



# WESTERN SILVICULTURAL CONTRACTORS' ASSOCIATION

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## WSCA NEWSLETTER APRIL 1986

## WESTERN SILVICULTURAL CONTRACTORS' ASSOCIATION

#310 - 1070 West Broadway  
Vancouver, B.C. V6H 1E7

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### WSCA FUTURE

Let's clean the slate and promote the evolution of diverse groups. It has been recommended that the WSCA form for the purpose of action on issues into six regional chapters.

The recent model of the Southern Interior Silvicultural Contractors' Association is an excellent example of a live active regional association without high overhead costs -- meeting when there are issues on a pay as you go basis.

In 1983-84, the contractors from Prince George came to the WSCA Annual General Meeting to express their experience of not being represented by contractors from the Kootenays or the coast and their feeling that the cost of membership is too high for the benefits. They wanted reduced fees and local action.

Annual General Meeting: This can stand on its own feet financially. It could function as a workshop focussed on silvicultural issues, an opportunity for new suppliers and products to be introduced to the industry, where provincial issues are addressed, and regional chapters work out differences.

Newsletter: To enable regional chapters to communicate with each other and the silvicultural industry. The summer WSCA newsletter attracted a lot of interest. This brings in advertising dollars and subscription dollars, however it needs added money to survive.

Office: An office is being handled by "My Private Secretary" (a secretarial service) to refer calls and assemble information that is sent to regional chairmen in monthly packages.

Membership Dues: Regional chapters forward \$100.00 per participating member and \$50.00 per association member to handle newsletter and communication centres, due at the July Regional Meetings.

## 1986 WSCA EXECUTIVE

### EXECUTIVE

President:	Dirk Brinkman	6151 Thorne Avenue Burnaby, B.C. V3N 2T8	521-7771
Newsletter:	John Betts	R.R. #3 (Queens Way) Nelson, B.C. V1L 5P6	229-4380
Treasurer:	Tony Harrison	3321 West 27th Avenue Vancouver, B.C. V6S 1P5	734-5928

### REGIONAL CHAPTER COORDINATORS

Prince George:	Carl Lowland	Box 823 Prince George, B.C. V2L 4T3	964-9543
Caribou:	Doug Potkins	Big Lake Ranch Post Office Big Lake, B.C. V0L 1G0	243-2341
Kooteneys:	Bob Wright	116 Chatham Nelson, B.C. V6S 1P5	246-9348
Okanagan:	Ross Styles	868 Invermere Court Kamloops, B.C. V2B 7T3	376-0830
	Daniel Reid	P.O. Box 984 Kelowna, B.C. V1Y 7P7	860-4498
Victoria:	Bill Green	2778 Millstream Road Victoria, B.C. V9B 3S6	478-5795
Vancouver:	Tony Greenfield	Box 319 Sechelt, B.C. V0N 3A0	385-5539

### CALENDAR OF EVENTS

First newsletter information deadline:	March 30, 1986
First newsletter mailed by:	April 15, 1986
Regional meetings suggested date:	July 11, 1986
Second newsletter information deadline:	August 8, 1986
Second newsletter mailed by:	September 1, 1986
Regional meetings suggested date:	November 29, 1986
Third newsletter information deadline:	December 15, 1986
Third newsletter mailed by:	January 15, 1987
Annual General Meeting	February 19 & 20, 1987



## MINUTES OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

February 1986

Larry Sigurdson reported on the Vancouver region short fall of 5.2 million trees of the 26 million trees program. He outlined the procedures that the Ministry observed in the case of a short fall on a contract.

The present system is:

- take it or leave it at the same price
- if the low bidder refuses, go up the ladder to the next bidder -- up to a reasonable level, once the bids get beyond a reasonable level retender or
- if no one accepts the contract, retender
- if the price is too high readvertise
- if the time is too short for this process, then renegotiate with the lowest bidder

