORKSAFEBC CONSULTATION ON PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE OHSR - PART 16 PUBLIC NOTICE



Consultation on proposed amendments to Part 16 of the Occupational Health and Safety Regulation

Our Policy, Regulation and Research Department is requesting feedback on proposed amendments to Part 16, Mobile Equipment, sections 16.21 to 16.21.1 – Seat belts, of the Occupational Health and Safety Regulation.

The consultation phase gives stakeholders an opportunity to provide feedback before the proposed amendments are taken to public hearing. All stakeholder feedback is carefully considered and analyzed, and provided to WorkSafeBC's Board of Directors as part of their decision-making process.

Proposed regulatory amendments under review:

[Part 16, Mobile Equipment, sections](#)

## [16.21 to 16.21.1 – Seat belts](#)

To access the information, please click on the regulatory amendment package above. Proposed deletions are identified with a strikethrough and additions are highlighted in yellow.

Providing feedback

Feedback will be accepted until 4:30 p.m. on February 2, 2024.

Feedback can be provided online, or by email, or mail:

Online feedback:

To provide online feedback please click on the link for the regulatory amendment package and open the document. Once opened, please click on the yellow "Online Feedback" button to provide your feedback.

Email:

[OHSRegFeedback@worksafebc.com](mailto:OHSRegFeedback@worksafebc.com)

Mail:

Policy, Regulation and Research Department

WorkSafeBC  
P.O. Box 5350 Station  
Terminal  
Vancouver BC V6B 5L5

Please include the following information in your comments:

- Your name
- Whether you are submitting on your own behalf or on behalf of an organization (if on behalf of an organization, please specify the name of the organization)
- Whether you are commenting from the perspective of a worker, or an employer, or other (such as a licensing or regulatory body, or a professional or industry association)
- Your level of support – whether you generally agree, are generally neutral, or generally disagree with the proposed regulatory amendments
- The reasons for your level of support and the section number(s) of the regulation you are commenting on

We will send you an acknowledgment of receipt of your feedback.

Unless clarification is needed, we will not contact you about the contents of your submission.

Publication and disclosure of personal information

Please note that all comments become part of the Policy, Regulation and Research Department's database and may be published, including the identity of organizations and those participating on behalf of organizations. The identity of those who have participated on their own behalf will be kept confidential according to the provisions of the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act. Publication by WorkSafeBC does not mean WorkSafeBC endorses the view(s) of the person making the submission.



## Savings Program



- ✓ Reserve ahead and save
- ✓ Lowest rates available on the app or online
- ✓ Optional detailing and oil change services
- ✓ Complimentary EV charging at select locations

### Interior Logging Association Members Reserve and Save on Airport Parking

With a network that spans coast to coast, Park'N Fly is focused on providing our customers with cost-effective parking options while enjoying a park happy experience with every stay. To access your member discount and save you have three options:

**1. Reserve via Park'N Fly App:** Easily reserve your next parking stay using the Park'N Fly app and get the lowest rate! Plus, save your payment information to your reservation and you'll be able to check in and out from the convenience of the app. Download today or click to learn more at [www.parknfly.ca/app](http://www.parknfly.ca/app).

**2. Reserve as a Rewards Member:** Existing Park'N Fly Rewards members, sign into your rewards account, and access the lowest parking rates by saving your corporate discount code to your profile. Sign into your account via the Park'N Fly Canada app or online at [www.parknfly.ca/rewards](http://www.parknfly.ca/rewards).

**3. Reserve Online:** Click *RESERVE ONLINE* (to the right), select your preferred location, and enter your travel dates and times to reserve your next parking stay.

**Plus:** Earn valuable Aeroplan points on every eligible stay. \*

Enter Discount Code

Contact Us for Code

at time of reservation



RESERVE ONLINE

Vancouver • Edmonton • Winnipeg • Toronto • Ottawa • Montreal • Halifax

Association rates are discounted off regular rates. Various conditions apply. Rates are subject to change. Park'N Fly Rewards Program not applicable in Halifax. Enrollment in Park'N Fly Rewards is temporarily suspended. The existing Park'N Fly Rewards program will be discontinued effective December 31, 2023. Updates regarding the new Park'N Fly Rewards program will be posted at [www.parknfly.ca/rewards](http://www.parknfly.ca/rewards). Please visit [parknfly.ca](http://parknfly.ca) and enter your corporate discount code to validate rates. \*Taxes, surcharges, and car care services are excluded from corporate pricing. Aeroplan not available at Montréal location. \*Aeroplan is a registered trademark of Aeroplan Inc., used under license. \*The Air Canada maple leaf logo is a registered trademark of Air Canada, used under license. Park'N Fly is a registered trademark of 1884901 Alberta Ltd. Updated August 2023.

