

# WSCA

Spring 1990

NEWSLETTER

AGM  
REPORT

# F.I.R.E!

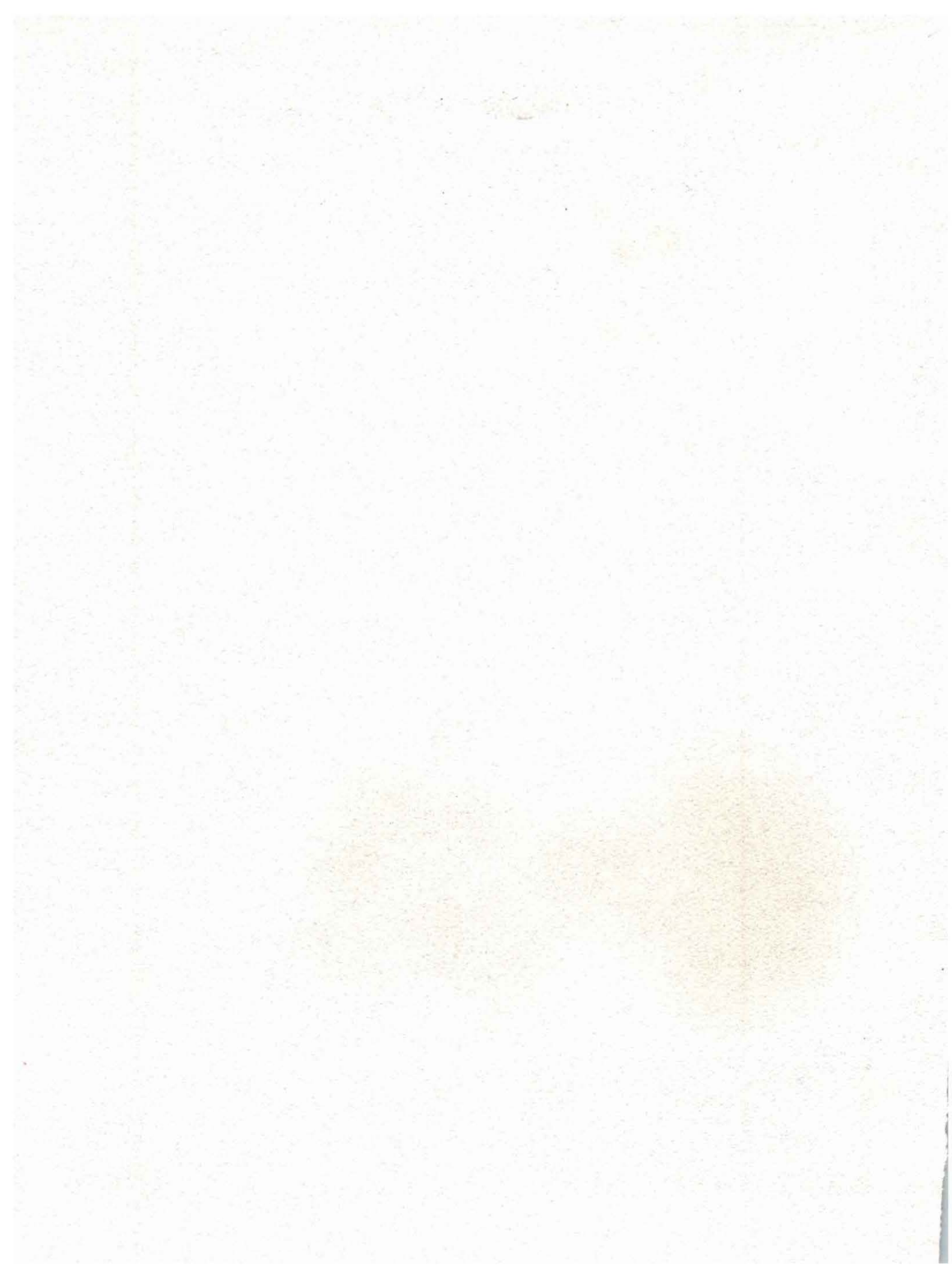
## READY. AIM.

### WSCA F.I.R.E! campaign gets results the Sacred way.

B.C. government puts "Reforestation" into the Sustainable Environment Fund

Will WSCA become *WSECA*?

WESTERN SUSTAINABLE ENVIRONMENT CONTRACTORS ASSOCIATION



# Western Silviculture Contractors Association

## Newsletter Spring 1990

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The WSCA Newsletter is published by the Western Silviculture Contractors Association three times a year.

Opinions expressed by the authors do not necessarily represent the views of the WSCA.

This Newsletter was produced by Gordon Murray and Claude-Michel Prévost of *GraphiCoe*™

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## News Briefs

### Free Trade in Pesticides

Planting stock is now coming from the U.S. where the use of Thiram is allowed. Planters often balk at the statements "Do not drink alcohol within 48 hours of handling". This is because Thiram is a close relative of a drug used to cure alcoholism. It makes you nauseous and will cause vomiting if you drink any alcohol after exposure. More seriously, Thiram has been protested by planters for years because of its mutagenic properties. Take protective measures.

### Reviewing the Timber

A National Conference on Canada's Timber Resources will be held from June 3 to 6, 1990 at the Victoria Conference Centre in Victoria, British Columbia. The Conference is co-sponsored by Forestry Canada and the British Columbia Ministry of Forests. Its purpose is to review and improve our knowledge of Canada's forests, their area and wood volume, accruals and depletions, and the prospects for sustained yield and sustainable development in the future up to the year 2050.

### Rockies Wilderness Area

The Height of the Rockies Wilderness Area (68,000 hectares) management plan was released for public review and comment. Forests Minister Richmond claimed the primary objectives for this wilderness area are to protect and conserve the natural features found within it and to provide for public wilderness use. Commercial logging will not be permitted; mineral, petroleum or natural gas exploration will be "carefully regulated;" motorized transport will be restricted; and commercial guiding operations and traditional recreational uses (such as hunting and fishing) will continue.

### Forests Socially Assisted

The Forestry Enhancement Program gets an additional \$250,000 to employ provincial social assistance recipients on silviculture and other forestry projects. The program created more than 20,000 days of employment in 1988.

### Where is that Carmanah?

Allegations that MacMillan Bloedel is logging into the Carmanah—based on video footages shot from an airplane—were investigated by B.C. Forest Service staff. The Forest Service claims they are satisfied that there has been no trespass across the approved boundary.

### Old Growth Strategies

Forests Minister Claude Richmond announced an inter-ministry management committee for developing a strategy on old-growth forests. It is to be chaired by the province's chief forester, and will have deputy chairmen from three ministries: environment; parks; and, regional and economic development. The working group will include representatives of provincial ministries, industry, interest groups, native organizations, independent professionals, and educational institutions. This group will recommend an old-growth forests management strategy.

### WSCA Policies/Procedures

The historic policies and procedures of the WSCA have been summarized by Ross Styles and are now available to anyone interested. A summary of the currently relevant policies and procedures will be attached to your copy of the constitution.

### Saskatchewan Contractors Associate?

Eight Saskatchewan Contractors are meeting as this issue goes to press to consider forming a new chapter of the WSCA as an association. Look for a report on the results of that meeting in the next issue.

### Interior Stumpage Review

To address allegations by interior lumber companies that the system for determining interior rates is inequitable, MOF is conducting an independent review through Howard Saunders, Vancouver consultant.

### Nurturing Academia

B.C. forest service will sponsor a 'professional chair' of silvics at the UBC in honour of Dr. Vladimir Krajina. To fund the work of Dr. Karel Klinka, a \$65,000 annual grant for 5 years will be allocated.

### National Forest Week

The British Columbia Forestry Association is coordinating the National Forest Week program for B.C., held annually in early May. During this week communities across B.C. plan activities to increase public awareness of the forest resources and their management. For questions call Barbara Jones or Gail Wallin at 683-7591.

### Forest manual Released

"Regenerating B.C.'s Forests", is now published by the U.B.C. Press. The work combines, for the first time, both experiences recorded from practical reforestation projects and the results of scientific investigations. It will assist those responsible for planning reforestation projects to reach informed decisions and will challenge them to consider primarily the biological factors basic to success rather than short term costs and production technology.

384 pp. approx., \$25.95.

### Preventative Damage Control

Anticipating bad press in National Geographic concerning logging practices in Kyuquot Sound, Claude Richmond issued the following statement:

"Steps have been taken to correct mistakes made years ago. Our Chief Forester toured the area last fall and has told me that the trees planted on the area shown in the photograph used by the media are four to six feet tall, obviously these trees may not show up on a photograph—particularly if the shot is taken from a distance. I trust reporters will cover both sides of the story: that mistakes were made several years ago but that we've learned from experience; we've taken steps to make sure those mistakes are not repeated; and, tremendous improvements in forest management are occurring as a result. Extensive research and training on slope stability has occurred since the area was logged years ago. Today the same practices would not occur, aesthetics, slope stability, reforestation, the potential for blowdown and a number of other factors, such as the ecology of an area, must be identified before any wood is harvested."

# Western Sustainable Development Contractors Association

## Editorial

### Reforestation Becomes Environmental

As part of last month's budget speech, the B.C. government announced that the reforestation budget would be put under the jurisdiction of the Sustainable Environment Fund. The Fund is administered by the Sustainable Development Committee (originally called Sustainable Environment Committee), a 'committee' that includes the entire cabinet. These announcements are operationally awkward because there is no clear indication (or legislation) of cabinet's intentions. Until some legislation is passed the planting program may be officially on hold.

The immediate name-change of the committee (Sustainable 'Environment' to 'Development') create further confusion and call into question the ecological priorities of the committee. The term 'Sustainable Development' means many different things to different people. The Brundtland UN report defined it as "development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the needs of the future." The implied message was to also meet the needs of the future without compromising the 'needs' of the present (does this include the politicians 'need' to be re-elected?).

Like many politicians, Forests Minister Richmond contends that only developed countries with healthy economies can afford the 'luxury' of caring about the environment. In other words, caring for the economy must come first.

What does all this mean for the silviculture contractor?

It has meant that critical projects have been delayed and probably will be cancelled. The sustainable development fund does not yet exist—it has to be drafted and tabled.

The present plan is for the Ministry of Environment to approve every silviculture project. Since MOE was unprepared for this announcement, it has no staff to review \$212 million worth of planned silviculture work. It doesn't have terms of reference to evaluate the environmental impact of silviculture treatments. For this season the MOE evaluation is likely to be a rubber stamping process.

Even so, Silviculture Branch is constrained to follow protocol. Meetings with MOE to develop procedures and (as well as meetings the Sustainable Development Committee) have to be scheduled and all issues discussed. The legislation and regulation then needs to be drafted. This will take weeks or months—legislation can take longer than a WSCA newsletter.

Current silviculture projects were planned last year. Almost all silviculture projects have biological and operational deadlines, some of which have already past. More delays will mean lost opportunities. Peter Ackhurst, Silviculture Branch Director, has expeditiously approved 70-80% of the planned program according to regional priorities.

Nevertheless, many WSCA contractors have already faced delayed and cancelled projects due to uncertain funding.

Committee for Sustainable Development's concerns are interesting. According to Peter Ackhurst, all expenditures out of the fund must go purely for reforestation, and not one penny may go to administration, vehicles, nor roads—especially not roads. The committee wants a **green** budget and they intend for MOE to ensure that all silviculture projects are **pure green**.

Both the federal and provincial portions of an assumed FRDA II are also in the fund—frozen like a bug in amber until there is a signed Federal-Provincial agreement.

### Greenmail

For about a year the WSCA has lobbied to have environmental benefits harnessed to fund forest renewal both through the F.I.R.E! campaign and otherwise. In the last two newsletters and numerous meetings we argued that:

*Forest renewal sequesters carbon, cooling global warming; cleans the air; cleans water; creates wildlife habitat; moderates climate; conserves soils; as well as delivering the goods to tourism, recreation, the forest industry and other users...*

Confronting Canadian politicians and bureaucrats with the following puzzle gets their gears moving:

President Bush announced in January the planting of an additional one billion trees (the U.S. plants about three billion trees per year) on a budget of \$175 million. We all know it costs more than 17.5¢ cents to grow and plant a tree, so what's the catch?

The answer is **corporate donations**.

In fact, so many corporations are jumping on the green bandwagon, Bush is planning to announce a second billion trees.

In all of Canada we plant less than one billion trees!

This is the power of green politics. If it is not politically/environmentally correct to work for Exxon—how do they attract high quality new employees & new customers? For many heavy polluters, a green fund is the only way to clean up their image.

In 1989, Petrocan wanted to give away a tree with each fill up. The idea was rejected because finding a dead tree under the seat when cleaning the car on Saturday would not make their customers feel good.

Until now no reforestation budget in Canada was immune to raids for general revenue and deficit juggling acts. On May 7 the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources announced "**Trees Ontario**, a non-profit foundation to design and administer tree planting in cooperation with corporations wanting to demonstrate their concern for the environment." The program is administered by the Ontario Forestry Association on Crown lands.

We will soon see how many green indulgences industry is willing to purchase to get their image out of the public relations nightmare of 'pollution purgatory.'

# Editorial

## FRDA Follies

I just read *Heritage Lost: The Crisis in Canada's Forests* by Donald Mackay (MacMillan, 1985) as a background to lobbying Ottawa for a new FRDA II. After reading about many dedicated visionaries spending their lifetimes trying to rally an apathetic and industry oriented government, I feel as if I am joining a Canadian tradition of Sisyphus. Forest advocates condemned to continually roll proposals for investments in Canada's forest future up "the Hill" in Ottawa only to have it shrugged off year after year. These shrugs are now very familiar and have to be considered endemic to the problem.

The forests are the responsibility of the provinces, a heritage of confederation. Today the federal father figure faces ten provincial prodigals that have squandered their forest inheritance and are all squabbling for as much renewal allowance as

they can get. This is the stuff of tragedy-comedy: Ontario is waiting for B.C. to make a deal; B.C. is waiting for a Quebec agreement; Quebec is waiting for everyone else to agree Quebec is distinctly special. While everyone bickers, Ottawa gets angry about taking the blame from the public and becomes less generous.

B.C.— less prodigal because it is not adding to its unproductive forest backlog and because of its balanced budget—is last in line for the federal fatted calf.

Ottawa is only offering B.C. \$100 million which it expects B.C. to match 2 for 1. B.C. is jealous that Quebec will probably fare better at the table. It does not want to put the federal maple leaf on its pride of planting signs for a paltry \$100 million. The province doesn't want to come home looking too conciliatory with the unpopular federal government just before a provincial election. Bashing the feds and 'standing tall' in negotiations is an ever popular (and successful) Sacred election strategy. Whatever the political motives, I don't

expect B.C. to sign a FRDA II before the provincial election.

We must all continue to fax, phone, and wire our MPs and Ministers Oberle, Wilson, and Mulroney. The future of B.C.'s ecosystems, economy and quality of life must not be permitted to go down with fickle political 'realities'.

Our personal, corporate, and provincial, democratic freedoms have been very costly to our forest heritage. We need to re-evaluate the system whereby public land with forest rotations that take generations is administered by governments with annual budgets competing in bi-annual popularity contests. Silviculture must be funded by an absolutely independent trust fund that is the first charge against revenues from the harvest. This trust fund should receive a flat percentage of all federal tax revenue from the forest industry. Inaction or delay because of competition with well lobbied issues will mean we no longer have a forest on which to base our economy and collect taxes.

## FRDA News

### Minister says FRDA not on chopping block

Federal Forests Minister Frank Oberle has axed speculation on FRDA. The Conservative government is considering cutting a forestry agreement with B.C. to \$50 million from \$300 million. "Fifty million is a paltry sum," he said, "we're negotiating...over the next five years I'm most confident I will be spending more money in B.C. than I did over the last five years."

### Federal Forestry Aid Slap in the Face for B.C.

If B.C. got the same dollar value for a new forestry agreement with Ottawa that Nova Scotia already has, about \$3 billion would be spent on tree planting and stand tending programs in the next five years, says one of the B.C.'s biggest silvicultural contractors.

Instead, B.C. and Ottawa appear headed toward concluding a new Forest Resource Development Agreement that falls far short of the \$700 million the province had been hoping for.

And that, says Dirk Brinkman, is a slap in the face to a province producing nearly 30 times more timber than does Nova Scotia. (*The Vancouver Sun*, March 14, 1990).

### Political Fools Hit by WSCA

Reforestation in B.C. is almost certain to be chopped back by Ottawa. Premier Bill Vander Zalm warned yesterday. "It's going to be very difficult," he said. He expects Ottawa will contribute on about \$40 million, instead of the \$350 million B.C. had expected, under a five-year federal-provincial reforestation program.

The tables are being turned on Premier Bill Vander Zalm over expected reforestation cutbacks. Dirk Brinkman, president of the 80 member Western Silviculture Contractors Association, said both levels of government are "political fools" if they countenance huge cutbacks.

"That would be a cruel joke," he said. "Only a political fool would fail to renew the number-one economic engine in B.C. He said cutting the \$700 million program to \$80 million could cost the equivalent of 2,500 jobs. (*The Province*, March 7, 1990)

### Ottawa plans deep cuts for reforestation

#### *The article that triggered the debate*

Federal funding available for the next five years has plummeted to less than \$30 million, Roxanna Benoit, assistant to Charles Mayer, minister responsible for Western Economic Diversification, said in an interview. (*Financial Post*, March 6, 1990)

### A full ministry with an empty budget

In February 1990, the Department of Forestry Act came into force, making Forestry Canada the federal Department of Forestry replacing the former Canadian Forestry Service. Minister of Forestry: Frank Oberle

**National Headquarters** and Office of the Minister of Forestry: Place Vincent Massey 351 St. Joseph Boulevard, Hull, Quebec K1A 1G5 (819) 997-1107 - Minister's Office (819) 997-1694. **Northwest Region:** 5320-122nd St. Edmonton, Alberta T6H 3S5 (403) 435-7210 **Pacific and Yukon Region:** 506 West Burnside Road Victoria, British Columbia V8Z 1M5 (604) 388-0600.

### Slashes to Funding put Forests at Risk

B.C. forests could go the way of the troubled East Coast fishing industry is Ottawa and Victoria cut back on funding for reforestation, Ross Styles, executive director of the Western Silvicultural Contractors Association said. "If the citizens of B.C. let the federal and provincial governments withdraw funding for forest renewal and enhancement, they will see a downgrading of the economy for themselves and their children. (*Kamloops Daily News*, March 12, 1990).

# FRDA ACTION

## Renewal FRDAI

**Letter From WSCA and the Northwestern Commercial Nursery Association to Mel Couvelier, Minister of Finance; Claude Richmond, Minister of Forests; and Norman Jacobsen, MLA - Dewdney**

The members of the Western Silviculture Contractors Association, Northwest Reforestation Nurseries Association, and Consulting Foresters of B.C. fully support the British Columbia Government in the renewal of FRDA to the increased amount of \$700 million.

