



# WESTERN FORESTRY CONTRACTORS' ASSOCIATION ANNUAL CONFERENCE, TRADESHOW AND AGM

Wednesday, February 1<sup>st</sup> to Friday, February 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2023  
Inn at Laurel Point, Victoria, BC



***Special thanks to our Principal Conference Sponsor:  
BC FOREST SAFETY COUNCIL***

**PLEASE NOTE: Time slots may vary and are subject to change.**

## **Wednesday, February 1<sup>st</sup>, 2023**

- |                     |   |
|---------------------|---|
| 7:45 am – 8:30 am   | <b>Registration &amp; Morning Coffee</b>  |
| 8:30 am – 9:30 am   | <b>Risk Assessments for Silviculture and Forestry in Disturbed Landscapes</b> – WorkSafeBC Officer, Caity Klautd, will host an interactive presentation to examine hazards associated with changing landscapes and will guide audience members through a risk assessment exercise to increase awareness of how to manage hazards such as dangerous trees and fire-impacted settings.  |
| 9:30 am – 9:45 am   | <b>Road Deactivations and Worksite Access</b> – An update will be provided regarding steps being taken within the industry to better understand issues related to deactivated roads and difficult worksite access.  |
| 9:45 am – 10:00 am  | <b>TEAAM Update</b> – Technical Evacuation Advanced Aero Medical will provide an update on their expanded service range, and share some lessons learned from the aero-rescue world.   |
| 10:00 am – 10:30 am | <b>Coffee Break</b>   |
| 10:30 am – 11:30 am | <b>Health and Safety Post-Covid</b> – Forestry Safety Advocate, Jordan Tesluk, will revisit issues related to preventing communicable illness at work that was already a priority before COVID-19 and talk about key issues and new directions for safety in forestry and silviculture now that the emergency-phase of the pandemic has passed.   |
| 11:30 am – 12:15 pm | <b>Better Workplace Investigations: How to and Why</b> – Mike Sexton (BC Forest Safety Council) and Jordan Tesluk will look at common investigation pitfalls, explain how to improve investigations, and talk about how this can benefit your organization.   |
| 12:15 pm – 1:15 pm  | <b>Buffet Lunch</b>   |
| 1:15 pm – 2:15 pm   | <b>Reconciliation with Indigenous People</b> – Hereditary Chief of the Gígal'gám 'Walas Kwagu't, Rob Everson, will provide an introductory session based on Indigenous Corporate Training Inc.'s founder Bob Joseph's bestseller <i>21 Things You May Not Know About the Indian Act</i> .   |
| 2:15 pm – 3:00 pm   | <b>Way of the JEDI: Justice, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion as Pillars for Better Workplaces</b> – SAFE Forestry Program Chair, Robin McCullough and Jordan Tesluk, will lead an introductory seminar to talk about how concepts of Justice, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion form key pillars in company value systems to support safer workplaces and build companies that are better prepared to adapt to changing social fabric and a shifting labour market.   |
| 3:00 pm – 3:15 pm   | <b>Coffee Break</b>   |
| 3:15 pm – 4:15 pm   | <b>Worker Services: Caring for Bodies, Minds, and Souls</b> – From rustic roots where employers offered little more than a ride to work, silviculture has evolved into an industry where attending to worker needs has taken on various new challenges. Members of industry and service innovators will talk about the latest developments in how employers support workers through repetitive strains, mental health crises, and other stresses that accompany physically demanding work in isolated settings. |
| 4:15 pm – 4:45 pm   | <b>Safer Dogs for Safer Workplace</b> – Celine Rytz (and her faithful furry assistant) will introduce her course on caring for dogs at work and talk about steps that dog owners can take to prevent their companions from becoming a burden or hazard to others while enhancing care and protection for the dog.   |
| 4:45 pm – 5:00 pm   | <b>Closing Remarks for Day 1</b>  |
| 5:15 pm – 6:45 pm   | <b>Hospitality Suite</b> – <i>Sponsored by Hawkeye Holdings Ltd.</i>  |

