



## INTERIOR UPDATE: CONFERENCE SUCCESS AND CONTRACTOR SUSTAINABILITY ADVOCACY

Along with the ILA Board of Directors and staff, I would first like to start out by thanking Reid Hedlund for his many years of service as Chairman of the ILA Board of Directors. Reid held the Chairman position at the ILA since 2007 and his knowledge of the industry and help with committee representation has been greatly appreciated. Reid's input as Chairman over the last decade played a large part in the ILA's current success. Reid will now take on the responsibilities of Past Chairman and we look forward to his contributions in this role. I also want to congratulate Randy Spence our new Chairman of the ILA Board and Len Gudeit our new First Vice Chairman. A thank you must also go out to Ed Smith who has filled every role. He's been a Director, First and Second Vice Chairman, Chairman and Past Chairman over his 29 years with the ILA. Ed has retired from the timber harvesting industry and we wish him and his wife Vicki all the best in their future business ventures.

The ILA's 59th Conference & Trade Show was a big success again this year. Our theme was "Women Working in the Forest Harvesting Industry" and our luncheon guest speaker Melinda Morben, Manager of Operational Logistics for Island Timberlands held everybody's attention during her presentation about supporting diversity and acceptance in the workplace. Several guests went up to congratulate Melinda after her presentation. Finning's Crystal Kealey said, "She is extremely engaging and has a great sense of humour." Heather Press, Manager, Talent for Tolko Industries commented that "Melinda brought an authentic, thought provoking first-hand perspective of being a woman working in a male dominated industry. She used humour and personal experience to get her points across and left the audience with practical ideas as takeaways." I thank Melinda for making the time to speak to us in Vernon. Her luncheon speech was well received and very relevant in a time

where the industry is seeking people to fill jobs as baby boomers retire.

Finally, I would like to thank all those who participated in our 59th Annual Conference & Trade Show. Without your continued support and contributions we would not be successful year over year as we are.

### Contractor Sustainability

Again this year, the ILA board was pleased to host a joint meeting with the TLA and NWLA Boards. In the past, this has been a great opportunity for all three associations to discuss the challenges facing the timber harvesting sector of the forest industry. The main topic of concern continues to be contractor sustainability. The validity of this concern was confirmed by a review of PNL Consulting's *Forest Sector Contractor Economic Sustainability Report* by Aaron Sinclair, Principal of PNL. We also had the privilege of a meeting with George Abbott, President of Circle Square Solutions, who is the independent facilitator hired by government to conduct the Contractor Sustainability Review. George also held meetings on Friday with 14 different southern Interior logging contractors to discuss their concerns around contractor sustainability and challenges facing the timber harvesting sector.

### ILA Scholarship Deadline

Finally, here's a reminder that ILA scholarship applications are due by the end of July. The ILA offers \$5,000 worth of scholarship funding: \$2,000 for forestry, \$1,000 for business administration, \$1,000 for trades and \$1,000 for a general scholarship. For more information or to apply, please go to our website [www.interiorlogging.org](http://www.interiorlogging.org). 🌲



The ILA's 59th Conference & Trade Show was a big success again this year. Read all about it and check out the photos on page 21.