FRDA I has proven to be a major forest renewal program which has a significant impact on maintaining and improving our environment. This is a major issue with the public today.

FRDA has been a major employment generator for many of the smaller communities in British Columbia. As an example, \$2.4 million is spent on FRDA in Burns Lake creating sixty person years of employment annually; \$471,788 in Merritt creating nine person years of employment; \$1.1 million in Dawson Creek creating 12 person years of employment.

Forty-five million forests seedlings at a cost of \$10,000,000 have been grown annually for FRDA in nurseries located in Saanichton, Duncan, Campbell River, Maple Ridge, Aldergrove, Chilliwack, Vernon, Oliver, Nelson, Prince George, Quesnel, Smithers and Terrace. This activity generates 1,000 part-time jobs in these communities annually.

With the FRDA program, a large number of forest consulting jobs and research jobs have also been created in British Columbia's numerous communities.

FRDAI has significantly reduced the backlog of productive forest areas through the planting of 140,000 hectares; the health, growth and value of the forest through incremental silviculture techniques has been improved on 150,000 hectares which will significantly hamper the effects of timber supply shortfalls within the Province.

We urge the Provincial Government to aggressively pursue the renewal of FRDA for \$700 million for the following reasons:

- to assure the public that our forests are being managed to ensure the environment is protected and enhanced;
- as an employment generator;
- to ensure that the public continues to become better informed on forestry management;
- to continue investing in our forests to ensure that timber shortfalls are prevented in our forestry communities;
- to preserve the ecological integrity of our forestland
- to improve the value of our forest resource for future product values;
- to improve our tourist values
- to ensure investments in plantations established under FRDA I are protected through to a free growing status
- as a sink for Canada CO2 emissions.

**"Our forest lie in the cradle of our caring,  
and in that caring lies our future"**

**Frank Whertec**

## Letter from John Turner

Dear Mr. Styles:

Thank you for your letter and enclosures of January 26 concerning the need for a renewal of British Columbia's federal provincial forest resource development agreements. The strength of the Mulroney government's commitment to the forestry sector should be called into question in light of the \$40 million cut in reforestation and development programs in the 1989 budget.

My colleagues and I recognize the need to increase the level of Canadian investment in forest management to ensure the sustainable economic development of this key industry. Toward this end, during the last federal election campaign we proposed an additional \$75 million in funding to establish a long term extensive silviculture and reforestation strategy. If our children are to enjoy the economic and recreational benefits of our forests, it is vital that a stronger federal commitment be made to the forestry sector today.

## Letter to Claude Richmond

On behalf of members of the association, I want to thank you for taking the time and making the trip to Vancouver to deliver your address at the Conference on January 11, 1990. Your speech was appreciated by your listeners and left them with positive feelings about your leadership of the Ministry.

Our members wholeheartedly support your pursuit of a renewed Forest Resource Development Agreement although they think a billion dollar agreement is more appropriate given the work to be done between now and the year 2000. Most of the activities proposed for the agreement address both resource renewal and environmental enhancement. If we do not take care of our environment and renew our resources, the world we leave our children won't be worth much.

I wish you well in your New Ministry.

Sincerely Yours,

Ross Styles, Executive Director

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## CBC Early Edition Interview (MARCH 9 1990)

**Paul Grant:** *Premier Bill Van der Zalm is sending out some dire warnings about the future of B.C.'s reforestation program. The Premier says he expects Ottawa to cut back on funding it's share of the program by more than 300 million dollars and Mr. Van der Zalm says he doubts the Provinces can make up the difference because of cuts in Federal transfer payments in last months budget. All this talk worries people like Dirk Brinkman, he is the President of the Western Silviculture Contractors Association, they plant the majority of trees in British Columbia and we reached Mr. Brinkman at his office. Good Morning, Mr. Brinkman.*

**Paul Grant:** What is the impact going to be on you and the people who plant trees in this province?

**Dirk Brinkman:** First of all, to clarify, not only is Van der Zalm saying he can't make up the difference that Ottawa won't contribute he is saying he won't contribute what he was previously planning to contribute; so the net impact on the program would be to lose between one quarter and a third of the silviculture activities in B.C.

**Paul Grant:** Now what sort of land are we talking about here?

**Dirk Brinkman:** Over the past 30 or 40 years the areas that have been logged or where there have been wild fires, which haven't been reforested, total over 3.7 million hectares (twice the size virtually of Vancouver Island.) Now we are prioritizing or targeting about 500 thousand of these hectares which are good and medium sites — very productive growing sites — to be reforested under the planned Federal Provincial Agreement.

**Paul Grant:** What do you think this is going to do to the forest industry, if these trees don't get planted?

**Dirk Brinkman:** The moment you don't plant, you know you won't have a future forest; and the moment you don't have a future forest you have to reconsider how much you are harvesting today, because today's harvest is set as a proportion of the available forest in the long term. I foresee if we don't have a serious FRDA agreement (the seven hundred million dollar program that was planned), that we have to look at having the annual cut in B.C. drop from 90 million cubic meters into 60. We are going to end up losing, in other words, 4 or 5 billion dollars worth of shipped goods into this province. The impact on the economy and especially some of the isolated towns, which are totally dependent on the forest industry, is going to be devastating.

**Paul Grant:** But if you cut the annual allowable cut by a third you are going to devastate the forest industry anyway.

**Dirk Brinkman:** It's a completely foolish

political strategy for reducing a deficit when the primary engine of the economy is the forest industry and the primary source of tax revenue is the forest industry and it's support services. It's fathomless to contemplate cutting this program, I call it a cruel joke for the two governments to be jockeying politically about the transfer payment issue using this program. It's hard to believe.

**Paul Grant:** What role do the forest companies play here Mr. Brinkman, could they pick up some of the slack and increase their contributions to the reforestation program?

**Dirk Brinkman:** I don't think it would be fair to ask them to do that. The forest companies are currently required to reforest all areas that they log, they can't log an area without a commitment to regenerate it, however they do it and 75% of the time that is through some kind of artificial regeneration. What we are talking about here is the past. The companies of that day were in compact with the public to go ahead and log without reforesting previous to 1987. The vast number of areas that have accumulated over time are what we are targeting some federal and provincial money to reforest. We have to look at the

governments to deal with the poor history, the neglected areas of this province.

**Paul Grant:** Leaving aside for a moment the economic impact of all this, what will be the environmental impact of not planting these trees?

**Dirk Brinkman:** Well I see this as a compromise of the use of our forest land base, of the forest ecosystem. Reforestation contributes to clean water, clean air, a healthy forest environment. I can hardly imagine that two weeks from now the Federal and Provincial governments plan to host Globe 90 - an environmental conference billed as the biggest environmental conference in the world, in the wake of having cut the reforestation program. We'll have to compare ourselves to Brazil: we've harvested and not reforested. On the scale of international images it would be a tremendous embarrassment to stand here and host the world to Globe 90 while locally we harvest and don't reforest. It's hard for me to contemplate that we would undermine our prime industry, the future of Canada is a forest country. It has to be our number one concern that we keep it intact as a healthy forest country and that it remain a tourist attraction for it's beautiful forests, and that we keep the environment, the ecosystem of our forests intact and healthy.

## NATIONAL SYMPOSIUM ON SILVICULTURE

After my FIRE! talk at the Ontario Silviculture Contractors Association AGM, Claude Boisvert and Scott Olson suggested again that there be a National Silviculture Conference. They took the initiative to propose that Silviculture Magazine sponsor it. Forestry Canada has agreed to host it. Discussions are focussing on inviting representatives from all associations; Western, Ontario, Quebec, Nova Scotia, PEI, New Brunswick plus all nursery associations, to a pre-meeting at the middle of July in Ottawa.

The Symposium is planned for Feb. 1991, and will probably be held in Ottawa.

It is a consideration to have the WSCA host it in B.C.

The formation of a National Association is a possibility, though funding for such an organization would have to come from Ottawa.

CPPA, CIF and CFA are also being invited.

If anyone has any appropriate suggestions to make this a full event, please forward them to the WSCA executive.

*Dirk Brinkman*

# Forest Management Conflicts

by Dirk Brinkman

**Note:** This is the WSCA brief to the British Columbia Forest Resources Commission.

The shift within society from exploitation and harvesting towards more nurturing and caring values in the forests is a shift towards the viewpoint of most silviculture contractors, workers and practitioners. The gap that now exists between the forest industry and the environmental movement is bridged by the practicing and committed silviculturalists of B.C..

The silviculture industries views and values are generally acceptable to both sides of this highly polarized conflict. The WSCA hopes that its recommendations will contribute to a cooperative resolution of some of the public forest management conflicts which led to the formation of the Forest Resources Commission.

Our Association was formed in 1981 and has approximately 80 contracting firms as members. Besides planting over 85% of the trees in the provincial program, our members also perform a significant portion of the brushing and weeding, surveying, site preparation, spacing, vegetative management and fire protection services in B.C..

## Comprehensive Land Use Strategy

There are many conflicting demands placed on B.C. lands.

It is time to do a comprehensive land use strategy that identifies conflicts of incompatible land uses. For example: "preservation of old growth forests" and "logging," or "hydro pondage" and "productive forestland".

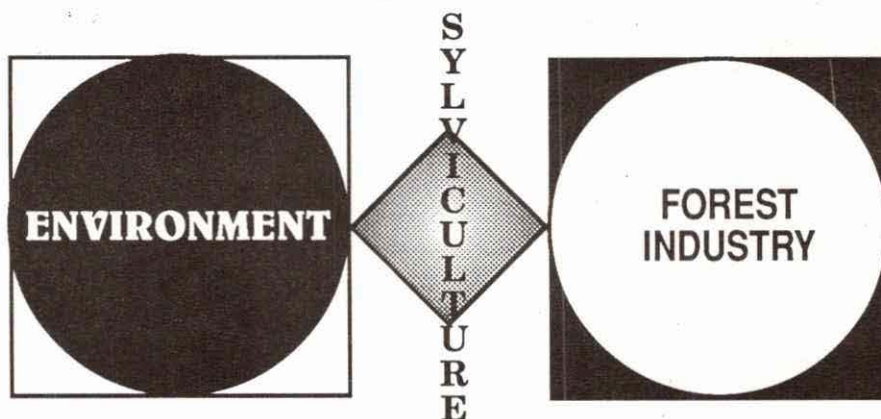
An overall strategy for resolving these incompatible land use conflicts has to be developed which identifies the priorities and goals of the people of this province.

Conflict resolution procedures which establish priority use must follow quickly in order that the kind of long term planning needed for forest management can take place.

One sample area for the Forest Resources Commission to review is the use of some of our most productive forestland for hydro pondage. B.C. needs to adopt a similar strategy to Switzerland, where hydro electric reservoirs are designed to occupy the minimum land surface for the maximum volume and height (Penstock head).

### Sustainable Development

Sustainable development means many different things to different people.



The WSCA supports the Bruntland report recommendation that at least 12% of the most unique wilderness is set aside as parks for future generations.

British Columbia has some of the most uniquely beautiful areas in the world and that percentage, if anything, may need to be higher.

Forest land productivity must not be compromised by logging practices or road building practices. The rich fecundity of a forest floor is sometimes collapsed by heavy equipment compaction or washed away by soil erosion. Site productivity preservation and enhancement will have to be practiced and audited if we are to have new plantations replace the harvest.

## A Comprehensive Natural Resources Study

Some currently conflicting land use values have the potential of being highly integrated.

A Comprehensive Natural Resources Study to inventory all of B.C.'s natural

resources and identify their working inter-relationships is required to develop operational and administrative procedures for optimizing their integration.

Integrating natural resource values and land use conflicts, where they have the potential to co-exist can serve to eliminate the deadlock in many areas.

For this we recommend that a publically accessible GIS mapping of all provincial resources, as well as legal and potential claims, be established as a common planning base for all departments and British Columbians.

In order for this strategy to be complete we need a comprehensive inventory of all the forest resources, including an inventory of other values such as old growth, wildlife, unique habitats, scenic geography, watersheds, water-systems, hydro pondages—everything that depends on the forests to sustain its value.

### Target A.A.C.

One of the most important features of such a resource strategy would be to choose target annual allowable harvest levels for

**Forest Management Conflicts cont...**

the years 2000, 2010, 2020, 2030, 2040, 2070 and 2100.

This would lay the ground work for resolving investment uncertainty and environmental concerns.

**A Comprehensive Silviculture Strategy**

From a Land Use and a Resource Use Strategy a comprehensive silviculture strategy can follow which reflects our industries needs and builds a foundation for its future.

**Principles of Forest Renewal**

Such a strategy, in an environmental era, can be established on some underlying principles of forest renewal like:

- All areas logged will be reforested and the cost of reforesting will be a first charge against the value of the harvest. (Legislated in Bill 70.)
- All N.S.R. areas of economically accessible productive forestland will be restocked from provincial and federal general revenues.
- Intensive silviculture will be practiced at a level that ensures the annual growth of each PSYU exceeds the previous years annual growth by 1%.
- Soil conservation principles, percentage of area used for road building and landings also needs basic principles.

The silviculture strategy should include planning forest renewal and harvesting through to the year 2100.

**Environmental Entrepreneurship**

There are many beneficiaries and potential beneficiaries of forest renewal who are presently not a part of the scene.

The planting program of an additional one billion trees per year that President Bush announced State of the Union Address is being financed by a mere \$175 million (17.5¢ per tree). We all know that you cannot plan, grow, prepare a site, plant and tend a tree for 17.5¢.

President Bush's program depends on corporate sponsors for funding. In fact, the response to the original plan has been so enthusiastic that there is a second one billion trees per year announcement being planned. The U.S. is presently planting

three billion trees to reforest harvested areas. The additional two billion is incremental to the harvest planting.

Polluter industries are beneficiaries of the forests in many ways;

- fossil fuel producers and consumers are all net contributors to CO<sub>2</sub> and thereby to global warming. CO<sub>2</sub> is taken up by forests growth.
- Toxic air contaminants are produced by many industries. This has a serious consequence for population health. Municipality watersheds purify drinking water through watershed forests; concentrations of acid rain and other toxic air contaminants in the water systems are reduced by the forest catchment. The industries whose consumer preference is going to be influenced by their degree of environmental responsibility are going to elect to participate in maintaining the forest mega-filters.

All of the interconnections between the environment and industry embodied in the forest have to be identified.

The opportunity of capturing "green" social energy for forest renewal funding must be included in a comprehensive forest land, natural resource strategy and a silviculture strategy.

**Harnessing the Green Movement**

A comprehensive forest renewal strategy is essential to clearly demarcate the provenance of "silviculture for the purpose of producing forest products" in order to be able to distinguish that program from the "green" values of the forest renewal program.

It is appropriate that the net contributors to atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> make an **incremental** contribution to the CO<sub>2</sub> uptake through the forests. Consequently, any programs tailored for their participation will have to be in addition to the planting of logged areas.

This distinction is not only demanded by corporate benefactors who want to make a distinct contribution; the WSCA is concerned that a carbon tax is not used to pay for "treeplanting for logging." The environmental impact of harvest deforestation demands its own program.

Using a "carbon (CO<sub>2</sub>) tax" or other form of polluter tax to fund reforestation on logging sites would not be acceptable to environmentalists.

For silviculture contractors and workers this would be another form of 'make-work'

funding for silviculture.

The WSCA is on constant vigil to protect jobs and investments made in forest renewal by the silviculture industry from the make-work dreams of government.

**Silviculture Trust Fund**

It has been a major concern to our members that the new (Bill 70, 1987, Oct. 1) forest act regulating reforestation on logged areas will be difficult to enforce during a recession.

Projected silviculture costs are booked into the balance sheet in the year of logging as incurred liabilities and expensed as a cost of logging.

Since reforestation expenditures are scheduled over three to fourteen years, depending on the ecosystem, there is almost a certainty that some of the work will have to be done during tough economic times.

It is our fear that during tough times this money will be spent on other needs before reforestation. As a result the government may be pressured to relax the forest renewal standards to save mills and jobs.

Historically, when faced with the threat of job losses and the risk of gutting a community, the political system under pressure has resulted in what has euphemistically been called, "sympathetic administration," a relaxing of government regulations. Most of this takes place in the field where the subjective judgements of field foresters are difficult to audit.

More seriously, during the last recession, a number of firms went bankrupt.

In all cases during the next recession and under the present silviculture regulations, areas logged by bankrupt firms would fall to the crown to reforest at government cost.

The WSCA recommends that MOF remove the temptation to compromise the reforestation commitment and eliminate the risk of unplanned costs to the government by establishing a silviculture trust fund.

The money presently booked as a future liability by the industry would be placed in the trust fund. Expenditures for reforesting these areas could be drawn out of the fund.

Public trust in the industries obligation to reforest would be enhanced and the concerns of our members would be allayed.

Saskatchewan FMA's include a similar trust fund for silviculture work.

**Forest Management Conflicts cont...**

## **Intensive Forest Management Incentives**

The WSCA encourages the development of industry incentives for taking advantage of the known benefits of properly prescribed intermediate age stand treatments, like commercial spacing, thinning, pruning, and fertilization, to enhance the value and the yield of our forests.

These incentives will result in increased annual allowable cuts and increased stumpage to the province.

To avoid the complexities of administering another stumpage-like growth/yield incentive monitoring system, the WSCA recommends that the province undertake to fund a planned intensive silviculture program which is delivered through industry and the district offices. The funding level should be a factor of the projected increase in benefits as measured by increased stumpage and taxes from the added AAC..

## **Year Round Silviculture Worker Employment**

The extremely seasonal nature of the silviculture employment opportunities is a constant problem for the families of the workers. The only way a worker can make a long season is by following the snow throughout the province. This means working away from home.

Off-season silviculture work opportunities, like pruning, intensive silviculture, vegetative management and other programs would create year round work opportunities permitting the silviculture worker to live at home. Some of these activities may not justify themselves under normal cost benefit models unless this factor is taken into account.

The federal government has an exceptional interest in the seasonal phenomenon of silviculture in addition to the National Forest Sector Strategy resolution calling for provincial programs to develop off-season work to create year-round opportunities.

At present 31% of silviculture workers are unemployed. This represents a drain on federal UIC coffers. As long as the silvicult-

ure program in B.C. is a purely seasonal one, the federal government will wonder if more FRDA money means more UIC collectors. These constraints can be removed with an aggressive provincial intensive silviculture program.

## **Growth & Yield Research**

The original "bag limit" of the feudal game keeper, manifest today as an Annual Allowable Cut calculation, is far from an adequate expression of the social concern for the sustainability of the forest. Today we have to be talking about growth, yield and value research.