AEROPLAN

[www.parknfly.ca](http://www.parknfly.ca)



Interior Logging  
Association

## ILA UPDATE

### Feature Article from ETSI-BC - Reminder we have a FIR Advisor exclusive to the ILA to help you and your business!



We're pleased to feature [Meagan Preston](#), a Forest Impact Recovery (FIR) Advisor who was engaged by the Interior Logging Association (ILA), with funding from ETSI-BC, to work with ILA members in the Southern Interior of BC.

With over 20 years of corporate business experience and a rich background in offering diverse business support services, Meagan is well-prepared for her role as a FIR Advisor. Over the past four years, she has been working in various capacities with the ILA to support its members.

Notably, she executed a government-funded research project that delved into the difficulties faced by members in the forestry sector. This experience has given her unique insight into the industry's challenges and the resilience it demands.

As logging has been a mainstay of the provincial economy for more than a century, the ILA's mandate is to support its members and be their voice in the industry. "This means that we have to be constantly in the loop about what is going on; not only the changes in policy but working to take issues that affect businesses to those who can change policies to help improve the industry as a whole," Meagan explains.

Meagan plays a key role in helping support both the timber harvesting and other related businesses. "I work with forestry industry businesses and industry partners and their challenges are all different. For many of them, it is a lack of work, rising costs, and a

struggle to find employees that make it hard to make ends meet and keep the people they do employ."

Meagan possesses a deep understanding of the forest sector's ongoing challenges. Most people are not aware of the urgency of the situation for businesses in the forestry industry, Meagan says, explaining that many have been around for decades, but are now struggling to make ends meet.

"I just want to help find them a way to stay profitable and find ways to diversify so they can continue to operate and have viable businesses to sell when they decide to retire."

As a FIR Advisor, Meagan's key priority is to provide one-on-one support to businesses within the ILA membership and its partners. She offers an array of resources to help businesses identify their specific needs and helps formulate tailored

business plans and strategies to help them pivot, grow, and sustain their businesses. She goes the extra mile by locating funding opportunities, connecting clients to resources that cater to their requirements, and aiding them in implementing crucial changes.

"I am looking forward to getting more resources in place to help the people in this industry long term and helping businesses thrive despite the current conditions," Meagan adds.

Forest Impact Recovery (FIR) Advisors like Meagan are located throughout the Southern Interior of BC. These Advisors are hosted by 18 different business support organizations, with funding from ETSI-BC. [Click here](#) to see the list of Host Organizations. ETSI-BC acknowledges financial support from the Province of BC in delivering this program.

### Current Funding Opportunities—if you require assistance applying, please contact [Meagan Preston](#)

#### The Community Workforce Response Grant (CWRG):

The CWRG provides funding to communities and sectors province-wide, enabling them to address immediate and emerging labor market needs through targeted skills training projects. The CWRG provides funding sectors for cohort-based, short-term (less than 52 weeks) projects and fully funds training that costs up to \$10,000 per participant as well as services and support to help participants overcome training and employment barriers. If you look through the [Workforce Shortages Stream](#) info and the [Workforce Shortages Stream Criteria](#) you will find more details.

#### The BC Employer Training Grant (ETG)

The ETG provides funding to small, medium and large enterprises to support skills training for their workforces, including prospective new hires. The intent of this program is to help British Columbians access the skills training required to adapt to the labour market's changing job requirements, while also encouraging employer involvement in skills training. The Employer Training Grant helps employers pay for training, which in turn helps employees experience increased job security or move into better jobs. Employers can receive 80 per cent of the cost of training up to \$10,000 per employee, with a maximum annual amount per employer of \$300,000. For more details please see: [Eligibility Criteria](#)



## MEMBERSHIP RELATIONS LEADING TO NEW PROJECTS

SUBMITTED BY: INTERIOR LOGGING ASSOCIATION



Photo Credit Stuwix Joint Ventures

On December 3rd 2023, the BC Government announced funding for 19 new projects through the Forest Enhancement Society of BC (FESBC).