### WSCA Resolutions

- (1) First seek to renegotiate with the lowest bidder based on justifiable fixed costs. If no successful renegotiation is possible, either retender or go to the next highest bidder. Karl Lowland, Bob Wright.
- (2) We recommend that the Ministry of Forests include a \$1,000,000 liability insurance requirement as a contract clause. (Note: The cost alone of the fires started by uninsured contractors.)
- (3) There was a general endorsement of a restructuring of the Association.
- (4) These new groups will be called Regional Chapters.
- (5) WSCA central office and contact point will be a professional phone answering and mail service. The phone messages will be passed on to the president daily. The mail will be copied and sent weekly to the president, treasurer and the newsletter editor, and monthly to the directors from the Regional Chapters.
- (6) There is a minimum of three participants required for a regional chapter.
- (7) Regional chapters will generally be encouraged to form in MOF regions.
- (8) Volunteers were elected as regional organizers:

Prince George Chapter  
Caribou Chapter  
Kootenays Chapter  
Okanagan Chapter

Victoria Chapter  
Vancouver Chapter

Carl Lowland  
Doug Potkins  
Bob Wright  
Ross Styles  
Daniel Reid  
Bill Green  
Tony Greenfield

February 1986 AGM Minutes (cont'd)

- (9) New regional chapters can spring up wherever there is interest -- however they have to be approved by 75% majority of the Board of Directors. This is to prevent any three people calling themselves regional chairmen and representing the WSCA.

Tony Harrison: "What gets you to meet frequently in the Kootenays?"

John Betts: "A common fate. We all recognize we are in the same boat.  
There is no reason to shoot holes in it independantly."

- (10) Bill Green presented the 1985 books. He agreed to conclude his duties by sending the 1985 members a bill for their unpaid dues.

Dear Member:

In 1985 you declared yourself a member and committed to pay dues.  
From our records there is stil . . . outstanding for 1985. The 1985  
year resulted in some unpaid bills.

Your support in cleaning the slate for 1986 is appreciated. Please  
reply to our new Treasurer:

Tony Harrison  
3321 West 27th Avenue  
Vancouver, B.C.

Yours truly,

Bill Green  
WSCA Past Treasurer

- (11) A schedule for three newsletters per year, two regional chapter meetings per year, and the Annual General Meeting for 1986, was tabled at the meeting.

- (12) The WSCA agreed to offer to establish a schedule of working sessions with silviculture branch for planned formal consultations for 1986.

- (13) The 1986 Executive are as follows:

President  
Treasurer  
Newsletter Editor  
Director

Dirk Brinkman  
Tony Harrison  
John Betts  
Tony Greenfield

- (14) The regional chapters are to elect a chairman who may also be elected as a director to the board.

- (15) The WSCA supports silviculture branches to plan to regulate contractors who have not paid planters on previous contracts.

## RESOLUTIONS PROPOSED

The Southern Interior Branch of the W.S.C.A. put forward the following resolutions at the Annual General Meeting:

- (1) That the Association support certification of silvicultural contractors who work in the Province of B.C. The details of this program would be worked out in cooperation with industry, government and appropriate professional and educational agencies.
- (2) That the Association recognize the importance of voluntary compliance with regulations pertaining to the Employment Standards Act and the Workers' Compensation Act but, at the same time, urge the agencies in charge of these acts to police and enforce the regulations and standards as they apply to the silviculture industry.
- (3) That the Association be decidedly neutral in regard to participating in any activities associated with Expo '86.

## SUMMARY OF PRESENTATION

### BY BILL WILLIAMS

Following is a summary of a presentation made by Bill Williams, Regional Silvicultural Coordinator for Prince George, at the Annual General Meeting:

Prices in the Prince George region are up by 1¢. The average price is 16¢. No new contractors came into the region, and some problem contractors did not come back. Bid deposits are going up to \$100 and security deposits are going up to 10% for the summer contracts.

There has been an instance of a contractor threatening an MOF checker. If this occurs, that contractor will have all his contracts in the Prince George region cancelled.

We now expect the contractor to release the block when completed and planters are out of the area so that the checking can be done without the influence of the planters and contractor. We want objective assessments.

Contractors who fail to complete contracts will be relegated to a first time contractors status on a province-wide basis. The moment a contract fails in any region they will electronically communicate that to all the districts and regions. The contractor will be required to give up any contracts that s/he has excepting 100,000 trees. Until having successfully completed the 100,000 tree contract, they will not qualify to be awarded more work.

# Tree contracts open

By MARK HUME

Provincial government officials say a subcontractor who failed to pay 42 tree planters about \$60,000 in wages could easily get another contract from the forest ministry.