Many of the interior T.S.A. are facing 30-40% fall-downs in sustainable harvest :

- there was no adequate inventory taken for the area.
- there are no accurate growth and yield projections available for silviculture activity, past, current or planned.

As a consequence we have never been able to quantify the value of intensive silviculture investment options for maintaining the AAC.

We have planted over 2.5 billion trees; made many enormous strides in the quality of plantation performance; spaced many thousands of hectares; fertilized and brushed many thousands more; without being able to quantify the benefits of the provincial silviculture program to B.C.'s forests, economy or future environment.

How much has the silviculture investment made by the province to date contributed to growth, yield and value of future forest?

## **Plantation Performance Data**

There is at present, no good plantation performance data. The data that exists has not been integrated with the growth and yield data. We must remember that making free-growing trees the target of the new Silviculture Regulations was an interim target designed to fill the gap until the growth and yield data are integrated with reliable performance data.

How the free-growing target relates to the overall growth and performance of the plantation, it's eventual harvestable value and to the ecosystem integrity of the established forest, is unknown due to the lack of a plantation performance data base.

The collection of plantation performance information is presently underway. This data must speedily be made the foundation of a new set of targets for measuring the

quality of established plantations.

Silviculture Regulations should be revised as soon as possible to integrate with growth and yield data. Reforestation targets set for the harvesters can then be integrated with the provincial forest renewal strategy.

## **Ecological Forest Renewal**

Ecological Forest Renewal will soon be a concretely definable process with far more complex standards for the silviculture industry than attend the present program.

The renewal of forest ecosystems is more than simply planting the trees of a forest plantation.

This important evolution in the complexity of re-establishing the forest appears in response to valid new levels of public concern.

A research strategy for implementing the ecological concerns of the public into the forest renewal program is needed immediately.

## **Silviculture Camp Standards**

We have requested that the Minister, through the Silviculture Regulations (MOF), require that the Silviculture Camp Standards (Ministry of Health), be enforced by the licencees responsible for forest renewal, as a means to ensure that all work on crown lands is conducted in a responsible manner that reflects the laws of the province.

Unfortunately, at present, not all contractors are in compliance and not all forest companies care about how their contractors cut costs. The Ministry of Health inspectors are unable to inspect all operations in the hope of catching the few. The only way to simply govern the enforcement of the Silviculture Camp Regulations is to insist that the contract checker simply do a check/off walk through to confirm that the camp conforms with the Health Standards. If there is a problem, then the contractee will be responsible to call the Health Inspector who can adjudicate the problem.

This may seem to be a side issue but it becomes front and center when the media begins to run the "plant while you puke stories" that do very little credit to the silviculture or the forest industry.

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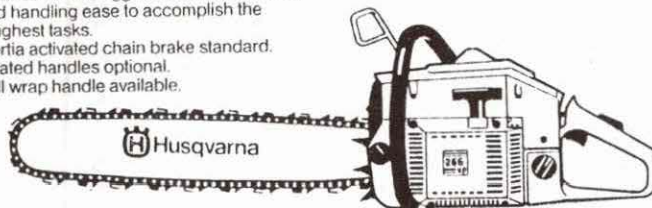
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# Planting Trees Around the World

by Glenda Patterson

As the 1990's approach, treeplanting is entering the global arena. With world population growing, and the forests depleting, treeplanting is emerging as one possible solution in assisting third world nations in meeting their sustainable needs.

For most of these countries, economics, war and overpopulation hinder the home grown initiatives needed to tackle and finance the growing problems. Progress is slow in converting farmers from slash and burn techniques to sustainable agriculture. Knowledge of the rainforest is extremely limited. Foreign debts are monstrous.

These countries rely on the generosity of the have nations to research, develop and implement sustainable projects that start fulfilling basic needs; water, fuel, food and health. Recently, the focus has centered around developing a diversified economic base from which they can prosper.

I recently did some research into international projects which actively plant trees. The criteria I used to select the projects which I felt could make a difference were:

- 1) focus on global issues
- 2) directly benefit impoverished people
- 3) actively plant trees in the third world.

The first one is called **"Canadian Physicians for Aid and Relief in Africa."** This community-oriented organization funds projects which link forestry, water and health. They have built 10 nurseries, trained nursery managers and planted 8 million trees.

Last year 12 species of trees were grown and planted. Half went to the local farmers and the other half were planted on erosion prone hills. A survival rate of 80% is achieved with the special care given by the local people. Deforestation caused by over-grazing, population problems and poor soil has left these people with low food production, malnutrition and disease. If you chose to donate to this project, CIDA (Canadian International Development Agency), will donate 3 \$for your one.

The second is **"Guardian Of The Amazon,"** a World Wildlife Fund project to save tropical forest in South America. This is the fifth initiative in a program to save tropical rainforests in South and Central America.

Some success is evident in the following four programs:

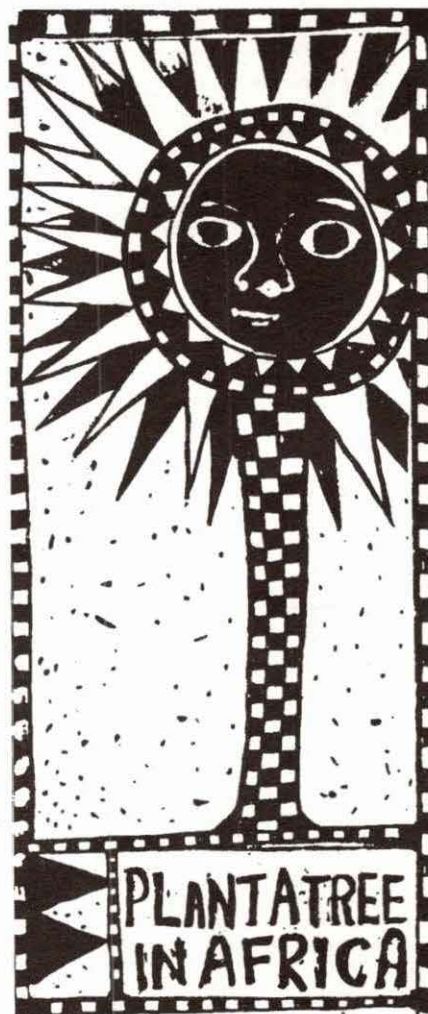
- 1) "Project Jaguar", the world's first Jaguar Reserve, Belize, 1986.
- 2) The purchase of 20,000 acres of forest at Monteverda, Costa Rica, 1987\1988.
- 3) **"Guardian Of The Rainforest"** - Protection of 40,000 acres of rainforest in Latin America, 1988\1989.
- 4) Helped Kayapo Indians successfully campaign World Bank against approval of a loan which would flood 60 million acres of tropical rainforest.

**"Guardian of The Amazon"** is helping 9 Amazonian nations strengthen their conservation program. These are some of the priorities:

- Save endangered species and important natural areas.
- Promote environmental education.
- Tackle the foreign debt burden.
- Avoid unsound foreign aid proposals.

In addition, WWF is documenting with the Kayapo, for the first time, the plants and animals they use for food, fuel, medicine, and shelter thus identifying the areas in need of protection and producing an action report. They are establishing sustainable development plans outside of designated parks, building and equipping guard posts for parks, and training forest rangers in protection techniques. Also, some treeplanting will begin with the Kayapo. This project is a straight donation with no government support

The third project **"Monteverda Reforestation"** is also a WWF project, in Costa Rica. The WWF used the previous funds raised (\$500,000) to purchase 20,000 acres and tripled the present park size. With funding from CIDA of \$250,000, the WWF is proposing to reforest the surrounding zone of this park, called the **Arenal Watershed**. The WWF needs to match the CIDA funding in order to qualify for it. WWF will be



developing projects like sustainable farming to help stop slash and burn agriculture. Please consider these projects. All donations are tax deductible. Our company has decided to challenge our employees to donate some of their hard earned treeplanting dollars to, one or all of the above initiatives. We will then match their donation, dollar for dollar, to the project of their choice.

If you require more information, I have listed the respective addresses.

**Canadian Physicians For Aid And Relief 64 Charles Street east Toronto, Ontario M4Y 1T1 416/961-6786 Fax 416/961-1708**

**World Wildlife fund 60 St. Clair Ave.E., Suite 201 Toronto, Ontario M4T 1N5 416/923-8173 Fax 416/923-6177**

# Sharing Canada's Plentitude

by Larry MacPherson

Many Canadians see forests as more than a renewable economic resource. In the third world, the forest is much more than that. Plenty Canada's forestry projects in Africa, the Caribbean and Central America have a profound effect on people and their environment.

In **Lesotho**, southern Africa, trees are helping to prevent some of the most serious soil erosion in the world as well as supplying a much needed source of fuelwood and building materials.

In **Dominica**, a balanced fruit and hardwood program allows farmers to diversify from sole reliance on an increasingly fragile banana market. Our forestry program in Dominica assists Carib Indians in the reforestation of the gaudie tree which is essential in the construction of traditional fishing canoes.

In ancient Mayan times the forest was central to the day to day lives of the people. Today the Mayans are replanting ancient forests which have been devastated in recent decades.

Twenty years ago the forest covered half of **Haiti**. A generation later the forest covers only 5% of the country's land mass. Today the Haitian peasants are establishing small scale nurseries to resurrect their forest.

People the world over are coming to recognize the pivotal role the forest plays in our planet's very survival. Plenty Canada has been initiating forestry projects in the third world since 1979— not just to improve

people's economic well being but to prevent the puncturing of the ozone layer on which we all depend. Many native peoples in the Americas have a strong cultural and spiritual focus on their forests as a central component in the cycle of life.

In fact, Plenty comes by its forestry projects honestly. Under the name **Rapids General Contractors**, Plenty has taken on planting contracts in Ontario for twelve of the past fourteen years. Our executive director, *Lawrence McDermott* has personally planted a million trees on three continents. (He won the professional treeplanter competition at the 1989 Perth Fair).

At Plenty we've got the experience and the know-how to reforest in the third world. Third world foresters need the financial support of Canadian forestry contractors to run their projects this year.

#### How Western Contractors Can Help:

1. Give a day's planting proceeds to the Plenty Forestry Fund and support tree-planting projects overseas.
2. Ask your planters to sign up to donate a percentage of a day's planting to the Plenty Forestry Fund.

3. Combine the two by offering to match any money donated by your planters.
4. Recommend planters for volunteer treeplanting assignments overseas.

For information contact: **Plenty Canada, RR#3, Lanark, Ontario, K0G 1K0. Telephone (613)278-2215, Fax (613) 278-2416**

Plenty Canada is a member of the Ontario Silvicultural Contractors Association and Associate Member of the WSCA.

*This group is made up of treeplanters and international development aid volunteers who have formed an N.G.O. Plenty Canada has worked for many years on subsistence pay, taking action wherever they were welcome and it was needed. They do not mention their work in Guatemala here. They do not talk about having kept administrative expenses at 4% for many years - now it is 7%, making Plenty Canada one of the most effective channels to get your dollar to work. They have established nurseries in totally isolated areas and transmitted the treeplanting habit to many indigenous peoples over the past decade. I highly recommend supporting them.*

*Dirk Brinkman*

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# Mitigating CO<sub>2</sub> Emissions By Tree Planting

Dirk Brinkman

**Note:** This article was originally written as a letter to Plenty Canada in response to their request for advice about fundraising for additional tree-planting in Ontario.

The average per capita CO<sub>2</sub> emission in Canada is approx. 4.5 tonnes of carbon per year—highest of any country in the world.

For each Canadian to recapture their (average) emissions through the photosynthesis of forest growth (thereby adding to the living carbon reservoir of the biosphere) there are two approaches:

- Plant enough trees to sequester one's annual emission over their growth cycle.
- Plant enough trees each year to immediately sequester one's emissions.

## Emit Today/ Recapture Tomorrow

An average mature Maple or White pine holds 1/3 to 1/4 tonnes of carbon which it sequesters from the air.

Therefore, each year that you participated in Canada's consumer routine of driving, heating, and buying industrially produced products etc. (the national pastime) you would also have to establish 11 such trees to absorb that carbon over their lifetime.

In Canada these trees would take 100 years to grow. In order to arrest the greenhouse effect, carbon emitted this year should be absorbed next year— not over the next one hundred years.

## Current Mitigation or No Net CO<sub>2</sub> per 'Plenty Canadian'

Ontario forests currently grow at approximately 3 cubic meters of wood fibre (roots, branches, bark, top) per hectare per year.

With good silviculture we can grow 8 cubic meters of fibre per year. Each cubic meter of tree fibre includes .26 tonnes of carbon.

To sequester the average annual per capita emission of 4.5 tonnes of carbon requires 17.3 m<sup>3</sup> of fibre growth (4.5/.26=17.3).

Thus 2.2 hectares of forest land needs to be restocked in order to mitigate the emissions for a Plenty Canadian (17.3/8=2.2).

In Ontario, we are currently planting about 2000 trees per hectare. Therefore, each person would have to establish about 4000 trees per year to mitigate their emissions.

## Where do we put the trees?

Any program designed to mitigate public CO<sub>2</sub> emissions must be incremental to all existing forest renewal programs which have been undertaken for other reasons.

It is important to distinguish reforestation for to mitigate CO<sub>2</sub> from reforestation for the purpose of renewing deforested areas.

A logical target for a silviculture program funded from a 'carbon tax' is planting trees on non-productive farm land in Ontario

## Reforesting current harvesting

The current program to reforest areas being logged can only claim to mitigate the CO<sub>2</sub> from the harvest deforestation process. Since it would take 250 years to build back up a mature forest carbon reservoir, the reforestation effort to restock currently harvested areas cannot be double billed as contributing to mitigate your average Canadians CO<sub>2</sub> emissions.

More disappointing, the current planting program does not keep up with logging.

(40% of the area logged is being reforested by planting, 30% is considered to reforest naturally and 30% of the areas logged in Canada are not being reforested.)

B.C. is the only province with a policy to reforest all areas logged.

## CO<sub>2</sub> Reservoir depleted by logging

When old-growth forests are replaced with second growth forests, during the first 100 years only 50-60% of the stored old growth CO<sub>2</sub> is recaptured in the second growth. (This includes a consideration for the CO<sub>2</sub> reservoir represented by the percentage of forest products that end up as construction material.)

The immediate CO<sub>2</sub> impact of logging is like being hit by a truck. The CO<sub>2</sub> reservoir in the forest itself is either removed or left to decompose (decomposition releases the carbon); the underground root fibre also dies and decomposes, and the living biota that engorges the forest floor (making it soft and springy to walk on) is compacted. The disturbance and compression of heavy logging equipment, of logs being dragged, the exposure to rain and sun all contribute to the collapse and decomposition release of 60% of the CO<sub>2</sub> in the unprotected forest floor.

## The 'NSR' Backlog

There is 20 million hectares of backlog NSR forest land in Canada from which the forest value has entered the economy.

Our society chose during the last 20-30 years to harvest without reforestation, & we have an obligation to restock that land in payment for benefits already received (carbon already released).

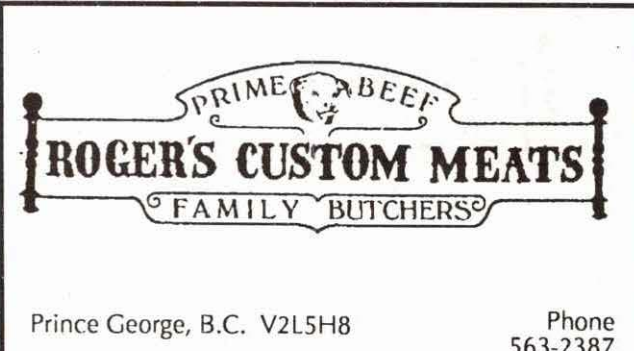
I fear that the federal & provincial governments will try to declare a portion of the NSR backlog as a target area for carbon tax funds.

## Non-productive Farmland

The appropriate lands to target in Canada would be non-productive farmlands that have been repossessed by the Crown for tax arrears. (Although in fact, most of this was originally farmland cleared with the bonafide intent of farming.)

## International Development

Another alternative is tropical reforestation, where forests have the capability of growing from 30 to 100 cubic meters of fibre per year. However, the security of the carbon reserve in developing countries desperately short of firewood is questionable.



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# Herbicides: the Saga Continues

## Comparing herbicides with other treatments

*Warrent Mitchell*

Silviculture Branch is presently looking at the overall costing formula used in the decision profile to assess the economics of herbicides in relation to other vegetation management treatments. It is our intention to produce procedures which Districts can use to allow a fair evaluation of all methods for contract award purposes.

In light of substantial changes that have recently occurred in the insurance market, the Branch is looking at the implications of requiring herbicide contractors to purchase environmental impairment and health hazard insurance coverage.

We are also attempting to find an equitable formula for assessing the administration costs inherent in all treatment methods. For example, how do we equate the cost of a herbicide appeal with the additional administrative costs resulting from the longer time necessary to complete a manual treatment project? This is especially troublesome since the appeal may be the result of arbitrary decisions taken outside of our control.

For input, call *Warren Mitchell* at Silviculture Branch, (604) 387-1191

## WSCA Herbicide Update

*by Dirk Brinkman*

The WSCA letter (of January 7, 1990) reprinted in the last newsletter thanking Silviculture Branch Director Peter Ackhurst for agreeing to "end the period of subsidy for herbicide use in the forests" was premature.

Peter Ackhurst's agreement in principal at the December 1989 meetings did not result in action. In fact the letter was greeted with a cool, "I didn't agree to do anything" phone call. Shortly thereafter, one of the achievement of the WSCA AGM was that Claude Richmond made a commitment before the WSCA members, to create a level playing field for herbicide and manual alternatives wherever biological efficacy was equivalent.

Although Robin Brown (Reforestation Manager) John Cuthbert (Chief Forester) and Phil Hellcatt (Deputy Minister), to name a few, were in attendance, a phone call a month later with Peter Ackhurst still received no action response. I was told, "We need a letter confirming that these were the Ministers directions."

Whatever pressure stimulated Silviculture Branch to respond, Warren Mitchell is now assigned the task of responding to the WSCA request. Ackhurst agreed that announcement to all Districts of the planned implementation of Richmond's request would help speed the work of Wyeth and Bedford. We look forward to some visible action.

### **Equal opportunity for manual alternatives**

In review, herbicide applications contracted by MOF are subsidized in the following ways:

1. On many contracts MOF supplies the herbicides.
2. MOF supplies liability coverage for spills and side effects of the chemicals.
3. The rapidly escalating costs of applications, appeals, public notices, applications area postings and public hearings are also supplied by MOF.

Contractors offering an alternative to herbicides are expected to underbid the herbicide contractors' subsidized application price even though manual alternatives do not involve any of the above costs.

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# Enhancing Forest Health AGM Reports

This year's WSCA Convention and Annual General Meeting was another leap forward. We expanded the event to three days and FRDA provided some funding for the Convention **Enhancing Forest Health**.

