

2008 Award Winner



Distinguished Forest Professional - Randy Chan, RPF

Randy Chan, Registered Professional Forester, was presented with the Association of BC Forest Professionals' (ABC FP's) highest honour on February 27, 2009, yet his interest in forestry began in a very small way when as a child growing up in Vancouver he joined the Boy Scouts.

His budding interest in the forest led him to a degree in forestry from UBC and then a move to Kamloops where he got his first job as a forester with Balco Industries. Randy worked his way up the ranks at Balco eventually becoming the chief forester – a position he held when the company was acquired by Tolko Industries in 1987.

Randy's role with Tolko has expanded to include the environment and he is currently the vice president and general manager of environment and forestry. Randy says that the things he enjoys most about his job are the diversity and the people he gets to work with – both inside and outside the company.

The ABCFP has benefited from Randy's dedication to volunteerism. Randy served as president (in 1985) as well as on the governing council. He also volunteers on various committees including the Standing Investigations Committee, two host committees for the annual conference and has helped mentor other forest professionals.

The current economic outlook is fairly bleak but Randy wants young people to know that there will always be a forest industry. It might look different tomorrow than it does today and it will require forest professionals who are flexible and focused on problem solving. He emphasizes that there is a tremendous amount of opportunity in the forest sector and that is what has kept him engaged in forestry for 37 years.

Even though he has achieved the ABCFP's highest honour, he refuses to see it as an individual award. He credits Tolko with having integrity and giving him the support and respect he needed to practice good forest stewardship.