That's a disturbing possibility to the former employees of Como Lake Reforestation who are still waiting for their wages eight months after the job ended.

John Cuthbert, chief forester of B.C., said contracts are given to the lowest bidder on a region-by-region basis, and if a contractor has a record of getting the job done he'll get more work.

The combination of a good work record and low bid could land a contract even if an employer, in the past, had failed to pass on wages from the government to the workers who did the job.

Cuthbert said each region keeps a record of contractor performance, but it only deals with the quality of work done, not labor-management relations.

Bill Williams, silviculture officer for the Prince George region, agreed that a company like Como Lake could get another contract in the future under the present system.

"I guess there's no real policy at this time.

"In trying to get the trees planted we really haven't thought about that side of it."

Williams noted, however, that unpaid workers could garnishee the wages of any contractor who had failed to pay them in the past.

Meanwhile the tree-planters who worked for Como Lake Reforestation, run by Chris MacFar-

## *No-pay planter can't be barred*

lane of Calgary, say they're still waiting for the \$60,000 owed them for nearly two months of labor last summer.

The company, which had been subcontracted by Kelly's Hot Shot Service of Fort Nelson, employed about 42 people in three camps in the region.

Kelly Roney, of Kelly's Hot Shot Service, did not return The Sun's calls.

The thought that MacFarlane's company could be back in business again is upsetting, said Jim Parsons, 25.

"It wouldn't surprise me to see him back here trying to get another contract. But if he did it would destroy whatever confidence I have in the government to protect people.

"We're totally helpless."

Parsons, a ski coach in Whistler, spent last summer working for the Como Lake company run by his friend, MacFarlane.

He said he and the other workers didn't get suspicious when they weren't paid immediately because they were told the money was being held up by the government.

"He just kept saying, 'The government's got it. They're going to pay us.' Then all of a sudden we

couldn't get a hold of Chris anymore."

Dale Reid, deputy director of the Employment Standards branch, said his office tracked MacFarlane to Calgary and talked to him on the phone. Since then, however, the young entrepreneur, said to be about 25, has vanished.

"Mr. MacFarlane has skipped. He's gone."

He said his department will do everything within its power to get the wages owed to the tree planters, but wasn't hopeful.

"You can't get blood from a stone and we can't get money from a ghost."

Reid said his department handles about 13,000 complaints a year from B.C. workers who haven't been paid by their bosses, and the Como Lake affair is not unusual.

"People in this day and age are prey."

Reid said Employment Standards recaptured about \$4 million in unpaid wages last year, but didn't know how much had been claimed in total by workers.

Most complaints about unpaid wages come in the service sectors and usually involve amounts of about \$800 per person.

He said tree planters don't stand out as a group that is particularly victimized by employers who don't pay wages.

Several forest service officials said the Como Lake Reforestation situation is an unusual one.

"We haven't really had that many complaints," said Williams, who oversees replanting operations in the region where Como Lake operated.

**Report on the Progress of the 1st Meeting  
of the Okanagan Regional Chapter  
of the WSCA**

Called to order at the Vernon Lodge at 6:30 p.m. -- March 18, 1986

Five contractors were present:

Ross Styles	Crown Projects,	Kamloops
Daniel Reid	Golden Raven,	Kelowna
Andre Hamelin	Golden Raven,	Kelowna
Lorne Shukster	Shukster Bros.,	Kelowna
Brad Welch	Nu Growth,	Armstrong

S.O.S., and Steve Lauriot, Hawkeye Ref. could not attend, but expressed support and interest in continued contact.

Six others were contacted but didn't show.

Old Business

Centered on review of the Annual W.S.C.A. meeting.

New Business

It was decided that we compile a list of concerns.

Re: The Association

The fee structure of the association should cover a paid staff position, so as to effect follow through on resolutions. And that fees should reflect each contractors interests in the industry more evenly. It was agreed that a percentage of annual gross would probably work.

Contractor participation was recognized as an important issue. Regret, that some of the longer established contractors, have lost faith in associating, due to backstabbing bid practices and possible conflicts of interest in the running of the association?

Commitment by all present to approach and encourage the others in our bidding area to become involved, was volunteered.