We had a wealth of informative, entertaining and controversial talks. In fact, far too many to include in the newsletter. The following are only a small selection of the presentations from the AGM.

The entire proceedings will be published later this summer.

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# Forestry Challenges

*Claude Richmond*

It's really a pleasure to be here and to speak with you. I say "with you" because it's always very difficult for a "politician" like me to come and speak "to" people about their own industry that they know so much better than I do. We can have some questions afterwards—that's usually when the good stuff comes out.

Forest renewal because is a relatively new and booming industry and it's one that's seen very positively by the public. Therefore you people have a tremendously crucial role to play, particularly with regards to FRDA II.

This is my first chance to speak to you as the new Minister of Forests. It's quite a challenge. I've been the Minister 71 days now—it says here, I'll take their word for that. I don't pretend to have been in the forest industry but, being from Kamloops which is very heavily oriented towards forestry and mining, I've been in and around the fringes of forestry virtually all my life. And I don't think that in all the history of forestry it has ever been under the tremendous pressures that it is under today. This whole industry is under pressure from within, from without and from above. International pressures such as countervailing duties, GATT rulings, free trade agreements and the like; and one of the things that's causing the industry heartburn at the moment is the value of the Canadian dollar. It's causing a lot of concern and a lot of unprofitability in the industry. Every time the Canadian dollar increases in value, vis a vis the American dollar by one cent, it costs this industry in British Columbia \$100 million. So you can understand some of the concerns that high interest rates and the value of the Canadian buck are causing.

We've got a challenge ahead of us, and I say "we" collectively because we're all in this thing together. There's an awareness now on this planet as never before, that the last thing we wish to do is to foul our own nest. Every poll that is taken shows, in the last couple of years especially, that environment is a number one issue on people's minds. You are at the forefront of dealing with this. One of the challenges we have as a Ministry is to strike that proper balance between keeping a healthy industry and a healthy environment. You cannot have a healthy environment if the economy isn't healthy. All you have to do is look around the world and you will see examples of what I'm talking about. Ms. Brundtland said in her report to the United Nations that the economy and the environment go hand in hand, and if you want to have a healthy environment, you must have a healthy economy.

In the economies in the world that are not healthy, they cannot afford to look after the environment, nor is it a prime concern in many of these countries. The concern is with what they're going to eat for dinner tonight, rather than looking after the environment. The best example I can think of is the State of California. They have one of the healthiest economies in the world and they also have the toughest environmental laws. In a year or two there won't be any charcoal barbecues allowed in California, there won't be any gas lawn mowers allowed, and in the year 2010 you will not be able to burn gasoline in an automobile in Los Angeles. They have the toughest emission control in the world right now in California. So it's a good example of being able to afford to look after the environment.

I was talking to one of the top people in a large forest company, and he had the idea that when times get a little tougher, the environmental issues will go away. They will not. The environmental issues are here with us, and they're here to stay.

This relatively new industry that you're in will be critical to creating a lot of the new jobs to replace a lot of those jobs in this industry that are being lost to automation or mechanization. Mechanization is another of the pressures facing this industry. There's hardly anyone in a mill now and yet they're producing more lumber. We're also grappling with TFLs and tenure on the land and that's why we've created a Forest Resources Commission to look at these problems on an on-going basis for us. It is an excellent Commission with a tremendously broad base, now including cattle ranchers to discuss range issues, someone from the Tourism/Recreation side, the IWA, someone from industry, some environmentalists, wilderness people. I think it will be the most important Board in this province, for many years to come, because forestry is far and away our number one industry. There's a fight going on for second place between tour-

ism and mining. Tourism is growing very rapidly, and some day it may take over number one spot, but it's got a long way to go. It's about one-fifth the size of the forest industry in British Columbia.

With these myriad of problems in the forest industry, and the environmental concerns overriding everything, you have a picture of what we're trying to do. We're trying to walk that compromise path down the middle, keeping the environment healthy and the industry healthy, and we know that we're going to have to make some compromise decisions. Everyone is going to have to give a little bit, because we cannot all have everything that we want.

The 1980's ended on a very positive note. Last year alone, we planted 230 million seedlings. The seedling survival rate increased to 73% on average over the past ten years. In recent years, it's up to 84%. We improved the seedling quality, and you improved planting techniques and site preparation. Your industry has been instrumental in achieving most of these successes. Today, we're planting 65% of all harvested areas, and managing natural regeneration of the remaining 35%. We have a clearly defined responsibility for reforestation, and you are the people who are going to carry it out for us. The forest companies by law are now responsible for reforesting sites that they harvest. Forest companies cannot cut a single tree unless a pre-harvest silviculture plan showing how and when the company will reforest the area to free-growing standard is approved.

Private tree nurseries expanded to meet demand for more and better seedlings suited to various growing conditions. A major new industry—silviculture contracting—took off in the 1980s, and more than 900 companies were established, providing 854,000 days of work in 1989. Forest researchers working to develop innovative solutions to reforesta-

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**Claude Richmond cont...**

tion problems by improving survival at high elevations, by discovering how to apply fertilizers more effectively, how best to thin and prune stands of juvenile trees, how to deal with problems caused by forest pests, fire, and disease, exploring use of special machinery and attachment, to prepare harvested areas for planting, treat soil, and create more hospitable sites for seedlings, etc.

Let me ask you to help us get this message out there. We're doing a pretty good job in this industry, and in this Ministry, but we're not always getting the message out to the people. We have figures to show that a lot of people don't even know that we're out there planting trees. You people are earning a living from it, we're planting 230 million trees a year, 300 million in the coming year, and a lot of people out there don't even know that. I think have to rely on people like you to help us answer some of the misconceptions. When you see an article that is blatantly false, that is doing nothing but harm to our industry, please sit down and write a letter to the editor.

I think of an article that said British Columbia is managing its forests worse than Brazil and worse than Indonesia. That we're just raping the forests and ruining it. You and I know that's not true and yet it was picked up and run by wire services all across the country. It was picked up in Britain by the tabloids and is now spreading to Holland and West Germany. In England they've got a movement springing up to boycott British Columbia softwoods, because we're doing the same Brazil is doing. Can you imagine the damage one article like that did? And yet nobody responded to it. We have since responded, as a Ministry.

You probably all more aware of FRDA than I am. We signed a five year agreement in '85 with the Federal Government and FRDA has been working well, is accomplishing many things. In '85 there were more than 700,000 hectares of backlog not satisfactorily restocked lands on good and medium sites. So we did the surveys, and produced the seedlings, and prepared the sites and planted the seedlings to get rid of that. In addition, many established juvenile stands needed intensive forest management to sustain or improve growth, and we did that and undertook brush control

treatments to get rid of competing vegetation. We introduced pest control for damage of trees, re-established conifer trees, and fertilized stands.

Now we need to renew it for FRDA II, so all of the effort and energy and money we put into FRDA I doesn't go down the chute. I went to Ottawa to pound on a desk down there, and I came away not too enthusiastic about the prospects for FRDA II. Because the Feds are crying poverty, so we thought we'd wait until they signed some agreements with the Maritimes and with Quebec. They signed an agreement for \$91 million, with New Brunswick, and \$45 million for Nova Scotia, and they don't have anywhere near the forests that we do.

We need some squeaky wheels out here, we need people like you helping us. Talk to your Federal MP, write a letter to the Prime Minister or to the Federal Minister of Forests. Governments pay attention when they get a lot of mail. Well, I know I do. We want a 700 million dollar agreement over five years and we have committed money to it. We said to the Feds, we will come to the table with 350 million—where is yours?

I doubt very much if we're going to get that size of agreement. Then I will have to go back to my colleagues in Cabinet and ask how much we will commit. But we have committed an awful lot to FRDA and we are totally committed to it with or without the Federal government. There will be a FRDA II agreement. We just don't know what shape it will take, and what size it will be. It'll be as big as we can make it be.

We urge you to add your voice. Send a delegation from your Association to Ottawa. It has a big effect, and I mean that sincerely. When we were in Ottawa, the people from Prince George N.I.L.S., went to Ottawa and it had a big effect when they visited a few cabinet ministers and MPs.

I've got some information here on the challenges of the '90s. Our province's forests are a net carbon dioxide sink, but to ensure that it continues as a carbon dioxide sink, prompt reforestation is essential. We must do our part to reduce carbon emissions into the atmosphere to reduce global warming. We are bringing in stricter emission control into B.C. in 1992 or '93. California's had these strict emission controls for years.

Growing forests soak up carbon dioxide, healthy forests remove it. So we have to

keep the forests healthy. Right now in our province we're accumulating more than we're producing so we're at net sink. If we want to increase the carbon dioxide absorbed by our forest, we must also look at afforestation on abandoned farmland, other land suitable for growing plants. Afforestation is an area that silviculture contractors must start looking into as reforestation levels off. Start talking to municipalities, regional districts, large private landowners, highways, native Indians, etc.

We have to create opportunities for ourselves in the '90s. The challenges are there, the challenges are there for all of us and we have to find them. So, I wish to conclude with a new challenge. Our forests represent our future, and I think you know that. I think that forests will be the number one industry in British Columbia for a long time to come. I do believe Ms. Brundtland when she says we can achieve sustainable development. Other countries have done it, they've increased their annual allowable cut, and we intend to do the same thing. We intend by the year 2020 to increase the annual allowable cut in B.C. from 72 million to 110 million cubic metres. We can increase the annual allowable cut and still have the forests and the environment that we want.

It's a privilege for us to use our forests, for economic purposes, for recreation, and we must care for the forests. If you haven't done so, read the Brundtland Report—it's becoming the bible on ecology. But let me quote another great environmentalist, "The bottom line of all this is you can't keep taking the lands base away or we'll have no industry. The best use of the forests of Canada is not some wilderness that people from New York city can escape to. Sure everyone in New York would be in favour of preserving all the forests in Canada. They don't live here and they don't care about our economy." I got that out of Jack Munro's book. Jack has a very down to earth way of putting things, and what he says makes a lot of sense. We cannot devastate our industry, nor do we intend to. But we also cannot devastate the environment.

We're in this thing together. You on the planting side, and us trying to manage the resource on behalf of the shareholders—the shareholders being the people of British Columbia—they elected me to their

**Claude Richmond cont...**

Board of Directors to look after their interests. We are the stewards and we can plot the course, but we have to rely on you people to do it, the professionals in our Ministry, the professionals in industry and the people who come behind and plant the trees.

EYS: Regarding your visit to Carmanah on Monday. Whoever arranged the trip for you, thought it would be an aesthetic walk through there. What will having a retinue of screaming choppers, press people and everything, do as far as the trip goes?

RICHMOND: I had hoped to make just a quiet pilgrimage out there, I don't think you can make a decision on a thing like the Carmanah Valley without having said "well I've been there." But as we started putting it together, word leaks out because you book helicopters. It wasn't my idea to have a big media circus. But it seems we got it. So I thought, well, let's do it out in the open, let's have both sides there and they'll all talk to the TV. I'm going to try to dissuade them all from tramping through the bush and injuring those trees any more, but no doubt they will. All of a sudden a media event because it's such a high profile situation, the Carmanah Valley.

STYLES: There's quite a surprising increase in allowable cut that's been outlined for the not so foreseeable future. I'm just wondering to what extent practices other than tree planting are factors in increasing that cut.

CUTHBERT: The 120 million cubic metres emerges from a report done by/for the Science Council of B.C.. They're saying what is possible in the province, and it will take a lot of effort to reach that goal. A lot of genetic tree improvement, a lot of spacing, shortening our regen period, but it also means a lot better utilization of what's out there now. Increasing the cut of the conventional sawlog is not what they're talking about. They're talking about better utilization, growing better forests and doing all the things that could add up, it's possible. It will only happen if we all make the effort and make it happen.

STARR: There's no collective group, including the truck loggers, that have tramped more of this province than the people in this room. And there's been

some mistakes.

RICHMOND: There's no question we've made mistakes. In the industry, in the Ministry, collectively, over the years, and we have to admit our mistakes. But I think we're correcting them. If we can continue FRDA at the rate we wish to, we will have caught up with the NSR by the year 2000, or pretty well.

LOUSIER: I'm someone who has sold his sole to FRDA, someone who has a lot of FRDA contracts. I am encouraged to hear you say that the provincial government is prepared to go with the FRDA II regardless of Federal support. To what extent is the provincial government prepared to go? You say that there is 350 million dollars on the table. If there's no Federal support, are we, can we consider looking at 350? Or are we looking at substantially less?

RICHMOND: I have been asked that question many times, and I can't give you an answer, because that money was put there assuming there would be matching Federal dollars. If the Federal match isn't there, then I have to go back to my colleagues in Cabinet, say okay, how much can I have. Hopefully, the whole 350 million, but I can't stand here and make that commitment to you because that will be a government decision. But to give you an example, we are so committed that we have to place orders for seedlings assuming the current levels. When we go to the Cabinet table, I'm sure they'll see the wisdom of my decision. Either that or I'll be sitting in another portfolio.

When are you going to end the artificial subsidies for herbicide applications—for example supplying the herbicides for free, supplying the indemnity for liability insurance and applying extensive administrative time to lobby the public and Pesticide Branch with appeals, hearings, answering questions and thousands of other forms of public anxiety management. These free services to herbicide contracts actually form a disincentive to contractors to develop non-herbicide alternatives. The WSCA would like a level playing field. We want your assurance that we will get one.

ROBIN BROWN (Silviculture Branch): We can't promise anything, we're looking into it. It's a complex issue that is not going to be easy to resolve.

BRINKMAN: Well, I want an assurance that there will be a level playing field.

CUTHBERT: We're looking into it.

BRINKMAN: I want a promise that it will be dealt with.

RICHMOND: It will. It's fair to ask for a level playing field. We'll see to it. Is that what you're looking for?

BRINKMAN: Yes, thank you.

AKEHURST: I think there's growing public alarm about the tenure, land claims, TFLs etc. I behoves us to sort all that out in a Royal Commission where everyone can give evidence and the public will feel they're getting the input.

RICHMOND: The Sullivan Royal Commission on Education was excellent, but education is quite a different field than the forest industry. Because in the forest industry it's private investment that drives it. We feel that there is \$6 billion, in investment waiting to come into this province, in the form of secondary industry, strand board plants, wafer boards, pulp mills, secondary manufacturing. But the minute you say "Royal Commission", you have literally put the fear of God into investors. They're not going to come and invest \$100 million in a pulp mill or a wafer board plant when they don't know the outcome of the Royal Commission. Our biggest fear was of shutting the industry down and turning off potential investment by calling a Royal Commission. So we felt that a permanent commission on the forestry was a better alternative. They have all the powers that are needed for taking submissions, the same as a Royal Commission.

OGLETREE: Tree planters are very cynical about the state of forestry and one reason is because they see quite a bit of erosion and bad logging practices that we have to deal with when we get to the block. The other thing is, all this waste wood is out there, it's not a figment of imagination.

RICHMOND: We have just introduced a zero waste management policy into the interior, effective May 1. Maybe we'll have to go into places and do some clean up. There's a lot of downsides too, as industry will tell us. Wood being piled on the landings, or piled by the road and just left there. We still have to deal with some of those problems but we hear you. And we agree with you. That there's a lot of wood left out there. We're trying to get rid of it.

I know there's been a lot of bad forestry practices in the past, and even today there's some of it going on. If you know of bad forestry practices, tell us.

# To Tax or not to Tax

Nelson Riis, NDP Finance Critic

I am delighted to be here for a number of reasons. I feel a lot more secure about the future of the industry, knowing the kind of work people are doing and the commitment of people in this room, and I've been delighted to listen in on the content of some of the previous speakers. I'm very encouraged. Quite frankly, it's nice to be away from Ottawa and have a chance to talk with normal people for a session. Because what I see in Ottawa is an ongoing battle between people who understand and appreciate the forest industry and the role that it plays in our country, and I think I might have to have some question about the view that the people in Ottawa, particularly the politicians, have some sensitivity as to the importance that forestry plays in Canada. British Columbia, where the forest industry is so important, is represented in the House of Commons by thirty-two members of Parliament and the City of Toronto has forty-five members of parliament. People like Frank Oberle and Claude Richmond, have an uphill battle. They're up against people like Mike Wilson, and with all due respect, I think he has hyped himself into a very protected world. And I can't imagine if he actually understood the real world, that he would be even contemplating something like the Goods and Services Tax of 7% at this very critical time in our economy.

The forest industry is facing many challenges: our monetary policy of high interest rates, a high dollar, removal of the tax rebate for off-highway fuel at the end of this year, and in B.C. we have to pay the 6% provincial sales tax on production equipment and supplies, whereas in Quebec and Ontario forest companies are exempt from such provincial taxes.

But the other day, something in particular concerned me. Tom Siddon, one of the senior Cabinet representatives from British Columbia, was talking in Prince Rupert about the fiscal challenges being faced in our country. He said the federal government cannot pump more dollars into health, post-secondary education, and forestry. That causes me some concern, when you consider there are 80 days between now and the ending of the FRDA agreements. Before last Christmas in the Toronto Star, Michael Wilson was com-

menting on his decision to give us a break by dropping the 9% tax down to 7%. We've got to remind Michael Wilson that we don't have a tax now, so he's not decreasing it from 9% to 7%, he's increasing it from 0% to 7%. Anyway, he said in order to cut the 9% tax to 7% we'll have to cut payments to the provinces.

The federal government has, over the last number of months, given billions of dollars to the energy projects off the East Coast, Alberta, and Saskatchewan. The farmers got into difficulty and it cost a few billion dollars, and this year it will cost another few billion dollars. The fishery collapse on the East Coast is bound to result in hundreds of millions of dollars of financial support for that area. These billions of dollars are moving out at the critical time when we are asking the government to sign a FRDA agreement with the B.C. government for 350 million federal dollars or ideally, 500 million dollars. There's a real challenge for us right now to do whatever we can. Your Association would certainly be well advised to pass a motion, and get in touch immediately with the Minister of Finance and the Prime Minister. Indicate to them how critical it is that this agreement is signed quickly.

The one advantage we have, not so much with Michael Wilson, but with Prime Minister Mulroney, is that he's got acute hearing. He doesn't listen to people, but he can hear a ballot dropping about two miles away. And we must convince the Prime Minister that British Columbians will not be satisfied with anything less than signing that agreement, for at least a 350 million federal dollars. I am encouraged that Claude Richmond will be doing what he can at this end. Our challenge's not the Ministers of Forests, but the Ministers of Finance, particularly Michael Wilson and his intent to cut programs and increase taxes.

