



Forest Enhancement
Society of British Columbia



FEDERATION OF BRITISH COLUMBIA
WOODLOT ASSOCIATIONS

Woodlot Challenges and Opportunities

Theme for the 2019 Federation of B.C. Woodlot Association AGM & Conference

For Immediate Release

SMITHERS, B.C.: The Federation of British Columbia Woodlot Association (FBCWA) is set to hold their 2019 AGM and Conference in Smithers October 6 – 7, hosted by the Nadina, Kispiox and Bulkley Woodlot Associations. The theme is **Beyond Sawlogs: Woodlot Challenges and Opportunities.**

There are 855 active woodlots in British Columbia, of which over 90 are located in the Nadina, Bulkley, and Kispiox Timber Supply Areas. The FBCWA represents 17 woodlot associations whose members harvest approximately 1.5 million cubic metres of timber annually, generating significant economic activity in communities.

“The FBCWA has a vision where woodlot holders/owners will participate in a healthy and diverse forest industry with woodlot licences and private forest lands making significant contributions to local communities and providing a sustainable supply of forest products,” said Brian McNaughton, FBCWA General Manager. “Our association has a voice in forest and economic policy and we desire for B.C.’s woodlots to be models of forest management excellence and world renowned for their social, economic, recreational, cultural, and educational contributions to rural communities.”

Conference delegates will take part in the annual field trip to visit three industry partners in Houston that are working co-operatively to utilize and convert wood fibre into wood products: **Canfor** Houston is a supermill which makes commodity lumber products; **Corewood** uses low-value logs to make wood products such as square cants and rig mats; and **Pinnacle Renewable Energy** uses woody biomass to make wood pellets.

Steve Kozuki, RPF, Executive Director of the Forest Enhancement Society of B.C. (FESBC) will be taking in the conference and tour to learn more about the innovative practices in the area. To date, FESBC has funded six wildfire risk reduction projects with woodlot holders/owners across the province, including the FBCWA, with a combined total value of \$872,818.

“The forest sector in past few decades has seen tremendous advancements in the use of technology to inform forest management and develop improved forest products, including clean bio-energy,” said Kozuki. “Woodlots in our province can provide eco-friendly biomass for the new bio-economy. Furthermore, B.C. woodlots are very much at the innovation forefront of earning social license through their deep commitment to excellent forest management and relationships with their neighbours. We congratulate them on holding this conference and are looking forward to attending.”

The conference and tour are only open to delegates who have pre-registered, but media is encouraged to connect with the FBCWA to arrange an interview.

For More Information on FBCWA

Lisa Marak, Administrative Support & Communications, 250.470.1233 | admin@woodlot.bc.ca

For More Information on FESBC:

Aleece Laird, Communications Liaison, 250.574.0221 | communications@fesbc.ca