It was agreed to ensure that at least one representative of our group, would be sent to attend any W.S.C.A. meeting in Vancouver that might occur before July 11, 1986. And that we would share the expenses incurred.



## RESHAPING FOREST POLICY IN BRITISH COLUMBIA

(Excerpts from "Reshaping Forest Policy in British Columbia" by F.L.C. Reed, published in the Journal of Business Administration, Vol. 15, 1984/85. Copies of article will be forwarded to Regional Chairmen.)

### Introduction

The term "forest management" is now in common use around the dinner tables of this nation. For the first time in our history we are being treated to forestry days in the House of Commons, hour-long documentaries on television, frequent feature articles on forestry in national magazines, and extended series in daily newspapers. While it cannot be said that the media in British Columbia is leading the chorus, an increasing sense of alarm is surfacing even in this province over the liquidation of our forest heritage.

Liquidation is a strong term, but it is an accurate one. I am not exaggerating just to make a point. British Columbia has been following an implicit policy of forest liquidation for well over a decade and there is ample evidence to support the charge.

### Status of Forest Management

There is no better way to summarize the present state of forest neglect in B.C. than to quote Bill Young, the recently retired Chief Forester of this province. In a public address in Vancouver, he described the problem in these words:

"The most recent in-depth analysis has projected that B.C. will have a one-third reduction in its annual rate of harvest if:

- forest management investments remain at the current level;
- utilization of the resource remains at the current level;
- the rate of alienation of forest land maintains the historic trend.

"Such a one-third reduction would be disastrous for B.C. But it is what can happen! It doesn't necessarily HAVE to happen!" (Young, 1985)

The one bright spot today is that planting has doubled since 1979-80. However, a good share of this plantation work can be criticized as wasteful when followup funding is not provided for brushing and weeding to ensure that the new seedlings reach the stage called "free growing". Plantation failure rates and millions of hectares of brushed-in sites underline the fact that there is far more to forest renewal than planting.

Reliance on natural regeneration for nearly half of our cutover lands is equally wasteful. District silviculturists working for the Ministry of Forests concede that more than one-third of the cutover land left to nature fails to regenerate promptly.

## Okanagan Regional Chapter (cont'd)

Daniel Reid has agreed to be contact person. And when possible, Ross Styles would be first choice as spokesperson.

Re: The Ministry's policy making appears to be unfair to contractors, and are in many cases wrong and ineffectual, and should therefore be changed, with the concerns of contractors properly and realistically addressed, so that accountability becomes more equal between the contractor and the licensee.

Three days notice, should be changed to five days, and five days allowed for completion leeway. Also, if in a certain time window, the contract does not open, then the contractor should be able to drop it without penalty.

Excess charges of some licences, i.e. Fed. Co. are exorbitant (90¢), and should be disallowed.

Small spacing differences, for microsites, are being prescribed sometimes to the extremes of ridiculousness, and are an unnecessary interference with the planter's quality.

Overall 10% deposits, reflect Ministry mismanagement, and contractor responsibility can be built into the system, in other ways. These deposits actually create unnecessary obstacles to contractors, who should be able to use that money to better fulfill their responsibilities to the industry.

Compensation for lost trees should be more than 15%, because the real cost to the contractor is more.

The terms and conditions of the contracts are absolutely one-sided. They should be improved so as to provide equal accountability by the licensee to the contractor.

### Miscellaneous Business

Arrangements to refer some planters were made between 2 cos.

A deal for a quantity purchase of water heaters was arranged between 3 cos.

Company policies, etc., were compared and mutual interests at success, for the season were discussed, and a definite feeling of trust pervaded the meeting, which it is believed will create a strength in unity, and thereby become the tool needed to ensure that the changes suggested will be effected.

July 11, 1986, is set as the perspective date for the next meetings. Meeting arrangements were discussed, rental of a room and all other costs to be shared. Speakers and other contractors, will be sought by all, and coordinated through Daniel Reid.

Mailing and typing procedure of this report was agreed on.

Meeting closed at 10:30 p.m. at the donut shop in Vernon.

Report written by Lorne Shukster.

## A Forest Rescue Plan

My estimate of the total funds which are required annually just to sustain the existing harvest is \$350 million, or more than double the expected spending by governments and industry in 1985-86.