Among those projects announced, was the Merritt BioHub Program which saw ILA Member Stuwix Resources Joint Venture awarded \$1.25 Million Dollars to deliver more than 1500 truck loads of low value fibre to the Merritt Green Energy Plant (Nicola Clean Power) and other nearby facilities.

Stuwix, a partnership of eight First Nations in the Southern Interior, is also working on this project with ILA Members like Valley Carriers, Bar S Ventures, and Woodland Equipment.

In a Provincial News release, Steve Kozuki, executive

director of FESBC expressed that the “FESBC is thrilled to assist the Government of British Columbia to support workers and communities. This funding, in turn, is enabling local people to reflect their local forestry priorities in the projects they propose and often achieve multiple benefits for each project dollar. First Nations and local communities have the knowledge and creativity to leverage forestry projects to also improve wildlife habitat, reduce greenhouse gases, contribute to reconciliation, jobs for workers and much more.”

In a news release by the FESBC on November 8th, 2023, it was explained that “The BioHub Pilot Project is centred around the transition that the SRJV is

now pursuing, changing from the traditional cut-to-length forestry practice to now full-length tree harvesting, moving toward a full tree utilization and zero-waste approach. This is an enormous step in sustainable forestry practices with significant impacts on forestry residue management. A part of this project is bush grinding of the residuals, for which FESBC has provided funding. Through the Bush Grinding project, forest residuals will be ground instead of being left behind and burned in slash piles, helping to reduce waste and avoid greenhouse gas emissions. This ground fibre will be transported to a green energy facility in Merritt. By extending the use of forest residuals, the two companies look to improve the sustainability of forestry practices by being better stewards of the land”.\*

Also in the press release issued by FESBC, Lindsay Tighe, General Manager of Stuwix Resources Joint Venture (SRJV) goes on to say “It’s all community-driven. Our community strongly believes we need to better utilize the resources

that the forest provides. Without the partnership with FESBC, we wouldn’t be able to pursue the transition to full fibre utilization. Their support is critical to enable our operations to adapt to this more sustainable approach,” said Tighe. \*

“These types of projects and partnerships are what we want to see moving forward” says ILA General Manager Todd Chamberlain, he goes on to say “by diversifying and using as much fibre as we can, companies will be able to continue to reap the benefits of harvesting while utilizing every last piece of wood, even fibre that is viewed as low value”.

Chamberlain adds that “it’s these types of projects and partnerships that will allow people to keep working, new job creation, and hopefully encourage more out-of-the-box thinking when it comes to how we can successfully utilize all wood fibre in the future”.

\*Quotes taken directly from the FESBC Press Release—credit to FESBC

MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR THE 2024 AGM AND CONVENTION!

## MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR THE 66TH ANNUAL AGM AND CONVENTION



MAY 9, 10, 11TH, 2024  
KAMLOOPS B.C.

*Stay tuned for more information in the coming months!!!*



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!



## SEEING THE FOREST FOR THE TREES

BY DAVID ADSHEAD, BCFSC FALLING SAFETY ADVISOR



Beautiful British Columbia is world renowned for its incredible wilderness landscape, mountains, rivers, lakes and forests. It's a great place to live, work and play.

Our forests are regionally diverse - from coastal and interior rainforests, dry belt pine and fir forest and higher elevation spruce and balsam, old growth and new growth - they all have one thing in common ... trees!

Whether working or playing, it is essential to be aware of a forest's potential hazards and what can put you at risk, specifically as it relates to the trees.

*What makes a tree hazardous?*

A dangerous tree is any tree (regardless of its size) that is

hazardous to people or facilities because of:

It's location or "lean"

Physical damage

Overhead hazards

Deterioration of limbs, stems or root system

A combination of the above

Truth be told, any tree has potential to be a hazard in certain circumstances.

Weather, the environment and the condition of a tree can all render it a danger tree.

Answering the age-old question "If a tree falls in the forest, does anyone hear?" ... only if someone is near enough to hear. The same applies to the danger it may pose. If no one is near it, then even if it falls, it isn't a danger to anyone. Spend enough

time in a forest and you will witness a tree fall over on its own. It's a natural part of the forest's cycle.

*How do you determine if a tree is a hazard?*

Use the Recognize, Evaluate, and Control method, commonly referred to as REC.

