

Dear contractors:

At the end of last month members of the BC Wildfire Service Contract Advisory Committee (WSCAC) steering team met in Kamloops to frame the committee's terms of reference which will define its scope, purpose and strategies. As work continues on these foundational elements the steering committee is announcing the purpose and goals of WSCAC that were agreed on by all parties at the meeting.

Purpose:

To provide fire crew services contractors and the BCWS an opportunity to strengthen and improve prevention, preparedness and emergency response in BC.

Goals:

- 1. Have a sustainable business model that is mutually beneficial for both the fire crew contractors and BCWS;**
- 2. Define standards to provide a qualified, competent workforce to meet capacity requirements;**
- 3. Build a functional collaboration to improve relations, communication and understanding between fire crew contractors and the BCWS;**

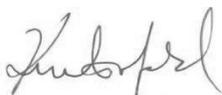
It was notable that both the contractor subject matter experts and representatives from BC Wildfire Services were unanimous in identifying and agreeing on these critical strategic positions for the committee. The same applied to the strategic objectives, terms of reference and other important ongoing pursuits of the steering committee.

The contractor subject matter experts at the meeting included Doug Harrison, Owner Apex Forest and Wildfire Services Ltd., Niels Jorgensen Partner, Strategic Natural Resource Consultants Inc., and Kimberly Thompson Manager, Torrent Silviculture. John Betts Executive Director represented the Western Forestry Contractors Association. BC Wildfire Service representatives included Kurtis Isfeld Manager, Wildfire Operations and Todd Nessman Superintendent, Wildfire Operations. Mark Friesen Director, The Vantage Point facilitated the session.

Moving forward there will be a necessary degree of confidentiality around the details of process and initiatives, but the WSCAC is committed to sharing additional information when it becomes available, hopefully by the end of this month. Overall the tone of the meeting was constructive, discussions were candid and the commitment on both sides is genuine.

As the steering team continues its work we will keep you posted.

Yours Truly



Kurtis Isfeld Co-chair
WSCAC



John Betts Co-chair
WSCAC