

MEASURED DECISIONS THAT WILL WORK FOR ALL



I would like to congratulate Premier Horgan on his party's recent re-election and Katrine Conroy on her appointment as BC's new Minister of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations, and Rural Development. We look forward to working with government on the many challenges facing the forest industry including the high priority of moving forward with the new rate dispute resolution mechanism coming out of the Contractor Sustainability Review.

We also look forward to the work that will need to be done on the socio-economic review of old-growth logging, which was an obvious miss in the recent Old Growth Strategic Review. It is so important to show how this is not just a simple subject of cut or preserve. BC's active working forest is both old and new, and has multiple benefits generating far more than just stumpage to the Province, returns to contractors and profitability to licensees. An active working forest creates community stability, wages to thousands of employees, and economic returns to multiple supply chains across the province.

Tenure reform is another important topic for all stakeholders in the forest industry. For almost eight decades, the TLA has been calling for some type of tenure reform and with so many issues around native land claims, old-growth logging and protection, forestry community stability and the need for certainty on the land base to enhance investment, it would be hard to not conclude that there will be changes coming in our future. For contractors, this could be both scary and an opportunity. The TLA will be urging government to make measured decisions that work for all stakeholders. A one-size-fits-all approach will not work across the province and contractors need to be considered fairly in any decisions that are made.

Additionally, the TLA is working with mayors and leaders of TLA Community

members to help chart a path forward for businesses and communities.

Last year, in partnership with TimberTracks, the TLA launched the Forestry Equipment Hourly Rate Sheet to provide the basic information needed for forestry equipment hourly rates, which were developed independently by equipment manufacturers and contractors and reflect actual work-on-the-ground situations. A significant amount of research and work went into this initiative and despite it not being perfect for all situations it is a reasonable place to start when developing a rate model or checking the hourly structure in your businesses. I highly encourage TLA members to consider using these rates. See page 5 for more information about how TLA and ILA members can obtain a copy.

For those who are not already aware, I'd like to formally recognize the TLA's new partnership with Wilson M. Beck (WM Beck) Insurance Services. Not much has actually changed, as it is the result of account managers, Ben Fitzpatrick and Peter Pringle, transitioning from Marsh to WM Beck who will remain the TLA's main contacts. Wilson M. Beck is a second-generation western Canadian company with the ability to also provide ICBC insurance, which TLA members will appreciate for a one-stop-shop option. Welcome, Wilson M. Beck.

On the COVID-19 front, the TLA continues to deal with the pandemic, as does the rest of the forest industry and the world. We are all thankful that forestry is an essential service and are proud to be a major contributor to BC's economic recovery.

Without a convention in 2021 due to COVID-19, we have been forced to look at everything differently and make changes to how we operate. We continue to provide industry information and education through our new TLA TALKS webinar initiative; past webinars can be found online through the

members-only section on the TLA website. We value our suppliers and want to ensure they still have an opportunity to reach out to our members, so in this issue we've included a separate Suppliers' Supplement section and on January 13, we are offering a one-day Suppliers' Spotlight webinar series. Also in January, we are hosting an online auction to raise funds for the Forestry Education Fund to ensure we continue funding scholarships for many deserving forestry students.

Also a reflection of the times is a change in our annual sponsorship. I would like to extend our appreciation to Finning for the past nine years as our Premier Sponsor, previous five years as our convention's Gold Sponsor and prior decades of sponsoring TLA events; you will be missed. At the same time, I would like to thank Inland for joining as our new Premier Sponsor, building upon their previous support of the TLA.

We've also experienced a decline in magazine advertising, so I'd also like to extend our appreciation to all of the advertisers listed on page 45 whose support has enabled this issue to be in the hands of our readers.

Changes to the TLA's funding structure has caused the board to do some deep inward reflection, have hard discussions and make difficult decisions about the future. All discussions come back to how the TLA can continue to provide maximum value to its members and are a sign of a healthy association that is willing to change. We always want to honour our history and tradition, but the industry and our members' needs change, and so too will the association to meet those needs. As always, our strength is in our roots.▲

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