### Recognize the Hazard

From a distance, observe as much of the stand of trees as possible, focusing on any individual trees that show signs of defect. The more time spent exposed to a potential hazard tree, a more detailed assessment is required. Remember, not all dead trees are danger trees and not all green trees are safe trees.

### Evaluate the Situation/Hazard

Perform a 360° assessment of the tree, looking for lean and defects to determine if it is a danger. Consider the effect weather and environment have on the tree and the time spent within its danger zone. Moving through the forest means very little time spent exposed to a danger tree, however the risk would go up if the wind was blowing or if a person remained stationary for a longer period in the danger zone. Are you walking by it or

pitching your tent under it?

### Control the Hazard

Determine the best ways to reduce the risk the danger trees pose. The best solution is elimination - either eliminate the hazards around you or remove yourself from around the hazards. A qualified person could fall the tree, use alternate falling methods, or create a defined no-work zone around the tree that keeps people out of the danger zone of the hazard.



For recreational users enjoying the forest, be situationally aware by keeping your head up and looking around. Pay attention to weather conditions and how they may affect the area. Hiking or walking is considered a low-risk activity when the time spent exposed to any single danger tree is minimal but the risk increases with



## SEEING THE FOREST FOR THE TREES

BY DAVID ADSHEAD, BCFSC FALLING SAFETY ADVISOR



**BC Forest Safety**

Safety is good business

temperature changes, rain, wind and snow, or if the stand has a high number of danger trees due to root rot, bug kill or recent fire damage.

Always keep in mind the risk goes up with extended exposure so when you stop in a forested area, take a moment to look around and spot any trees that can strike you if they fall over. Walk around them and look for defects or signs of weakness. If you identify any danger trees, relocate to a different area so you are no longer in the strike zone - at minimum 1.5 tree lengths away from the potential hazard.

In my humble opinion, working in the forest is arguably the best! Fresh air, incredible sights, sounds and ... trees! Before forestry work begins, the Worker's Compensation Act and Occupational Health & Safety Regulation require that a qualified person perform a site hazard assessment. The REC process should be applied to any identified hazards

and information communicated to all workers prior to work commencing. In a forest environment, this includes a tree assessment to determine if any trees affecting the work area are danger trees.

Appropriate controls must be applied to reduce the risk danger trees pose to workers and, where feasible, the danger tree must be felled. Fallers need to have an appropriate plan that prioritizes the removal of an identified danger tree into an open area as soon as it is safe to do so. To overcome a falling difficulty, the plan can include using [Qualified Assistance](#). If the tree is unsafe to fall, then alternate falling methods may be used.

*What if the danger tree can't be felled?*

There may be several reasons a danger tree cannot be felled. One of the most important, is not having a qualified person available to fall the tree. A faller may assess the tree and determine whether an adequate opening is present, if the tree is controllable, or if there is an appropriate escape route. If any of these are questionable then the

tree can be deemed unsafe to fall. In these instances, the only course of action is to create a defined no-work zone around the danger tree to keep workers out of the danger zone of the tree. A no-work zone has to be physically marked, typically with yellow no-work zone ribbon to mark the danger zone boundary. The size and shape of the no-work zone depends on the size and lean of the hazard, the terrain the hazard is located on, weather conditions and the surrounding timber. The hazard and no-work zone need to be documented, marked on the map and shared with any workers who may be affected by the danger tree hazard.

*Who can assess trees and decide if they are safe or dangerous?*

The Wildlife Danger Tree Assessor course (WDTAC) provides valuable instruction on assessing dangerous trees and evaluating wildlife habitat value in forestry, (non-urban) parks and wildland fire situations. The course is recognized as the current "standard of care" (the best available and accepted standards and practices) in BC by the Ministry of Forests,

Ministry of Environment and WorkSafeBC, this includes three modules:

1. Parks and Recreation Sites
2. Wildland Fire Safety
3. Forest Activities (e.g., harvesting, silviculture, resource roads, oil & gas)

BC forests are a vital resource and provide amazing benefits to us all. From providing renewable fibre, climate health, wildlife ecologies and a place for us to work and play, it is essential for all of us to see the forest for the trees as every tree should be appreciated and respected for what it is and the story it has to tell. If you're in the forest, look for the story, as it may just save your life.

Additional resources:

[Introduction to Dangerous Trees on Forestry Worksites Training](#)

[Dangerous Tree Blasting for Certified Fallers](#)

[Wildlife Danger Tree Assessor Course](#)



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