The goods and services tax is another impediment to value added in our forest industry here in British Columbia. But particularly for the folks in this room, it's going to have a tremendous impact on business. Not only will you have to add 7% to all of the contracts that you sign and remit that to the federal government, but you'll also become a federal tax collector

because every business will be a federal tax collector. Michael Wilson originally said the million companies collecting an extra federal tax would be reimbursed at least \$600 a year to compensate for some of the additional costs of accounting. John Bullock, of the Canadian Federation of Independent Business says that \$2000-3000 would be a more realistic cost of the necessary paperwork. But the Minister of Finance announced before Christmas that the \$600 would no longer be paid.

I take very little encouragement in the tax being lowered to 7%, because every country that has adopted some form of this national sales tax inevitably increases it. In the United Kingdom it came in at 7% and today it's 15%. The most recent example is New Zealand: tax introduced at 10% in '86, already at 12%. In New Zealand inflation increased immediately by 6.5%, unemployment jumped nearly 100%. And all sorts of other economic problems as well. Some of the other countries in Europe now have a national sales tax of this type as high as 25%. So when it starts at 7, it will very quickly go to 8 or 9, and I was at the original press conference when Michael Wilson introduced the proposed goods and services tax, and a financial journalist asked Michael Wilson to promise to not increase the goods and services tax, at least in his term of office. He said he could not make that commitment.

Although the goods and services tax is independent at the moment from provincial tax, I can't imagine the B.C. Minister of Finance wanting to keep off the gravy train. If the provincial government jumps on board the goods and services tax—the 6% provincial sales tax would also be applied to children's clothing, hockey tickets and the like. It would immediately reap about \$600 million, very enticing for people that hold the finance portfolio. I see the provinces coming on board very quickly once the federal government has taken the heat for introducing this tax.

We were promised that the GST would be a visible tax, so that everyone would know what they're paying. That now has been abandoned because in many cases, the price will simply be part of the cost of doing business. And for people like yourself of course, your contracts will have 7% added

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to it, and then you'll have to be rebated for all of the input costs that you've experienced. The companies that you'd be working for in terms of contracts, they would simply deduct the cost, your 7%, as a cost of doing business to them. It'll be an accountant's mecca. If there's a profession to go into the next few years, accounting would certainly be it.

We were promised it would be a simple tax. Well, we are going to see an army of tax collectors descend on the small business community. New Zealand has a population of 3.5 million people, and they had to hire 5500 new tax collectors when they introduced their goods and services tax. We have 26 million people, so the Canadian Federation of Independent Business, suggested that we might be hiring 25000 tax collectors. Plus, of course, all the necessary infrastructure to monitor the system and to collect the tax.

The federal government also said it would be revenue neutral. But replacing the manufacturers' sales tax with a 7% goods and services tax will net additional revenue for the federal government.

The government also said it would be fair. But you will have to pay a 7% tax on home heating fuel and snow tires, whether your income is \$100,000 a year, or \$30,000 a year. Although low income families will have up to a \$750 annual rebate.

Many of us are concerned about the Minister of Finance's false assumption that the unions and others will not make wage demands to compensate for their increased cost. We've already seen all the major union leaders in the country saying that if the goods and services that their members have to purchase are increased by 7%, then wage demands would reflect that. The Minister is also suggesting that the manufacturers paying only a 7% tax (instead of the current 13.5% manufacturers tax) will automatically pass the savings along to consumers. That's an interesting concept, but in many cases the savings to the manufacturer will not necessarily be passed on to the consumer.

If the increased costs to the consumer result in a spiral of wage demands, inevitably the cost of living and the rate of inflation will increase. That means the Governor of the Bank of Canada will respond as he always responds, and increase interest rates. Not only are we going to have additional taxes (which according to the

Minister of Finance's estimates will cost an average family with income of \$35,000 about \$650 in additional taxes a year), but interest rate increases beyond those we have at the moment.

With our country's monetary policy, our trade balance with other countries, the free trade agreement and the impact that has on the forest industry, the incredible debt and deficit that our federal government is faced with, this particular sector of the forest industry is going to be severely challenged. The from the Minister of Finance indicates that drastic cuts in transfers of monies to the provinces will have to be made, and on top of that comes a 7% goods and services tax on every business transaction that will take place in this country. This poses a set of challenges that almost numb the mind.

As John Bullock of the Canadian Federation of Independent Business has said—the GST is really a time-bomb for small businesses because the impact of the 7% tax and the compliance nightmare that it will create for the small business-person, will extract the entrepreneurial life blood out of our system. With this GST time-bomb coming at about the same time as the uncertainty about the FRDA agreement, it's time we start sounding the alarm bells.

We need to fight for for an increase in the proposed FRDA agreement. I think \$500 million dollars is a laudable goal but it's far from reality. We're going to have fight like crazy simply to have the federal government match the provincial \$350 million. I urge the Association to continue to fight in opposition to the GST, and in support of a FRDA agreement that expires soon.

STYLES: Am I correct in assuming that silvicultural contractors will have to add the 7% GST tax to the cost of our services, but the licensees in turn will be able to deduct the tax they pay to us from what they pay on their finished product.

RIIS: Yes. And though you'll have to pay the 7% on your fee for service, any inputs that you have will be deductible. Because everything that you buy will have 7% added to it and those costs can be deducted. And that's where we start looking at the accounting nightmare. Everybody's going to have to either become a quasi-accountant, or hire an accountant. Although you'll be rebated for the 7% cost on your inputs, there'll be a time lag so in some cases you'll have to carry that cost yourself.

STYLES: This Association is on record as supporting a one billion dollar FRDA.

RIIS: I understand that and I'm encouraged by that. We all recognize how important it is that the agreement be concluded as close as possible to that level. We can never exert too much pressure. It's at a critical time. The mind set in Ottawa is of increasing taxes and slashing programs.

AKEHURST: You're against the GST and we're all aware of the competing need for funds in Ottawa. If you were the government, what would you do?

RIIS: First of all, we recognize that this GST has been introduced in the guise of tax reform, but there has been very little tax reform. It's really a way to generate revenue because for every 1% we increase the GST, the federal government generates 2.3 billion dollars. It's so enticing for either this government, or future governments to take care of some of their financial problems, at the expense of the consumer and the small business sector.

We don't necessarily have the answers to all of the problems, but we certainly have a whole set of alternatives. For example, Canada is one of the only western countries that doesn't have a wealth transfer tax. If you happen to inherit a billion dollar business, we do not charge any tax on that wealth transfer. United Kingdom does, United States and others do. In Canada, it would generate nearly two billion dollars annually. And people here might be interested to know that 380 of the 400 largest Canadian corporations are controlled by Canada's richest families. Only 20 out of 400 are widely held.

In Canada last tax year, there were 69,000 profitable corporations that paid no income tax whatsoever, including some small operations like the Bank of Montreal, General Motors, and Nova Corporation. Thousands of profitable corporations pay no income tax year after year. What the United States did in 1986, as most other western nations have, is to set a minimum corporate tax. The United States generates tens of billions of dollars in revenue. We could do something similar in Canada.

There's small things like RRSP ceilings. The ceiling of an RSP up to \$15,500 a year. Well, I don't know many Canadians that have \$15,500 at the end of the year to set

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**Nelson Riis cont...**

aside towards an RRSP. Ceilings that high favour a very select portion of our population.

The most obvious way to reduce the deficit is to lower interest rates. By lowering the interest rates 2% (they're 4% higher than they are in the United States) we would save ourselves nearly \$6 billion on our annual deficit. Why does Canada has the highest interest rates in the western world? Some people have suggested that part of the agenda of the free trade agreement, was to keep Canada's interest rates high and dollar high, to give better competitive advantage to the United States. Unfortunately, we can't prove that but a lot of people are perplexed by these policies.

So to answer your question, there are a whole variety of alternatives, other than introducing a goods and services tax at 7%. I think we all agree that the manufacturers' sales tax has to be phased out, that it is a problem tax. If this tax is such a killer of jobs, why has Michael Wilson increased it from 9% to 13.5% over a four and a half year period. I say we need to change the tax over a period of time and satisfy our manufacturers as well.

And my last comment, please give some thought to taking some initiative as an Association and to remind our Prime Minister and others how anxious we are to get FRDA signed.

## Industry Trends

*Jack Toovey, Vice President of Fletcher Challenge*

*Note: This is an excerpt from the presentation he gave to the Convention.*

Pulp and paper, the staunch backbone of our industry is weakening off right now, and lumber is just flat. When all of those go down together, the forest industry is entering a recession. The legislation that's in place now, albeit inadequate, still has punch in that licencees are responsible for the reforestation. I'm not telling you guys to go out and open a hairdressing salon or something like that as an alternate source of income. I'm telling you that we do go through cycles, and the first time I spoke to you in 1982, we went into a recession that was the worst that we had experienced in the forest industry since the 1930s. This one doesn't have that look to it right now. But it's there. And it's a reality.

Looking at the 1990s, we are going to take a giant leap, long overdue, towards the recycling of newsprint, and paper. And although we have always been recycling in our home, my wife has taken on a new religious zeal in this particular area since Christmas. You may ask what's that going to do for the forest industry— is it going to cut back on the amount of clear cutting, logging, or log requirements? I don't think it will, because, despite the fact that the newsprint is fairly flat or dropping off right now in the marketplace, newsprint still has long term demand showing steady increases. People still like reading newspapers. In places like the far East, particularly China, it's an industry that's going to take off. When and if the whole economic and political systems in these countries allow more and more communication and news.

Right now there's a glut of recycled pulp available in the United States. But I think that's going to be short lived. The demand and legislation for newspapers to contain a

certain percentage of recycled material is going to take care of that glut. It's not a cheap commodity. There are serious problems with the de-inking process because of the toxicity of many of the components of the ink, but that's going to be short lived. Ink will be designed to be recycled.

Intensive silviculture, spacing, fertilization, and commercial is dear to my heart. These aspects of silviculture literally blossomed in the late '70s, and early '80s, and have been on a decline in the latter part of the '80s. Funding for intensive forestry has dried up. Fletcher Challenge, for example, has been saddled with a 70 or 80 million dollar increase in stumpage.

We're prioritizing expenditures now in all our pulp mills, so that by the next year and a half to two years, the effluent that will be produced from our mills will be dioxin free. That's a bill in excess of \$200 million. We don't know what kind of follow up will be required. But that's a commitment that we have made to exceed the requirements of the federal and provincial Ministries of the Environment.

As a result, spending on silviculture has been sidetracked. The provincial government, hasn't made a very strong initiative either. They seem to have the attitude that if the industry can handle the basic silviculture, then surely they can handle the intensive, because it's just a little bit more money. That type of logic doesn't wash.

I want to underline the need for your group, and groups throughout the province, to get on the FRDA II bandwagon. When the first FRDA agreement was signed, people like yourselves, Professional Foresters, Institute of Forestry, and the forest industry, along with the Ministry of Forests, we were all credited with having put on a tremendous blitz of political pressure. We referred to it as the Green Machine. We were on a real roll, our timing

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was excellent, and we hit Cabinet with petitions, telexes, telegrams. We literally inundated the Minister of Finance, the Prime Minister, and Economic Development Committee of Cabinet, which is one of the key powerhouses in Ottawa.

If forestry is going to succeed in the 90s, we need any help we can get, particularly FRDA II, FRDA III, and by the end of the decade FRDA IV. But it's going to be up to people like yourself and myself, to put on our political power hats and get to work on it. Many of you don't feel that comfortable doing that, you leave it to Brinkman, or somebody like that to do it, because what difference is a letter from me going to make? An original letter, not a form letter ground out on a xerox, but an original letter in somebody's handwriting sent to Ottawa and with copies to the Ministers, carries a hell of a lot of weight.

The '90s are going to be exciting. Reforestation is going to flourish, expand and improve in many ways. It may not be judged on the number of trees. It's going to be judged on the quality of the planting that takes place, the use of silvicultural prescriptions, and the continued use of the eco-systemic planning that was pioneered by Dr. Kryina and people like that. It's going to be an era where logging continues and we see a fantastic move towards more sensitivity on environmental concerns.

It will also be a decade of where companies like ours are going to have to pay more and more attention to our employees. They're going to need more incentives to go out into our work place—the woods. Your group's to be congratulated, since I first spoke to you in 1982, the accommodation that you're providing has improved immensely. I think you're going to have to pay more attention to people management. You need a greater partnership in your businesses to keep these people that know exactly what they're doing when they grab a mattock and a bag of trees.

**BRINKMAN:** This spring of 1990, Fletcher Challenge is planting 21 million trees and your sowing request for '91 is 11 million. I wonder if you'd explain to the members what's changing.

**TOOVEY:** We have found—particularly in MacKenzie which is now our largest reforestation area in the province—is that we have too many trees for the areas that we need to plant. Last year and the year before on the coast we were in a catch-up planting program, and that has been taken care of.

We have also come to the conclusion that there's such a thing as too immediate reforestation. I once took a lot of pride in having a planting crew planting on a site with smoke coming out of stumps from the slash burn two or three weeks previously. To me that was immediate reforestation. Wiser people in our research and silviculture group are now saying we need to use naturals as part of the formula.

Now we've come up with a program that gives the area a chance to recover and give an indication of the naturals that may be coming in. We're not talking about five or ten years, but specifically in the MacKenzie area, of delaying planting a year or two.

We're also moving quite a bit of our cut out to the West Coast of Vancouver Island, with the cedar hemlock types that lend themselves ideally to natural regeneration. More so than we ever gave them credit for. That's part of the explanation for what may appear to be an indiscriminate cutback.

**ANDERSEN:** I'm from the Pacific Reforestation Workers' Association. In our files, we have dozens of cases of contractors not paying their workers because of a dispute

with licencees, sometimes it's bad communications, sometimes it's unfair treatment. With more complexity in this industry, there's going to be more risks faced by these people in this room. These risks should be accommodated by provision for arbitration in their contracts. That would promote stability and reduce the frustrations that cause many planters to leave the industry every year. Some licensees have been very good, but COFI has not collectively addressed this issue.

**TOOVEY:** Your organization should come to COFI and use us as a sounding board. I'm Chairman of the Forestry Committee there, and we'd certainly give you a hearing. If this is a serious problem, then we should be sitting down and talking about it with you and the WSCA. I'm a believer in the need for strong industry associations so we can improve communication. Rather than being a separate groups all working on or arguing about small points we should be able to consolidate our thinking and become of a very potent forestry force. The points that you brought up should just be brought out in the open and discussed. That's important.

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# Manual treeplanting in Eastern Canada

by Ernst I. Stjernberg

The main topic of my presentation is a study of manual planting operations which was carried out in Eastern Canada a few years ago. I will start by introducing FERIC and a few of the projects that led up to the planting studies. I will then discuss the manual planting operations and conclude with a review of some of our present silvicultural research projects.

FERIC is a national non-profit research and development organization aimed at improving the efficiency of operations relating to the harvesting and transportation of wood, and the growing of trees. We have two divisions, one based in Montreal and one here in Vancouver. Geographically, the Eastern Division in Montreal covers all the provinces east of Alberta, while the Western Division carries out projects in Alberta and B.C. FERIC is funded by the forest industry and the federal government with some of the provincial governments contributing to the silviculture and woodlot research programs.

Each of the 2 divisions are organised in groups, i.e. Harvesting Operations, Transportation and Maintenance, Engineering Design, and Silvicultural Operations. Western Division also has a Harvest Engineering group, and there is a Woodlot Technology group in the Eastern Division.

While FERIC was formed in 1975, it was not until 1982 that we received a mandate to work in silviculture. The current projects in the Western Division involve site preparation, stand tending, regeneration, and harvesting/silviculture interface. Many of our projects have been evaluations of machines and tools used in silvicultural operations. We also have projects to design, build, and test new concepts, and to improve existing ones.

In the Eastern Division, where I worked until last August, we became involved in regeneration in 1983, when we built and tested an experimental planting machine. This was like coming in the back door, but we soon learnt a great deal about planting machine technology and how extremely difficult it is to mechanize planting operations in the boreal forest conditions. While there have been a number of attempts to build planting machines, very few have progressed beyond the experimental or prototype stage. The Swedes and the Finns have many millions of dollars to date and have yet to produce a fully operational planting machine. It became obvious that we should concentrate our efforts on manual planting operations, and we began our studies in 1985.

We had 3 objectives with the first project:

1. Determine how a treeplanter spends his/her time in the field.
2. Find which factors affect the planter's productivity the most, and
3. See if any part of the operation could be improved by mechanization or reorganization.

When we planned and carried out our study, forest companies in Eastern Canada were running their own planting operations either using their permanent employees or hiring seasonal labour. Since then, there has been an almost complete change over to planting contractors. While this means that the results of the study are not directly applicable to the present situation, the underlying principles are still valid.

Six container planting operations at FERIC member companies were included in the study. There were 1 operation each in Manitoba, New Brunswick and Nova Scotia, and 3 in various parts of Ontario. Two operations were studied in 1985 and four in 1986. At each location we conducted fixed-interval activity sampling; which allowed us to observe the activities of several planters simultaneously. Each planter was observed once a minute. The code for the activity he or she was engaged in at that moment was entered into a data collector. Planting speed was determined at random intervals during the day by using stop watches and video recordings. The results of the study are based on more than 20,000 observations.

Tools and stock types varied between operations. Planting tubes, dibbles and spades were used to plant paperpot, multipot and styroplug container seedlings. Direct comparisons are inappropriate since planting conditions varied widely between studies. The following results are averages from all operations sampled.

86% of the planters observed, were paid piece work rates. Of these, 57% worked alone and were paid according to their individual production while the others were paid based on the team's production. Piece work rates varied a low of 3.76 ¢/tree to a high of 8.00 ¢/tree. Lower rates were augmented by bonuses for high planting quality, and compensation for difficult sites and manual seedling distribution.

The analysis of the time distribution for all operations shows that the mean non-productive time was 12%. The average is similar to those found in other planting studies. Hourly paid planters spent almost twice as much time resting as did piece work planters.

The overall mean productive time of 88% ranged between 74% and 94%. A break down of productive time shows that filling up the seedling carriers averaged 8.6%. Some planters used the filling up time as recovery time also and that is reflected in the higher percentages in the range. It is interesting to note that filling up with styroplugs was fast and easy. The planters in that operation spent only 2.1% of the time loading up their bags with these bundles which were not unwrapped until needed.

The time spent walking averaged 9%. Note that walking between spots is classified as planting time. Some walking time was also spent moving from the plant supply to the start of the line, and between blocks. However, almost 5% was spent carrying seedlings out into the cutover because of no other means of distribution. Planting time was lost when the planter ran out of seedlings along the line and had to go back to the road to fill up. We observed planters walking almost 1/2 km to get new supply of seedlings. This is more exhausting than planting and increases the requirements for recovery time while decreasing available planting time.