The contrasts between Finland and B.C. are striking. They rely on natural regeneration for only 5-6 per cent of the area harvested. They plant nearly 2½ times the number of seedlings that we do in B.C., and their intensive silviculture covers over 30 times the comparable area treated in this province.

Those who have visited Finland come away with two indelible impressions of their commitment to forestry. The first is that the forest industry is the only game in town for the majority of their country. But this is equally true in British Columbia.

The second impression from Finland is that forest renewal costs are considered as the first charge against revenue from the current crop. It does not even occur to them to ask whether they can afford to manage the land. They have no intention of drawing down their forest capital as we are doing in much of British Columbia.

Table 2

### Comparison of Annual Silvicultural Treatments in Finland and British Columbia

	<u>Finland</u>	<u>B.C.</u>
Area harvested	160,000 ha	200,000 ha
Scarification and other site preparation	136,000 ha	86,000 ha
Planting	124,500	85,600
Seeding	26,500	--
Brushing and weeding	--	4,400
Cleaning, spacing, thinning, rehabilitation	318,300	9,500
Fertilizing	109,800	5,700
Draining	84,000	--
TOTAL treated	799,100	191,200
Seedlings planted	247 million	105 million
<u>Additional comparisons</u>		
Population	4.8 million	2.9 million
GDP (1981)	U.S. \$49.1 billion	\$42.5 billion*
Total land area	337,000 km <sup>2</sup>	929,732 km <sup>2</sup>
Northern boundary	70° 05' N	60° N
Southern boundary	59° 30' N	49° N

\* Includes Yukon and Northwest Territories GDP.

Sources: B.C. Ministry of Forests, 1983; Finnish Forestry Service, 1984; Hirvonen, 1984.

## Forest Renewal Policy Package

We come now to the heart of the matter. What combination of forest renewal policies will ensure that targets for planting and tending are achieved? Seven separate elements are identified in the following paragraphs, each one being expressed as an imperative.

Tenure conditions. Experience in many jurisdictions has demonstrated that forest renewal generally fails in the absence of area-based tenure. In spite of the recent imprimatur of the Economic Council of Canada (1984) for privatization of forest land, I believe that the idea is an untimely distraction. If the objective is consistently good forest renewal performance, then one does not have to look beyond the Tree Farm Licences in B.C. or the Forest Management Agreements in Alberta for proven models.

Funding responsibilities. There is a sound principle to which one can turn for insight, namely: those who benefit should pay. To repeat an earlier figure of speech, industry has the opportunity to buy its way into the game. What will it cost? The funding required to reach an annual target of \$300 million on Crown forest land is about \$175 million more than is projected in the province's current 5-year plan (B.C. Ministry of Forests, 1985b). If this additional funding is pro-rated over the existing harvest in British Columbia, the industry and provincial shares would each be about 75 cents per m<sup>3</sup>, which translates approximately as follows for major products:

- \$2.00 / tonne of newsprint
- \$3.50 / tonne of kraft pulp
- \$2.00 / thousand bd. ft. of lumber.

The province likewise can afford to allocate more funds to forestry, with no greater difficulty, one might add, than they encounter in finding \$500 million for the Coquihalla Highway to Peachland and Kamloops, or \$1 million for northeast coal and related rail facilities, or large sums for EXPO 86 and a new bridge over the Fraser River at Annacis Island. This point was cogently made recently by Jack Munro, President of the International Woodworkers of America, speaking at the Annual Meeting of the Association of B.C. Professional Foresters. His suggestion for a forest heritage bond warrants study.

Allowable cut effect. There is a persistent myth that a dollar spent on forestry today will not yield benefits until the end of an 80-100 year rotation. In the first place, we can grow timber in many areas of this country in 30-40 years by the application of intensive silvicultural treatments.

Income tax incentives. Another element in the quid pro quo for industry funds would be the introduction of tax incentives for forest renewal spending. These might apply only after a threshold of basic forestry is achieved. Thus, \$1.00 of intensive forestry expenditures by a company might be written off at \$1.25.

Overhead costs. The B.C. Ministry of Forests has been discussing with industry a variety of means whereby costly administrative and regulatory functions can be streamlined, with savings accruing to both parties.

