



NOW THE WORK BEGINS

The dust has settled on the provincial election and we now know we have a majority NDP government. I would like to welcome Katrine Conroy to her new role as the Minister of Forests, Lands, Natural Resources Operations, and Rural Development; I look forward to working with you. I would be remiss if I did not thank all of those people, regardless of party affiliation, for offering up their names and making such a commitment for the people of British Columbia. I would also like to thank Doug Donaldson for all of the energy and effort that he put forward to assist our associations during his tenure as minister. Enjoy your retirement Doug!

I believe it is important that all of these issues are not considered singularly when making decisions and that all of the stakeholders are given an equal voice prior to decisions being made.

It is the ILA's hope that over the next four years, a majority government will bring stability to our industry. There is much work to be done moving forward; first and foremost, will be the completion of the Contractor Sustainability Review. It was still the goal of all those involved to have this finished well before Christmas so that all of our members can go into 2021 with some certainty around their businesses.

The Old Growth Strategic Review, Interior Forest Sector Renewal initiative and Woodland Caribou Recovery Strategy are just a few of the many issues that will require further efforts by all parties involved to ensure that the working forests of British Columbia are maintained. I believe it is important that all of these issues are not considered singularly when making decisions and that all of the stakeholders are given an equal voice prior to decisions being made. Decisions on the land base affect us all and everyone should be afforded the oppor-

tunity to have their opinion heard and respected. Contractors, like other stakeholders, can provide workable solutions based on their expertise and values. Our board of directors is as always up for the challenge and will continue to assist government in making decisions that have our members' concerns considered as part of that process.

2021 brings us a new year with new beginnings on all fronts and we at the ILA look forward to working with our new forest minister to ensure that the working forests of British Columbia continue to provide for the people of British Columbia. We will continue our strong advocacy efforts on the issues that mat-

ter the most to our members and look forward to the continued co-operation with the other associations to ensure that all of our members are represented. We will also continue to engage with the federal government on issues such as retirement bridging, training dollars for new workers and additional resources for COVID-19 relief.

The pandemic has changed the way things are done across the province and across organizations, which caused the ILA to hold its annual general meeting using video conferencing technology and social distancing rules. It was held later this year due to the cancellation of our annual convention and trade show in May 2020. At this time, we are pleased to announce our new Chairman Ron Volansky of R&A Logging Ltd. in Nakusp and our new First Vice Chairman Tim Menning of Hytest Timber Ltd. in Williams Lake. I would like to thank Randy Spence for his dedication

to the chairperson role for the past four years; Randy will now assume the role of past chairman. I would also like to thank Len Gudeit for his years of service to the ILA through his tenure on the board of directors, Len has stepped down to allow Erin Fitchett of A.F. Timber Co. Ltd. in Nelson to join our board. Our new chairman, executive and board of directors are looking forward to working with the new forest minister and her staff to tackle the many issues that affect our industry.

We at the ILA hope that you and your family had the opportunity to enjoy the holiday season together and with your friends. It is also our wish that everyone had some much needed downtime before the big push to breakup time and that this new year brings safety and prosperity to you all.

I look forward to being able to travel across the Interior again to meet with our members, old and new and to welcome everyone to our annual convention and trade show once again. COVID-19 has restricted our ability to travel but it has by no means restricted our continued efforts to ensure that everyone's voice is heard in this industry. If you require the ILA staff or Board of Directors to assist you with anything, please do not hesitate to contact us either by phone or email, we look forward to talking to you. Stay safe!!

*Todd Chamberlain, RFT, General Manager, ILA
Tel: 250-503-2199
Email: todd@interiorlogging.org*