Planting itself took up an average of 66% of the available time. Production is not only related to the length of time spent planting but also to the planting speed. The measured speeds varied between 4.1 and 32.6 seconds per tree with a mean of 11.7 seconds per tree. Both the time and the speed of planting are affected by a large number of factors with site preparation

# ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

Friday, January 12th, 1990 • Pan Pacific Hotel, Vancouver, B.C.

20 companies were represented

The following items were added:

- Resolutions from the Kootenay Chapter
- Overview of 1990 AGM/Future AGMs and Conventions
- The Future of WSCA
- WSCA Newsletter
- FRDA II
- Herbicides
- Fall Down
- Liability Insurance

### 3. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

Moved that the minutes of the Western Silviculture Contractors Association 1989 Annual General Meeting be adopted as circulated.

Prior to the question being called, R. Styles noted that item 3 in the minutes (Unaccounted Trees and Fines) had not yet been dealt with, but would be resolved in the near future. Responding to a question about accepted practice regarding holidays and vacations, R. Styles noted that this was dealt with in the employment standards book which had been developed and was available to members.

CARRIED

### 4. BUSINESS FROM THE THE MINUTES

None.

### 5. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

D. Brinkman acknowledged the hard work that had been done by R. Styles as Executive Director.

D. Brinkman felt that 1989 had been a good year for the Association. Progress had been made, and he thanked the members of the Executive for their work and support.

### 5. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

R. Styles commented that it was a credit to the Association and its membership that the convention had been attended not only by the Minister of Forests, Claude Richmond, but also by the top four people of that Ministry.

Most of the agenda organization for the AGM and convention had been carried out by D. Brinkman, and R. Styles extended thanks to him for coordinating this event.

He also expressed some concern over the quality of communications within the Association, as it appeared in some instances that information from the Executive to the Regions had not been disseminated properly. He hoped that this could be improved.

### 6. TREASURER'S REPORT

The Treasurer was absent due to illness.

### 7. REPORT- Tony Harrison

Harrison noted the restructuring of the constitution and assembly of policies and procedures by R. Styles, and the newsletter production work by D. Brinkman, had been extremely valuable tasks. The publication of the employment issues booklet would greatly benefit the industry. Harrison felt that because of this work and the contributions of other directors, the Association now had a clearly defined infrastructure and was ready to embark on the challenges of the 90s.

One of the challenges was clearly the issue of membership, and T. Harrison felt that in the past, the Association had perhaps oriented itself too closely to planting issues. Focus was now required on other aspects of silviculture to broaden the membership interest and base.

### 8. FINANCIAL REPORT

R. Styles noted that grants had been received from FRDA (\$7,200.00) part of which had been applied to the employment standards handbook and part of which would go towards costs associated with this convention. Six directors' meeting had been held during 1989. It was noted that a lot had been accomplished; however, membership revenues

had not increased.

There was some discussion as to how the membership base could be increased, with the following suggestions being put forward: memberships could be created at the regional level, through direct contact with contractors and suppliers; a wider distribution of the convention agenda should be undertaken, well in advance of the event, to ensure that people have time to plan to attend; an effort should be made to address other issues in addition to planting, to give the Association a broader overview of the silviculture industry, and future conventions could be split into sessions dealing with specific areas of the industry; specific groups identified were site preparation contractors, fire management contractors, and consulting foresters; directors' meetings could occasionally be held in the regions.

Moved that the Western Silvicultural Contractors' Association Financial Statements for the year ended December 31, 1989 be adopted. CARRIED

### 8. REGIONAL COOR. REPORTS

#### (a) Nelson Region.

Graham reported that four meetings had been held since the last AGM. Interest in the chapter was high, although some difficulties in communication with the Executive had been experienced. Graham also noted that it would be useful for the regional membership to receive information on rulings made on disputes that were resolved by the Silviculture Branch, as well as a list of lawyers who were experienced in dealing with the silviculture industry.

#### (b) Prince George Region.

H. Jervis reported that the last meeting, held on October 26, had been extremely well attended. Discussion had centered around the need to

*continued next page...*

**AGM Minutes cont...**

ensure that the industry is credible, particularly in view of the possibility of a future recession. The need for a base minimum wage was acknowledged, and a sub-committee had been struck to review this issue.

**(c) Vancouver Region.**

C. Akehurst reported on behalf of T. Greenfield. No regional meeting had been called.

**(d) Cariboo Region.**

It was fairly informal, and tended not to hold meetings. It was felt that integration with either the Prince George or Kamloops regions might be desirable.

**(e) Prince Rupert Region.**

A. Bahen reported on behalf of E. Hughes. He noted that members benefitted from being close to the Prince George region, and were able to attend that region's meetings. While no formal meetings had been held during year, there was on-going contact of members.

**(f) Kamloops Region.**

R. Styles reported a good year for this region, although there had been a change in the regional coordinator. The last regional meeting had discussed forest fire fighting, with the suggestion that a workshop might be organized for the region on combatting fires.

**9. SPECIAL RESOLUTIONS**

**Appointment of a Moderator**

Moved that at future AGMs and conventions, a moderator be appointed to oversee speakers, and that speakers be given a pre-set time for their presentation, which would include time for a question period. CARRIED

**Waiting Period on Contracts**

In support of his motion, D. Graham noted that because so much gross income went into payroll rather than assets, it was difficult to arrange a line of credit to meeting commitments and

expectations of the Employment Standards Branch. Signed contracts were of little value as collateral with financial institutions.

Amended THAT the WSCA lobby the Minister of Finance for variance to the Financial Services Act to reduce the sixty day waiting period to thirty days, for labour based forestry contracts, silviculture contracts, inventory and data collection contracts

**10. The new AMENDED CONSTITUTION was adopted after extensive discussion and resolutions.**

**12. NEW BUSINESS**

**(a) Nelson Chapter Resolutions**

Moved that at least one Board of Directors' meeting per year be held in conjunction with an interior regional chapter meeting. CARRIED

**(b) Camp Rating Structure**

R. Styles advised the meeting of the development of a questionnaire for distribution to Ministry district offices, with a request that it be used in the evaluation of camps, and that copies of completed questionnaires be returned to the Association.

Moved that the WSCA Executive pursue all avenues to ensure that the forest industry is held accountable for enforcement of the Silviculture camp standards and WCB regulations in the performance of its obligations under the Silviculture Act Regulations. CARRIED

**(c) Future WSCA AGM/Conventions**

Moved that site preparation, stand tending, consulting and forest protection be included as elements of future AGMs and conventions, as part of the strategy to attract new memberships. CARRIED

**(d) WSCA's Future**

Moved that the Association pursue the formation of an alliance with the Commercial Nursery Association and the Consulting Foresters' Association. CARRIED

There was considerable discussion of

this motion, and the meaning of "alliance". Members were generally supportive of the concept, and it was felt that common interests could be identified with these 2 groups.

Moved that the WSCA Executive actively and responsibly bridge the environment industry polarization in this Province with the possibilities of silviculture. CARRIED

**(f) FRDA II**

R. Styles reported on Association actions with respect to FRDA II. A form letter that could be endorsed and sent to politicians, including Federal ministers, had been mailed to Regional Coordinators to re-distribute to members and employees.

D. Brinkman had developed a support campaign through an article which had been distributed to the media and other associations across Canada. R. Styles noted the acknowledgement by the Federal Minister of the Environment on the role of silviculture in environmental concerns, and suggested that some assistance might be forthcoming from that Ministry also. D. Brinkman commented that Nelson Riis had suggested that form letters may not be appropriate, but that a strong statement could be sent to both the Prime Minister and the Minister of Finance, as well as the BC Conservative caucus.

Moved that the WSCA is alarmed at the possibility that the backlog NSR of B.C. will not be re-forested and the productive capacity of the forest industry will not be sustained, and the environmental integrity of B.C. will be compromised through an inadequate FRDA II. CARRIED

Moved that the Association send one representative to Ottawa, in conjunction with other interested parties, to lobby for FRDA II. CARRIED

It was suggested that a special levy of the membership to help defray the costs associated with this motion might be considered, but R. Styles advised that there was no provision for such a levy within the bylaws.

**AGM Minutes cont...****(g) Liability Insurance**

T. Harrison reported that three insurance agents had submitted proposals for the Association's liability policy, and a consultant had been retained to review these. However, the consultant's report had not dealt sufficiently with the matter to enable a report to be brought forward to this meeting. The matter would therefore be reviewed by the directors and more information would be requested from the consultant.

**(h) Herbicides**

D. Brinkman reviewed his article on herbicides which had appeared in the last WSCA newsletter, and there was some debate of the costs associated with herbicide treatment. The membership supported this initiative.

**(i) Ethics Committee Report**

A. Bahen reported that the Ethics Committee had reviewed two cases, but without a set of clear procedural guidelines, the experience had been rather frustrating. The complaints received had been relatively minor. Steps would be taken to correct the problems that had arisen.

**(j) Fall Down**

D. Brinkman referred to the graphs produced on the front of the WSCA Newsletter, and there was considerable discussion of the decreased planting levels that would begin to occur in 1991.

**Moved that the WSCA Executive pursue the recovery of the 62 million trees. CARRIED**

**(k) Re-Inspection Clause**

A letter written by C. Akehurst to the Director of the Silviculture Branch, MOF, was circulated to all members present. The response from the Director of the Silviculture Branch was attached, and it was noted that the Association's request had been met in part. In the meantime, it was agreed that the Board should write again to the MOF, expressing satisfaction over

the changes that would be made to the re-inspection clause.

**(l) 1990 Membership Fees**

There was considerable discussion over the extent to which the membership fees should be used to create revenue for the Association. It was suggested that if dues were to be raised, a "special" fee for new members should be instituted. The other categories of membership were also examined.

**Moved that the Association set its dues for 1990 as follows: full membership \$500.00; new members \$250.00 for the first year; Associate Supplier membership \$250.00; and Associate membership \$200.00. CARRIED (3 Contra Votes)**

There was a brief discussion of an information package that should be developed for new members, which might include a copy of the WSCA Newsletter.

**12. ELECTION OF DIRECTORS**

Dirk Brinkman - elected  
Glenda Patterson - elected  
Chris Akehurst - elected  
Tony Harrison - elected  
Doug Hearn - elected  
Dennis Graham - elected.

**13. ETHICS COMMITTEE ELECTION**

Al Todd - elected  
Lynn Norton - elected  
Hugh Jervis - elected

**14. ADJOURNMENT (6:30 p.m.)  
CARRIED**

## WSCA FINANCES

While we are proud of having accomplished a lot with a little, the meagre revenues of the WSCA always threaten our survival.

The WSCA only derives revenue from:

(a) **Membership.** These were raised to \$500.00

(b) **Associate and Supplier membership fees.** There were raised to \$250.00

(c) **Newsletter subscriptions.** Few people actually subscribe. Most, including MOF, CFS and many of the larger corporations, take a free ride on our policy of keeping the industry informed and have never paid for subscriptions. Since we hear at each AGM that industry and ministry foresters read the newsletter cover to cover — 'its the only magazine I read cover to cover' — then I presume they must be reading this. How about paying a subscription fee? It would be appreciated.

(d) **Mailing lists.** These are for sale with and without labels pre-printed. The rates are up to \$100.00

(e) **Sale of our info-packages and publications**

- Silviculture Employment Issues -15\$ members /25\$ non-members

- Joint Silviculture Adjustment Committee Report- 12\$

- Enhancing Forest Health -Conference Proceedings /To be announced.

(f) **Newsletter ads, trade show booths and conference fees.** If you know of someone who would like to advertise please encourage them.

Total revenues for 1990 are projected at \$43,000 and expenditures at \$40,000 without any 1990 ventures like:

1. A lobby expedition to Ottawa

2. Other necessary lobby to ensure a healthy FRDAII

2. Publications of the hundreds of pages of excellent presentation from the conference

3. WSCA executive basic expenses covered

4. A brochure on our industry.

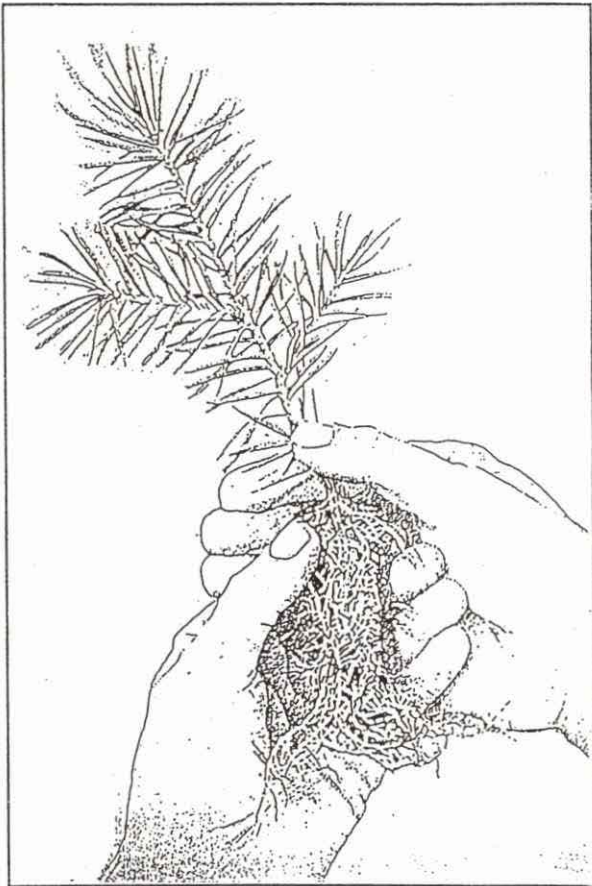
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*Dirk Brinkman*



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# Ministry Reports

## Re-inspection Clause

*P.W. Ackhurst, R.P.F., Silviculture Branch Director*

*In 1989, MOF's five year plan projected 320 million seedlings to be planted in 1991. Current sowing requests for 1991 are only 260 million, a decrease in the program of 62 million seedlings. Claude Richmond was grilled about the missing trees at the WSCA AGM.*

*In 1987, BC signed an agreement with the U.S. that industry plant 158 million trees at their own cost by 1991.*

*Clearly, with the 62 million trees missing from the 1991 program, this agreement will not be met.*

*How will MOF address this?*

*The Editor*

## Reforestation Successes Change Planting Plans

*by Claude Richmond, B.C.  
Forests Minister*

Reforestation levels in 1991 and 1992 will remain at 100 per cent but fewer seedlings will need to be planted.

As a result of significant increases in seedling survival and improved management of naturally regenerated trees, the forecast for the number of seedlings required for the 1991 planting season is now 260 million.

This indicates the tremendous success of our massive reforestation programs over the past few years. Our commitment to reforestation is paying off.

Recent surveys indicate that the steadily increasing seedling survival rates across the province have been consistently reaching as high as 84 per cent in recent years.

Field studies also show that natural fill-in of seedlings can be managed more reliably than in the past. Both the required planting density and the number of areas that require planting can be reduced.

This means we can fully achieve our reforestation goals with fewer seedlings and at a reduced cost to the taxpayer.

Today, under the Forest Act, every hectare harvested must be reforested.

Further to your correspondence of August 8, 1989, regarding the inequities which the WSCA perceives to be present in clause 3.3.3 of Schedule A to the Planting Contract, and after considerable discussion of your proposal, Silviculture Branch proposes that the said clause be amended to read as follows:

3.3.3 The results of the re-inspection of planting quality shall be used in determining payment. The Contractor shall bear the cost of the re-inspection if the difference in planting quality between the two inspections is less than ten percent (10%) of the original inspection results. In those instances where the Province must bear the cost of the re-inspection, it shall also pay to the Contractor or his representative, contingent upon their being present for the entire re-inspection, the sum of one hundred fifty dollars (\$150.00) as reimbursement for the time spent re-inspecting the area.

Prior to the incorporation of the amended clause into our planting contracts, it is essential that the WSCA fully comprehend the implications of a "go with the re-inspection" policy with regard to planting quality. While the proposed amendment will enable the Contractor who is confident of the planting quality to call for a re-inspection and to potentially realize the benefits of even a minor positive change in the results, you should be aware that the confidence limits on planting quality inspections are such that a minor drop in re-inspection results could also occur without the quality, in absolute terms, being any lower. As you have already pointed out in your proposal, the minor changes in planting quality may translate into significant changes in the amount of payment which the Contractor will ultimately receive. Thus, the Contractor, by calling for a re-inspection, is taking a statistical gamble.

The gamble stems from the fact that the results of any inspection or re-inspection can only be expressed within certain confidence limits around the mean. This is a practical difficulty that is inherent in any type of sample survey. As a result of this difficulty, the present re-inspection clause stipulates that a difference of 10% from the initial inspection must be found before a change will be made. Although this may sound onerous to the Contractor, the rationale is that it is only when differences of this magnitude are present that it can be shown, again in absolute terms, that a truly significant statistical difference exists.

The practical implication to the Contractor of this statistical discussion is that under the proposed system he should not call for a re-inspection unless he is very confident that the first inspection underestimated the planting quality by a significant amount. If the amount is thought to be less than 10%, then it becomes a real gamble, with the odds of a negative finding upon re-inspection increasing as the Contractor's estimate of the planting quality differential decreases.

You will note that the provision for bearing the cost of the re-inspection remains at 10% and has not been reduced to 5%, as was proposed by your organization. This is due to the fact that, although the Province does not object to the Contractor opting for a statistical gamble on the payment he is to receive, the Province is only willing to pay for the re-inspection when the results are significantly different from the initial inspection.

The Province acknowledges the fact that re-inspections are time-consuming and therefore accepts the WSCA's proposal that the rate of reimbursement to the Contractor should be increased from \$100 to \$150 and should be paid out in those instances where the Province must bear the cost of the re-inspection. Similarly, we wish to advise you that the Province is also re-evaluating the costs it incurs while conducting re-inspections and these new costs may soon be reflected in the clause, or in the Silviculture Manual.

I trust the foregoing proposed amendment to clause 3.3.3 and the accompanying discussion of its potential ramifications to the Contractor will stimulate some discussion within the WSCA. I strongly encourage your organization to carefully reassess the implications of the proposed revisions to the re-inspection clause and I shall look forward to hearing from you.

# Contract Employment Standards

by Vince Carl, Industrial Relations Officer, Employment Standards Branch

This Standard Form Correspondence is being circulated to all tree planting contractors.

I am advised that your company has been awarded the contract to carry out silviculture operations/tree planting for (Ministry of Forests or Company Name). Each year the Employment Standards Branch receives numerous wage complaints about tree planting contractors from former employees regarding several issues.

Our branch is forwarding to you this package as a means of identifying what your obligations and rights are under the Act. In this we hope to assist you in preventing wage complaints from arising. However, if they should arise, there would at least be a clear mechanism in a place for conducting audits which would involve a minimum amount of your time, and would give clear and unambiguous results.