Post-harvest audit. For more than a decade we have been hearing about the violation of custodial responsibilities on the part of land managers. A remedy proposed with increasing frequency is the introduction of an audit of forestry performance at intervals of 5, 10, 20 or even 40 years following harvest or natural depletion.

## Forest Renewal Policy Package (cont'd)

Stumpage overhaul. The stumpage system in British Columbia is the worst that I have ever encountered. It certainly fails to meet generally accepted canons of taxation: equity, low cost of administration, simplicity, and adequacy. Appropriate actions would be as follows:

- Introduce a relevant profit and risk ratio.
- Appraise the stand as a whole.
- Restore the maximum limit to stumpage payable.
- Lessen the costly overhead associated with the system.

## Custodial Relationships

By way of conclusion, I wish to restate my major theme with an ethical perspective on land use. The Hon. Elmer MacKay, Member of Parliament for Central Nova in Nova Scotia, said in House of Commons debates on May 31, 1983, "Those who plant trees do not think of themselves." That is a fundamental proposition. In another speech about eight years ago, MacKay said, "We do not inherit land from our fathers, we bequeath it to our children." I have used that concept in numerous places since then, but modified it slightly to read as follows: "We do not inherit the forest from our fathers, we borrow it from our children." It is now starting to appear in all sorts of forestry literature.

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TELEX TO JACK HEINRICH

The Hon. Jack Heinrich  
Minister of Forests  
Victoria, B.C.

February 18, 1986

Congratulations on your appointment as Minister of Forests. We look forward to working with you in managing and renewing B.C.'s forests.

We would be honoured if you would address our members in their sixth Annual General Meeting in Vancouver at the Biltmore Hotel on February 27th either at our dinner or our luncheon, or February 28th at our luncheon.

On Thursday evening we are addressing the issue of professionalizing the silviculture industry in a panel debate.

The FRDA funds are increasing the volume of silvicultural work in the province and the community of contractors is growing. It is increasingly important to foster goodwill and cooperation between all levels of government and industry.

The Western Silvicultural Contractors' Association represents about 30 contractors who plant over 50% of the trees in the province. Thinning contractors, herbicide contractors and suppliers to the silvicultural industry are also represented. The contractors in the Association abide by its code of ethics and are the more responsible operators in the industry.

Typically our meetings are attended by about 35 to 45 contractors and their representatives, and some Ministry of Forests administrative personnel.

We will be inviting local industry foresters who are directly involved in the administration of silviculture contracts to attend our evening supper.

Some of the contractors' current concerns are:

- a) The future of the provincial silviculture budget
- b) The effect of the low-bid system of reforestation contracting on the success of the reforestation program. There is a cheaper way to reforest.
- c) The inability of the Ministry of Forests to limit the activities of contractors who are not professional -- i.e., have trees stashed on their contracts, do not pay their workers, consistently do poor quality work.
- d) Is there any use of the silviculture budget or the FRDA budget for make-work projects?
- e) Is there money to replant the extensive area denuded by 1985's fires?

We look forward to your reply.

Yours truly,

Dirk Brinkman  
President  
Western Silvicultural Contractors Association

## LETTER TO LABOUR STANDARDS BRANCH

Ministry of Labour  
Labour Standards Branch

Since contractors who chronically fail to pay their planters continue to be offered tree planting contracts, we have asked the Chief Forester of the province if he would take action on this problem. We recognize that the information you have is confidential. Would you respond to a request from the Chief Forester for a list of chronic offenders?

Yours truly,

Dirk Brinkman  
President, WSCA

## LETTER TO SILVICULTURAL OFFICERS

(Technically, the MOF supervisor, as the representative of the prime contractor, is responsible to ensure WCB regulations are complied with on a silvicultural contract. Most district silvicultural officers are not aware of that. WSCA members resolved to notify the districts.)

To the Silvicultural Officers  
Provincial Forestry Regional Offices

The Ministry of Forests has been established to be the prime contractor on silviculture contracts. Technically, it is the responsibility of the Ministry to ensure the safety of the workers on these contracts.

Where hazardous conditions prevail it is your duty to require the contractor to remove this hazard or stop contract operations. This means that a part of your duties includes confirming that the contractor is supplying the required first aid facilities and attendant. Isolated contracts may require a working radio phone. If a contractor is transporting planters in the back of trucks or without the availability of seat belts for each planter, you are required to suspend operations until safe transport is provided.