## Thursday, February 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2023

- 7:45 am – 8:30 am **Registration & Morning Coffee**
- 8:30 am – 10:00 am **Plenary Panel**  
Moderator – John Betts; Presenters/Panelists include:  
**Garry Merkel**, Co-author of our province’s old growth review & recommendations *A New Future for Old Forests*.  
**Harry Nelson**, UBC Forestry Professor and lead author of this year’s federal *BC Regional Perspectives Report – Canada in a Changing Climate*.  
**BC Wildfire Service** which is the agency at the front of our Ministry of Environment and Climate Change’s strategy to mitigate and prevent wildfire.
- 10:00 am – 10:45 am **Coffee Break & Tradeshow**
- 10:45 am – 11:45 am **Panel Continued Q & A with the audience; moderated by John Betts**
- 11:45 am – 1:15 pm **Buffet Lunch & Tradeshow**
- 1:15 pm – 2:00 pm **TBA**
- 2:00 pm – 2:35 pm **The Future of Drone Planting** – John Innes, Professor & Faculty of Forestry UBC. As an advisor to one of the drone planting start-ups now piloting planting programs across Canada, Professor Innes will provide an update on work to date, prospects for the future, and tell us how many future tree planters it might take to switch batteries on a drone fleet.
- 2:35 pm – 3:10 pm **Cultural and Prescribed Burning** – As one of the strategies leads to finding our way back to cultural and prescribed burning, BCWS’s Tony Pesklevits will report on our progress among the various obstacles and incentives to returning good fire to the landscape and the part forestry contractors and workers can play in the future.
- 3:10 pm – 3:40 pm **Coffee Break & Tradeshow**
- 3:40 pm – 4:15 pm **BC Professional Governance Act update** – Public confidence in self-regulating forestry and related professionals lapsed in the last decade following investigations into environmental disasters and related failures. Casey Macaulay, ABCFP Registrar and Director of Act Compliance will update us on what’s happening under the Act and how the Association of BC Forest Professionals is approaching compliance for its members.
- 4:15 pm – 5:00 pm **Forest Practices Board Update** – overview of its current work and priorities from Board Member Rick Monchak.
- 5:15 pm – 6:45 pm **Hospitality Suite** – *Sponsored by Fountain Tire*
- 7:00 pm – 10:00 pm **Banquet and Awards Ceremony** – Keynote Speaker TBA

## Friday, February 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2023

- 8:15 am – 8:30 am **Registration & Morning Coffee**
- 8:30 am – 11:00 am **BC Chief Forester’s Vision for Reforestation** – New to the position as of last year Chief Forester, Shane Berg will speak about his vision for forestry, our government’s priorities, and our progress to date in achieving them. CF Berg will also bring members of his able staff, Leith McKenzie, Director, Forest Investment and Reporting Branch, and Neil Hughes, Forest Establishment Lead, Resource Practices Branch, to address specific activities including the 2 Billion Tree program, NGO planting, seedling demand forecasts, FRPA legislation, and other operational and strategic aspects of his office’s ambit.
- Federal Perspective on Forestry and Climate Change** – Canadian Forest Service Director, Anne-Hélène Mathey, will provide an overview of the scope of the 2 Billion Tree program and our federal government’s intentions, interests, and priorities in forestry and other nature-based activities to mitigate the effects of climate change across Canada.
- The State of BC Wood Products and Forest Sector** – Alexa Young, VP of Government and Public Affairs of The Council of Forest Industries, will examine the current state and prospects for the wood products sector including an examination of social license and how society’s trust in the forest industry will shape its future.
- 11:00 am **Conference Concludes**
- 11:00 am – 1:00 pm **2023 Strategic Planning Session & AGM for WFCA Members** (*light refreshments included*)
- 1:00 pm **Full Adjournment**