Most disputes in the industry involve disagreements between employers and employees as to the number of trees planted on a specific plot, and the rate per tree or hectare. Thus our branch will require, as specified in Sections 10 and 11 of the Act, that a daily record be kept by the employer of the number of trees planted by each employee, and the unit price per tree or hectare, and the total hours worked each day by each employee. Also, each employee must be given a copy of this daily record, and to ensure that the employer and employee agree with these daily totals, the employee and employer's representative must verify these figures by their signature.

I have included a typical payment claim form that would be acceptable to our branch. You may choose to use another format, but you must have a daily record that both you and the employee have verified, as a true reflection of the number of trees/hectares planted and the hours worked.

I have also included for your information our Employment Standards Bulletin, but I would ask that you be aware of particular problem areas that have arisen in the past, and exactly what our Branch's policy is on these matters.

## 1. Tree Planters are not sub-contractors

Tree planters are considered by our branch to be employees and are thus eligible to receive at least the minimum benefits as outlined in the Employment Standards Act.

(b) Tree Planters are eligible to receive Vacation Pay;

Vacation Pay cannot be included as part of the unit price per tree or hectare. Vacation Pay should be paid once the employee terminates; however, our branch will allow that vacation pay be paid on every pay cheque, as long as the amount of vacation pay is clearly identified on the pay stub, and separated from normal wages.

Vacation Pay is to be paid at 4% of the gross earnings.

(c) General Holiday pay may be applicable. Refer to Bulletin 10 or your Employment Standards Office for details.

## 2. Hours of Work and Overtime.

(a) Because most tree planters are paid on a piecework basis, i.e., by the tree, overtime is often not claimed. However, an employee is entitled to be paid overtime rates under the Employment Standards Act. See Bulletin No. 3.

(b) If a plot does not pass inspection to at least 85% then the contractor usually will not be paid for that plot. The result is that often employees have to go back and replant the plot to bring it up to acceptable standards. The onus is on the employer to ensure that all planters are aware that this is a condition of employment.

The employer must provide verification of any fines levied by Ministry of Forests or the primary contractor to affected employees.

If an employee refuses to or cannot bring a plant to an acceptable level whereby the employer and thus the employee will be paid for that plot, then the employer must pay to the employee at least the equivalent of minimum wage plus overtime for all hours worked on that particular plant.

3. Any deductions from an employee's pay cheque without their approval will not be accepted by our Branch. Deductions for stashing of trees, plot failure without Ministry of Forests verification, or damage to equipment, will not be considered to be acceptable deductions.

Employers may wish to pursue such matters through the civil courts.

I have also included a handout which you must give to each employee. This will ensure that both your company and the employee start each contract with a solid understanding of how wages are to be earned and paid.

I ask that you examine the employee handout and the Employment Standards Bulletin. Also, please post several of the Employee Handouts and Bulletins, so that they will be accessible to your employees.

I hope you will view this as a means of assisting you in your relations with your employees, thus as a mechanism for fostering a healthy & positive work environment.

I expect to make a few spot visits this spring and summer, if I miss your crew and you have some questions, please feel free to contact me at my office.

### ESB Bulliten Update

The WSCA Executive were told in a meeting with Mark Grady of the Employment Standards Branch that, despite the statements in the bulliten, Holiday Pay can be included with with the tree price provided that the employees are advised in writing (in the employment agreement). The ESB also regrets that their bulliten the appears to endorse the apportioning of penalties to employees.

ESB are in the process of preparing a new bulliten in consultation with the WSCA.



## TREE PLANTERS INFORMATION BULLETIN (ESB)

This Bulletin has been compiled so that tree planters will have a solid understanding of their rights and obligations under the British Columbia Employment Standards Act.

1. Your employer should make accessible to you copies of the Employment Standards Bulletin, with inserts.
2. Our branch considers you to be an employee and not a sub-contractor.
3. As an employee, you are entitled to Vacation Pay. Vacation Pay should not be included as part of the price paid per tree or hectare, but should be paid when you terminate your employment, or identified clearly and separately from regular wages if paid on every pay cheque.
4. If you are in a camp setting, reasonable camp costs may be charged and deducted from your pay cheque, providing that your employer has clearly informed you about these costs and specified the daily rate prior to your starting work.
5. If your employer has a commissary or provides you with tools, clothing or other materials at your request, your signature, indicating receipt of these articles, will be taken by our branch as your authorization for these costs to be deducted from your pay cheque.
6. You and your employer must agree on the daily number of trees planted, and the price per tree or hectare for each plot planted. Our Branch requires your employer to keep these records, and you and an employer's representative must verify these totals every day, with signature.
7. In order for your employer to be paid by the Ministry of Forests or the major contractor, the plot must pass an inspection. The plot will be graded to a certain percentage. Usually any grade below 85% is unacceptable, and the major contractor will be ordered to improve the quality level or not be paid.

Any percentage fines passed on to your employer will normally reduce the percentage payment which you as a planter receive. (See examples.) This is viewed as acceptable by our Branch. The employer will be required to show the actual percentage paid on the contract plot. If you refuse to bring your plot to an acceptable level, your employer could then pay you minimum wage only for all hours worked on the plot in question.

### Examples:

Trees Planted	450
Price Per Tree	\$ 0.21
Potential Earnings	\$94.50
Contract Payout	96%
Wages Earned	\$90.75
4% Vacation Pay	\$ 3.62
<b>TOTAL GROSS EARNINGS</b>	<b>\$93.34</b>

Hectares Planted	.52
Price Per Hectare	\$180.00
Potential Earnings	\$93.60
Contract Payout	97%
Wages Earned	\$90.79
4% Vacation Pay	\$ 3.62
<b>TOTAL GROSS EARNINGS</b>	<b>\$94.42</b>

8. Stashing, burying, hiding or destroying of trees is an offence that may give an employer just cause for immediate dismissal.

Please contact our above-noted office if you have any questions.

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## CAPTURING NOVA SCOTIA'S UIC MONSTER

by Dirk Brinkman

**NOTE:** I found the Nova Scotia Silviculture Contractors' Association (NSSCA) meeting with UIC enforcement officers and policy making people to enroll their co-operation fascinating. The UIC Department were very aware of how the system is being abused, who the system is abusing and how to correct both of these effects.

Andy Miller, UIC Director of Investigation & Control for Nova Scotia came to the meeting with the most enthusiastic display of fair minded zeal for his job I have ever seen in a civil servant. Part of the exchange is reported below:

**NSSCA:** We can't get good workers when we need them so we go to Newfoundland using "Worker Fund" funding to go and do the interviews. In the mean time there are lots of people in Nova Scotia unemployed.

**Mr. Miller:** Employers report people as laid off for lack of work and at the same time, ask CEIC desperately for help finding workers.

When these employers are confronted by UIC they say "well, I don't want to change the separation slip (from laid off to quit) because next week I'll find sugar in my gas".

Some employers put the last 2 weeks cutting (pulp) into 1, so that employee can earn the highest possible UIC. Then when employees are collecting 300/week and they have some work available to them for \$300/week they can't get them to come back to work.

So in this, and numerous other ways, employers and employees have created a monster which eats us all from within. We can, if we work together openly, do something about this monster".

**NSSCA:** Work sharing (ie; when their worker has earned enough weeks to earn UIC, says "okay lay me off and let my neighbour work now because he really needs it") is encouraged in other industries and is considered UIC fraud when silviculture contractors do it. The other industries who work share like carpentry or fish plants, are held up as good citizens for doing it and when we do it we are considered frauds. This makes me mad. We do have our off seasons too and poor economic times too.

**Mr. Miller:** Work sharing to maximize UIC benefits is not considered good citizenship.

**NSSCA:** Is it legal for a Contractor with a Limited company to be planting trees and collecting UIC at the same time? In this case he got his weeks somewhere else, from picking blueberries or whatever. He did the hiring and the paper work for his operation while collection UIC.

**Mr. Miller:** The test is "Did you receive money and are you available for work?" He may have said yes to those, and, under the privacy act, we won't let anyone else know how our investigation turns out.

At any point in time however, we are always glad to receive anonymous phone tips.

We are not mind readers. You have to tell us about this. If you are worried about being found out just let a couple of weeks go by before calling us. We need to be advised of collusion for the purpose of committing fraud.

**NSSCA:** There was another contractor who was on UIC for ten weeks while cutting pulp and not receiving any other revenue because he hadn't shipped the wood. His men cut it while he's on UIC. Then when his UIC ends, he shipped his wood and filed for more benefits. Can he own a business and be on UIC even if the business brings him money.

**Mr. Miller:** Insurability rulings and determination are made by Revenue Canada Taxation. They determine who has control. This may be legal.

**NSSCA:** We all have a problem finding enough work because of the UIC system. Especially after the weather starts to get bad (in the fall) and it is difficult for workers to maintain the earnings they made during the height of the season, they begin to put pressure on the contractor to lay them off before their UIC benefits are reduced.

**Mr. Miller:** Lay him off for 7 days and let him start his claim and then come back and report his earnings.

**NSSCA:** The odds of getting him back are not very good.

**NSSCA:** Workers quit at the peak of the season in order to maximize their UIC. Loyal workers on the other hand who stick it out through the lower earnings part of the season end up collecting at lower rates. What about averaging his earnings over his best 10 weeks like the fishermen do.

**Mr. Miller:** "Don't talk to me about fishermen please". Farmers have a set of rules. Fishermen have. Woods workers don't. We train lots of workers. Farmers had better have a damn good excuse for trying to collect UIC in the summer. To change this will take lobbying with the politicians.

**Mr. Miller:** This can't be, because 60% of the average weekly earnings eg; benefit \$300 a week. The first \$75 of earnings are not taken off once claim started. The reason for this is most cutters earnings include the cost of saw and gas. Wood worker 300 UIC Earning 375 less 75 for saw and gas.

**Mr. Miller:** If we exert a little pressure from UIC and the employer working together, with employers making anonymous calls and UIC. Following up, we can contain this monster so that it doesn't destroy our economy.

...

**Mr. Miller:** One problem is that employers do not fill out the type of work the employee did. So, when you ask for a powersaw operator who is unemployed, there will be none on record. We did a computer run on "Powersaw" operators in Colchester county and only 54 showed. We know there are over 200 powersaw operators in Colchester County.

**NSSCA:** Contractors leave it blank for a reason. That way they keep their workers just for them.

Why am I working when my buddies aren't. They go to their mailbox and there's nothing there (no advice of a job available).

## UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE BULLITEN

The Canada Employment and Immigration Commission recognizes that very few people defraud the Unemployment Insurance system. However, please note that the following practices concerning U.I. are illegal. Both employers and employees who are found guilty of such offenses may be subject to fines up to \$5,000 with double repayment of illegally obtained benefits and/or up to six months in jail.

- Holding/banking of hours or earnings
- False information on Records of Employment (ROE)
- Failure to maintain proper records
- Crediting one person's earnings to another
- Issuance by sale or gift of Records of Employment where there has been no insurable employment
- Money paid or accepted without reporting

Disqualification and disentitlement to U.I. benefits can result from:

- Refusal of full or part-time employment while on claim
- Quitting a job without just cause
- Misconduct such as damaging an employer's property
- Limiting availability to only one employer

Penalties can be avoided for those who voluntarily declare their abuse of the system.

To declare or report abuses, please contact your nearest Canada Employment Centre.

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# Contracting— Out of Control

By Daniel Lousier, PHD

District staff recognize the valuable role that contracting can play in accomplishing silviculture program goals: silviculture operations have generally become more efficient; in the past, time for staff involvement in other activities has increased and more opportunities for program planning were realized. Presently the workload required to administer an operational program which is completely contracted has eliminated these opportunities.

The MOF has provided little direction with regard to what should remain under the direct control of the districts and what can legally and, for good business decisions, be contracted to the private sector. The district silviculture staff are having to deal with a great deal of uncertainty: about what should or should not be contracted, about their future role and the future mandate of the MOF, about the continual increase in the already excessive administrative workload. These uncertainties are leading to increasing levels of frustration and insecurity.

Much of the 'implementation contracting' conflicts with MOF ability to obtain the best value for expenditures of public funds and the capability to uphold high management standards. If the MOF sets the standards for forest management, the MOF should then be monitoring them. The MOF has a high level of responsibility and public accountability which are being eroded through the need to contract in order to 'get the job done'. The district staff are losing touch with day-to-day operations and the land base and can no longer exercise proper accountability. Many district silviculture projects are not adequately monitored and professional foresters acting as contract officers are reluctant to use their signatures and seals.

The professional & technical FTE's in district silviculture sections are doing too much clerical work due to the excessive administrative workload resulting from staff shortages & large number of contracts.

The following are the principal recommendations developed from an analysis of the information collected:

1. A clear statement of the MOF silviculture contracting philosophy and principles (i.e. what should the MOF contract), must be formulated jointly by the MOF Executive, Operations Division Management Team, and the Regional Management Teams.
2. This statement of philosophy and principles must be clearly communi-

cated soon to all district staff involved in silviculture contracting, and to the silviculture contracting industry, forest companies and the general public.

3. The MOF must provide a clear, consistent and realistic enunciation of its policy and interpretations with regard to 'employee-employer' relationships.
4. Silviculture Branch, with input from district and regional staff, must analyse present use of implementation contracts and define the role and extent of implementation contracting desirable in the district programs.
5. Silviculture Branch, in conjunction with regional and district representatives, must provide definitions of multi-year, multi-phase and results-oriented contracts, and outline advantages and applicability to silviculture programs.
6. Silviculture Branch, along with regional and district representatives, must undertake an analysis of the use of area-based planting contracts in those districts in which they have been used successfully, and communicate to the district staff and the silviculture contracting community the advantages and applicability of using area-based planting contracts.
7. Silviculture Branch, in cooperation with Legal Services and the Technical and Administrative Services Branch, must develop the necessary and appropriate standardized contract format, language & procedures for multi-year, multi-phase, area-based planting, and results-oriented contracts.
8. One or two clerical FTE's must be included within the silviculture section in each district.
9. Each district silviculture program must have a designated contract coordinator, who is trained and qualified in contract administration & who can assume most of the contract admini-

stration duties presently the responsibility of the RO Silviculture and/or the Forestry Operations Supervisors.

10. There must be a designated contract coordinator in each region to assist in solving contract problems, administration, tracking contractor performance, and communicating new contracting developments.
11. There must be, within Silviculture Branch, an additional two or three FTE's to be involved in contract development, solving contract problems, developing and revising contracting procedures, assisting in contract administration, and training and continuing education.
12. Silviculture Branch must ensure that training programs specific to silviculture contract development and administration be developed, and that these programs are consistent in their approach, content and delivery throughout the districts.
13. All training programs in contract development and administration must include the needs of all levels of staff involved in contract administration.

## Conclusions

The conclusions are grouped into 3 categories: MOF philosophy of contracting, attitudes and perspectives, and logistics.

### Philosophy

The MOF has provided only vague direction, if any, with regard to what should remain under direct control of their District staff and what can legally and morally be contracted out to the private sector.

Most staff members feel that much of the 'implementation contracting' conflicts with the ability to obtain the best value for expenditure of public funds and capability to uphold high management standards

*continued next page...*

**Contracting out of Control cont...**

In most districts, contractors are required to make decisions in the field which may influence the costs and outcome of the project and costs to the other contractor(s).

The general consensus is that, if the MOF sets the standards for forest management, the MOF should then be monitoring forest management. The MOF has a high level of responsibility and public accountability: these should not be eroded through the needs to contract in order to 'get the job done.' If the MOF district staff lose touch with day-to-day operations and the land base, they can no longer exercise proper accountability.

District staff have encountered the perception among the public that the extent to which the MOF is now contracting means that the MOF has totally subjugated its program to industry wants and needs.

**Attitudes and Perceptions**

The district staff, particularly in the silviculture programs, generally feel that they do not receive recognition that they do know what they are doing and what they can handle in contingency or emergency situations. They have been involved in contracting silviculture operations for some time and have some contracting expertise. They feel that they have many good ideas with regard to silviculture contracting but receive little opportunity to contribute these ideas. They do not like to hear "...do more..." when they are already pushed to or beyond the limit.

The district silviculture staff are having to deal with a lot of uncertainty: about what should or should not be contracted; about their future role and the future mandate of the MOF; about the continual increase in the already excessive administrative workload. These uncertainties are leading to increasing levels of frustration and insecurity.

As with any organization, there may be district staff who are reluctant to change their way of thinking and operating, are reluctant to innovate, are distrustful or antagonistic to regional and branch staff, or who have a lack of faith in the MOF management at the ministerial or executive level. These negative attitudes were encountered amongst only a very few of the staff interviewed and tended to remain in the background during the discussions.

The concerns expressed were related to real and pressing problems, not to any personal antagonism.

Because many of the districts' silviculture projects are not, in the opinion of the staff, adequately monitored, the professional foresters acting as contract officers are reluctant to use their signatures and seals.

**Logistics**

The district silviculture staff have found that contracting administrative functions is not as easy and straightforward as contracting operational activities. Thus, many contracting problems have arisen in the area of 'implementation contracting.'

Contracts seem to be lengthening and becoming more complex and custom-designed by local district staff to meet their needs. This is resulting in contract documents of questionable value and legality. If 'all goes well' with the project, no contract administration problems usually arise. But, if 'all does not go well,' solutions to the problems can be time-consuming and onerous, particularly if they end up in court. The district staff are asking to be given the tools and training to increase the probability of 'all going well.'

While the district silviculture staff may be motivated to meet the sum total of their responsibilities, many cannot do so because of the lack of available time. Thus, priorities are established and management choices are made. Some districts feel that they are capable of addressing only 65-75% of their responsibilities. Many items, e.g., contractor evaluations, there, are ignored in order that higher priorities, e.g., operational goals, are tackled.

The professional and technical FTE's in the district silviculture sections are having to do too much clerical work because of the excessive administrative workload caused by staff shortages and the large numbers of smaller-sized contracts.

**Recommendations****Philosophy**

A clear statement of the MOF philosophy and principles (i.e., what should the MOF contract), as related to silviculture contracting, should be formulated jointly by the MOF Executive, Operations Division Management Team, and the Regional Management Teams.

This statement of philosophy and prin-

ciples be clearly communicated to all district staff involved in silviculture contracting.

This statement of philosophy and principles be clearly communicated to the silviculture contracting industry, forest companies and the general public.

**Contract Types****Multi-year/multi-phase contracts**

- Silviculture Branch, in conjunction with regional and district staff representatives, provide definitions of these concepts, their advantages and their applicability to silviculture programs.
- Silviculture Branch, in conjunction with Legal Services and the Technical and Administrative Services Branch, develop the necessary and appropriate standardized contract format, language and procedures.
- Silviculture Branch, in conjunction with regional offices, design, develop and deliver a training program which addresses the various levels of contract administration and is appropriate to these types of silviculture contracts.
- The district silviculture staff use the following criteria to determine the feasibility and desirability of undertaking multi-year contracts: (1) the annual silviculture activity level can be defined well in advance (e.g., for three years); (2) the project priority is high, and (3) funding levels are anticipated to be reasonably constant.
- The district silviculture staff use the following criteria to determine the feasibility and desirability of undertaking multi-phase contracts: (1) the silviculture work can be well-planned on an activity and an area basis; and (2) controls be clearly established prior to the project initiation.