Where interpretation of the Act is unclear, a WCB inspector should be called in.

The WSCA is bringing attention to this responsibility since it is our experience that the Ministry field staff believe that it is not part of their job to see that the contractor complies with the WCB regulations. This has resulted in some contractors cutting costs by not complying with WCB standards.

Yours truly,

Dirk Brinkman  
President, WSCA

## LETTER FROM DAVID WHITE

(Following are excerpts from a letter received from David White of Greenpeaks Holdings Ltd., Winlaw, B.C.)

February 3, 1986

Dear Dirk:

In the spring of 1985 the Ministry of Forests tendered four contracts in the Golden District, Nelson Region. All four of these contracts failed. Our company then completed two of these contracts (P85No3-05 Bush Harbour and P85No3-08 Blind Valley). Many issues were raised during the administration of these contracts which affect us as taxpayers, contractors or tree planters. We intend to resolve these issues and we would like to enlist your support for our struggle.

### Issues

- (1) Checking - Four different sets of checkers were employed during the first four days of this contract. These checkers were under instructions to impose a "foot" screef whereas neither the contract nor Work Progress Plan had such a clause. The Ministry's official contact person had been given these four days off.

When consistent checking was finally imposed, these checkers came under extraordinary pressure to give the company bad plots.

- (2) Stock quality - Greenpeaks' planters finally refused to plant any more dead trees after one week of this farce. The Ministry hired a large crew and culled many of the remaining trees. We have photographs of the stock and culling operation which, incidentally, was conducted without shade or silvicool tarps.
- (3) Trees not accounted for - Dead and dying trees are undoubtedly more difficult to see. The checkers' job is made harder when these "trees" are in N.S.R. ground that is being planted four to six weeks past the optimum. We maintain that the formula is inaccurate in variable ground and have prepared a statistical case for reform.

An election year is a good opportunity to apply pressure on any government. Our strategy is to get contractors to support our demand for an inquiry into the Golden scandal. We will approach the Deputy Minister of Forests in February with the extensive documentation we have prepared on the contracts we were involved in. We will propose to him that he constitute a mini-tribunal composed of one forester of our choice, one of his choice and a third that is mutually acceptable. A condition of our involvement will be that all findings and recommendations of the tribunal be implemented.

If the Ministry refuses our efforts at compromise, we will have no alternative but to go to the press and courts to press our interests. We are asking for your support in this venture. Please write or phone the writer if you would like to keep informed or lend support.

Yours sincerely,

David White  
Greenpeaks Holdings

LETTER FROM MINISTRY OF FORESTS

July 31, 1985

To All Established Licensees

RE: To All Established Licensees

Following is the text of a telex, sent by W.C. Cheston, Assistant Deputy Minister Operations, to all Regions and Associates.

"It has come to my attention that some licensees are charging up to 250 dollars for particulars on Section 88 projects advertised for bidding.

The cost of project preparation is allowed for under the overhead allowance and must not be charged to bidders.

If a charge for project particulars is deemed necessary to discourage triflers, the charge shall not cover more than the cost of duplicating and handling the material and shall be refunded to unsuccessful bidders upon return of the documents in good conditions."

I trust all Section 88 projects will be tendered as indicated above.

Yours truly,

M.J. Wilkins  
Regional Manager  
Ministry of Forests  
Province of British Columbia



**WESTERN SILVICULTURAL  
CONTRACTORS' ASSOCIATION**  
LIABILITY INSURANCE PROGRAM

UNDERWRITTEN By:

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\* NOTICE \*

Dirk Brinkman, President of WSCA, will be attending the Forest Congress in Ottawa on April 15, 1986 and will send a report to regions.

## LETTER FROM WESTERN SILVICULTURE ASSOCIATION

Frank Barber, R.P.F.  
310 - 1236 Pandora Avenue  
Victoria, B.C. V8V 3R4

You did a lot of hard work; organizing a difficult diversity of interests, while keeping your integrity with the Forests and the workers.

Thank you for your newsletter and management. Thank you especially for risking your professional reputation in this rubble of rascals.

I think you will be pleased with the developments in the association this year.

Sincerely,

Dirk Brinkman  
President  
WSCA ✓



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