**Area-based planting contracts**

- Silviculture Branch, in conjunction with regional and district representatives, undertake an analysis of the use of area-based planting contracts in those districts in which they have been used successfully.
- Silviculture Branch, using the results of this analysis, communicate to the district staff and the silviculture contracting community the advantages and applicability of using area-based planting contracts.

- Silviculture Branch, with the help of Legal Services and Technical & Administrative Services Branch, provide guidance as to standardized, appropriate contract format, language and procedures.
- Silviculture Branch provide guidance as to setting target and minimum stocking levels acceptable, dealing with excess seedlings, and assessing contract bids.

#### Implementation contracts

- The MOF seriously evaluate the existing extensive use of implementation contractors in the supervision and monitoring functions within the silviculture program, and the increasing use of implementation contractors in the planning and decision-making functions within the silviculture program. The results of this analysis should be interpreted in light of the legislated MOF mandate, the accountability of district staff, the silviculture staff workload (particularly in administrative activities), credibility with the public, and the generally low staff numbers in the district silviculture programs.
- Silviculture Branch, with the assistance of Technical & Administrative Services Branch, develop the appropriate standardized contract formats, language, content, and procedures.
- Silviculture Branch, with the assistance of regional staff, communicate these guidelines for contract development and administration to all levels of district staff involved in silviculture contract administration.
- Silviculture Branch clarify contractor liability & indemnity; develop penalty clauses for sub-standard performance.
- Silviculture Branch develop contract clauses and procedures to cover the situation in which a contractor is evaluating the work of another contractor (i.e., clauses declaring no corporate affiliation between the contractors, and procedures to avoid collusion for conflicts between the contractors, and competitive interest in similar work).
- The MOF and the WSCA both should encourage and, perhaps, fund the development and delivery of training and continuing education programs for silviculture contractors and workers, particularly for the interior and particularly for implementation contracting.
- The MOF provide a clear, consistent and realistic enunciation of its policy and interpretations with regard to 'employee-employer' relationships, i.e., contractors using MOF office space and facilities.
- The MOF provide the district staff with explicit and consistent instructions as to conflict-of-interest guidelines for silviculture contractors.

### Contracting Procedures

#### Requests-for-proposals

- Silviculture Branch prepare & communicate guidelines for the applicability of requests-for-proposals; these guidelines should be tied to the specifications for contract type, format, content, language and procedures.
- Silviculture Branch provide guidelines for the preparation of request-for-proposal information packages, for defining the terms of references for preparation of proposals, for selection of evaluation criteria and their weightings, and for evaluation procedures, and communicate these guidelines in training sessions for district and regional staff.
- Procedures should emphasize that the district staff provide an information package as complete as possible.
- Procedures should highlight that the district staff set the criteria for evaluation, their weightings, and the evaluation process before the office viewing for the contractors.

#### Pre-award advertising requirements, invoicing by contractors, late payment of contractors, security and bid-deposits, and spending authority

- The MOF, in conjunction with other relevant government ministries and the WSCA, examine these procedures with respect to silviculture contracting, clarify existing policies or develop new, more appropriate policies, and communicate the substance of these policies to all levels of the MOF.

#### Contractor evaluation

- With input from district and regional staff and the WSCA, the present provincial silviculture contractors' evaluation system be re-assessed, simplified and made more useful and relevant to the needs of the district silviculture programs.

Active tracking of contractor performance be primarily a regional function, with provincial coordination provided by Silviculture Branch.

### Special Staff Needs

- One or two clerical FTE's be included within the silviculture section in each district.
- Each district silviculture program have a designated contract coordinator, who is trained and qualified in contract administration and who can assume the contract administration duties presently the responsibility of the RO Silviculture and/or the Forestry Operations Supervisors.
- There be a designated contract coordinator in each region to assist in solving contract problems, administration, tracking contractor performance and communicating new contracting developments.
- There be an additional two or three FTE's within Silviculture Branch involved in contract development, solving contract problems, developing and revising contracting procedures, assistance to contract administration, training/continuing education.

### Training

- All training programs covering contract development and administration include the needs of all levels of staff involved in silviculture contract administration.
- Silviculture Branch ensure that training programs specific to silviculture contract development and administration be developed, and that these programs are consistent, throughout the district, in their approach, content and delivery.
- The MOF provide staff training with regard to handling contractors and contract projects, i.e., project management, personnel supervision, and contract administration.
- The MOF, in conjunction with the WSCA and educational institutions, develop and promote training programs in the areas of contract administration, project management, and implementation contracting for silviculture contractors.

# Arbitration, but not for Silviculture

Forests Minister Claude Richmond announced a regulation governing contracts between tree farm licence and forest licence holders and their logging contractors.

All contracts for timber harvesting that will take more than four weeks will now have to be in writing and will have to provide mechanisms for resolving disputes. The regulation is effective immediately and applies to all existing qualifying contracts.

The WSCA has repeatedly requested that any arbitration regulations be extended to include silviculture contractors. The regulation shown below went into force on the day of our 1990 AGM, but silviculture contractors are *persona non grata* in the regulation. Minister Richmond's reply is also reprinted here

Dennis Graham, a new director of the WSCA, has been asked to pursue this issue on behalf of the Association.

## Richmond's response

### RE: Arbitration Regulation

*Thank you for your December 8, 1989 correspondence regarding WSCA's desire to have an arbitration provision incorporated into the Silviculture Regulation.*

*In its present form section 158(2) of the Forest Act does not allow for the making of an arbitration regulation that would cover contracts between licensees and silvicultural contractors. Bill 86, which passed third reading on July 18, 1989, makes provision for the inclusion of s.158(2) (e.1) into the Act. This amendment is structured so as to provide for a regulation whereby arbitration may be facilitated between the TFL or FL holder and the harvesting contractor with whom the licensee must contract. The amendment is not sufficiently broad so as to include silvicultural contractors.*

*It is important to note the difference in the situations which are faced by the timber harvesting contractors contemplated in s.158(2) (e.1) from that of the silvicultural contractors. Pursuant to the Forest Act, holders of TFLs and FLs must contract out some of their harvesting. Understandably, these obligatory contracts must contain a mechanism for dealing with contractual disputes. This mechanism is provided in s.158(2) (e.1).*

*As you are aware, there is no corresponding legislative provision requiring major licensees to contract out silviculture treatments, and they may thus choose*

### TIMBER HARVESTING CONTRACT REGULATION

"contractor" means a person who enters into a timber harvesting contract with a licensee; "licensee" means a holder of a tree farm licence or forest licence entered into under the Forest Act; "timber harvesting contract" means a contract between a contractor and a licensee

- a) that
  - i) will take or is likely to take more than 4 weeks to complete, or
  - ii) when taken together with any previous contract between the parties during a calendar year, will take or is likely to take more than 4 weeks, in the aggregate, to complete and,
- b) provides for one or more of the following to be performed by the contractor during a timber harvesting operation:
  - i) felling; ii) bucking;
  - iii) yarding;
  - iv) skidding and decking;
  - v) loading; vi) hauling;
  - vii) unloading; viii) booming;
  - ix) non-mill dryland sorting;
  - x) logging road construction
  - xi) logging road maintenance
  - xii) logging access road construction
  - xiii) any other operation directly associated with timber harvesting other than catering, cruising, forest engineering, reforestation, scaling, equipment maintenance or supplying rental equipment.

#### Written Contract

- 1) All timber harvesting contracts shall be in writing.
- 2) This section applies to all timber harvesting contracts that are in effect on the date this section comes into force.
- 3) Where a contract referred to in subsection (2) is not in writing, the parties to the contract shall, not more than 90

*whether or not they wish to utilize their own resources. Therefore, the argument for a legislatively imposed arbitration clause for those instances where a silvicultural contract is freely entered into is less compelling than was the case with the mandatory contracting out of timber harvesting.*

*The Ministry of Forests is currently reviewing the matter of arbitration to determine whether or not a further amendment to s.158(2) should be proposed which would provide for a regulation concerning arbitration of contracts between major*

*days after this section comes into force or within such further period as the regional manager may allow, put the contract in writing and comply with section 3.*

#### Provisions for dispute resolution

- 1) Every timber harvesting contract shall contain
  - a) one or more mechanisms agreed to be the licensee and the contractor for the resolution of a dispute between them regarding a term, condition or obligation under the contract, and
  - b) a clause that permits the licensee or the contractor to require the dispute to be resolved by arbitration under the Commercial Arbitration Act where the dispute is not resolved using provisions referred to in paragraph (a).
- 2) Where the contractor and the licensee fail to include a provision referred to in subsection (1) in the timber harvesting contract, the Commercial Arbitration Act applies to an unresolved dispute.
- 3) This section applies to all timber harvesting contracts that are in effect on the date this section comes into force.
- 4) Where a contract referred to in subsection (3) does not contain a provision referred to in subsection (1), the parties shall, not more than 90 days after the date this section comes into force, amend the agreement by including such a provision and, where they fail to do so within that period, subsection (2) applies.

*licensees and silvicultural contractors. Due to legislative calendar constraints, even if such an amendment should be proposed, it would take considerable time before it could be enacted and the subsequent regulation put into effect. Therefore, the WSCA should continue with its efforts to incorporate a voluntary standardized arbitration clause into all agreements between licensees and silvicultural contractors.*

*The WSCA shall be advised promptly of our final decision regarding the arbitration issue.*



# Ethics Update

## Conflict of Interest Guidelines

*R.G. Brown, MOF*

Thank you for your letter of January 30, regarding a lack of Ministry of Forests guidelines for dealing with conflicts of interests in silvicultural contracts. Mr. Gregg Cousens, Silviculture Contracts Specialist, has recently provided the Regions with the Silviculture Branch's interim position on avoiding conflicts of interests. His primary recommendation was that no contractor who unsuccessfully bids on the primary activity contract may later become involved in that contract in any other capacity. This recommendation squarely addresses the situation which you described in your letter.

The issue of conflicts of interest, either perceived or actual, is complex and it is therefore difficult to formulate a concise policy statement. The Silviculture Branch is currently analyzing various aspects of the problem with the intent of producing a workable policy statement. However, as this will require considerable dialogue throughout the Ministry, the resultant policy could not be implemented for some time. Therefore, Mr. Cousens' recommendations for interim guidelines form a good starting point from which to begin dealing with the issue.

Thank you for expressing the WSCA's concerns. The Ministry of Forests will keep your Association updated as the policy develops.

## Conflict of Interest

*Dirk Brinkman*

*Note: This was a letter to MOF.*

A number of times I have had complaints from contractors, members and non-members, who were dissatisfied with the lack of guidelines in MOF districts which resulted in the following blatant conflict of interest:

- Contractor A is low bidder
- Contractor B is 2nd (or 3rd) from low
- Contractor B wins the administration, supervision, checking contract and proceeds to shut down contractor A— sometimes without due cause.

Please prevent this. Other conflicts occur which also deserve attention.

## Collusion Investigated

*H. Yano, Silviculture Officer*

Reference is made to your letter of Dec. 15, 1989 (*published in the last newsletter—Ed.*) requesting information on planting contracts in the Kamloops Region.

Although the issue of collusion in bidding on Ministry contracts is a concern to us, we have no evidence to indicate that it is rampant. We would like to assist you in your investigation however, we feel your request for all the tender opening plans for the Kamloops Region and information regarding offers of contracts, decline of offers an award of contracts for all planting contracts is an unreasonable request.

Request for information on specific contracts should be directed to the District Manager.

The issue of collusion is province-wide and should involve Silviculture Branch.

## Double Jeopardy

*Chris Akehurst*

*Note: This was a letter to MOF*

With the tremendous growth of administration, implementation and checking contracts, we would like to bring to your attention the problem we see with third-party administration of contracts: inconsistent enforcement of checking standards

The checking system (FS 704, etc.) is still subjective in spite of the MOF's best efforts to make it more objective. Each district, licensee or even supervisor have their own specific clauses, "pet hates," etc. While we recognize that this subjectivity is inherent in the system we feel that third-party administration exacerbates the situation.

The administration contractor may not enforce the contract specifications to the same standard as the licensee or MOF, in at least two different ways:

The contract administrator may enforce tougher standards than the licensee/MOF because of trying to prove him/herself and fear of the all overseeing eye of "big brother" (the licensee/MOF). To keep clear of any potential conflict, s/he oversteps the parameters of the licensee/MOF. Thus the planting/stand-tending contractor is often left trying to complete a contract under terms and conditions much tougher than were expressed at the viewing.

In the second instance, the contract administrator may enforce lower standards than the licensee/MOF desires. In this case the planting/stand-tending contractor is caught in a catch 22 situation. The quality "perception" of the job may be substantially lowered by licensees/MOF 10% checks. The planting/stand-tending contractors are left "holding the bag" in a situation not of their making. If the contract administrators do not do their job then they should cover the cost not the planting/stand-tending contractor.

The WSCA recognizes that each case is individual. We would like to propose that all implementation, administration, checking contracts be let before the planting/stand-tending viewing takes place. In that case, the implementation contractor could conduct the viewing, or at least be present during it. This would ensure a clearer understanding all around of the standards required for that particular job.

We would be most grateful if you would consider this proposal.

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## Mail In

### Treeplanting as Sport

I am a fourth year physical education student at Queens University in Kingston. As one of my fourth year courses, I am doing a research concerning *Competition in the Workplace: Treeplanting as Sport*. In this paper I am hypothesizing that treeplanting could develop into a sport such as life-saving has developed into life-guarding competitions and cowpoking has developed into rodeo. These are examples of the type of activities to which treeplanting will be compared and contrasted.

To establish a credible argument, I need to acquire information on many aspects of treeplanting and the life that surrounds it. As a veteran planter, I have personal knowledge I can apply through available

literature. I hope to learn more about the many parts that make treeplanting as competitive as I have found it to be. Planter and supervisory psychology, sociological aspects of treeplanting camps, nature of the treeplanting workforce, and the actual mechanics of treeplanting are some of the aspects upon which I will be basing my argument.

I would be grateful for any magazine articles, written documents, studies, or personal knowledge, that you may have access to. A minimal amount of knowledge and research has been done in the field of treeplanting as it applies to my paper. Thank you for your cooperation and I look forward to sending you a copy of my completed paper.

*Johan Kruus*

### Post-Christmas Doldrums

I did not attend the A.G.M. because of holidays. Possible lack of attendance by some members may be due to the proximity of Christmas. There may also be a non-caring attitude by members as things seem to be running smoothly these days. The burning issue of camp standards brought out more members a few years ago. Now things like employment standards are either dealt with by some and ignored by others. Contractors are making money plus ample work next year leaves them in a carefree state.

Possibly an A.G.M. in Prince George may help in the future as a large percent of members live up north.

Other than this the most pressing issue for us in the Prince Rupert Region is the word on fire prevention. I have contacted local forestry officials but no final decisions have been made. Has there been any news your way?

*Gail*

## Bob Jones Tribute

The Forest Resources Technology Advisory Committee of Malaspina College is proposing to establish an endowment fund to pay a lasting tribute to Bob Jones, one-time manager of the Forest Service Silviculture Program, and past chairman of the College's above committee. The proceeds of this fund will be known as the Bob Jones' Silviculture Bursary, and will be given to a needy student in the program who is particularly interested in silviculture.

Bob's son Paul was a student in the program in 1981 when Bob was invited to join the Advisory Committee. This body is charged with ensuring that the program is kept entirely current and that the highest standards of instruction are maintained. In 1986, Bob became the first non-faculty member to chair the Committee. To this position, he brought with him the friendship and respect of the people with whom he had worked, both on the Coast and across the Interior, and for the first time, the Committee really "took charge" of the program. Under his hand, comprehensive program reviews and course assessments were carried out, and the College signed a Woodlot Licence Agreement having particular emphasis on public and forestry education.

Ill health forced Bob to resign from the Committee in the fall of 1989; he was to die before Christmas. To those of us who knew and worked with him, the loss of his friendship is deeply felt, and his ability to analyse and resolve complex issues will be sorely missed. The forestry community of B.C. is poorer for losing a professional of such good will and integrity. If you or your company would like to contribute to this fund, please use the form below.

# W.S.C.A. MEMBERS

The following are the paid-up 1990 members of the Western Silviculture Contractors Association.

(A indicates Associate Member)

## Vancouver Region

Backwoods Silviculture Ltd. (A)  
Brinkman & Assoc. Reforestation  
Cascade Resources Ltd.  
Coast Range Contracting Ltd.  
Green Mountain Services Ltd.  
Intertribal Forestry Assoc. of BC (A)  
Loki Reforestation Ltd.  
Mountain Reforestaion Ltd.  
New Forest West (A)  
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Woodward Reforestation Ltd.  
Zanzibar Holdings

## Kamloops Region

Arland Reforestation Services Ltd.  
Crowpoint Reforestation Ltd.  
Forsite Consultants Ltd.  
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Grady Reforesttation  
Nugrowth Industries  
Rainbow Resources Ltd.

## Nelson Region

Caliburn Forestry  
Cutler Contracting  
Evergreen Tree Planting Co-op  
Greenpeaks Holdings Ltd.  
Jansma Reforestation

## Prince Rupert Region

Singletree Ventures Ltd.  
Summit Rreforestation Ltd.  
Waterside Ventures Ltd.

## Prince George Region

Apex Reforestation  
Bugbusters Pest Management Co.  
Celtic Reforestation  
Folklore/Hawk Forest Enterprises  
Integrated Silviculture Services  
Lloyd Reforestation Ltd.  
Mountain Top Reforestation  
Mudslide Contracting Ltd.  
Pacific Regeneration Technology  
Roots Reforestation  
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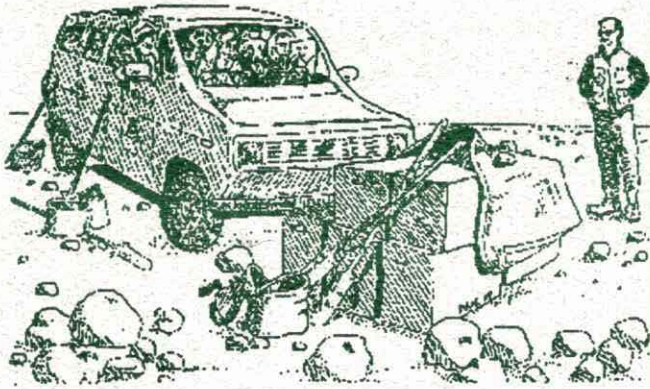
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