



# CEO's Report

By Sharon Glover, MBA

## Visiting Haida Gwaii

In mid-September, a group of ABCFP representatives visited Haida Gwaii to meet with members, the Haida and other forestry stakeholders. Our group included me, president Rick Brouwer, RPF; lay councilor Gordon Prest and Peter Marshall, PhD, RPF, from UBC. The purpose of our trip was to get to know some of the challenges of working in forestry on Haida Gwaii and to encourage more Haida students to consider careers in forestry.

We travelled to the Village of Queen Charlotte, Skidegate, Masset, Tlell and Juskatla and spoke with dozens of people along the way. We also managed to sneak in a quick hike here and there and made sure we took time to see the Golden Spruce stump and the Balancing Rock. Everywhere we went the people of Haida Gwaii were warm and welcoming. The following list contains some of the highlights of the trip.

- **Member meeting at the Ministry of Forests and Range District office.** The meeting was attended by MFR staff, consultants and folks from Teal Jones. We discussed the fee increase (the ballot hadn't yet closed at the time we met), professional reliance, and the Haida Gwaii land use objectives order.
- **Haida Gwaii Higher Education Society.** The meeting took place at the amazing Haida Heritage Centre at Kaay Llnagaay. We learned about the Haida Gwaii Semesters program which brings post-secondary students to the islands to learn about natural resource management, resource-dependent communities and the Haida nation.
- **Skidegate Band Council.** We met with Lisa Shoop, the education coordinator, to talk about encouraging more Haida students—both young people just finishing high school and more mature students—to consider forestry as a career. We discussed the possibility of offering at least some forestry education on the islands.
- **Western Forest Products and Taan Forest Products.** We discussed some of the challenges of working in the forest sector on Haida Gwaii and what Taan will face as it starts to ramp up business.
- **Council of the Haida Nation.** We met with Haida Nation President Guujaaw, April Churchill, vice-president, and Cindy Boyco, Skidegate regional representative of the Haida Nation, to discuss the Haida's political aspirations.

We were scheduled to leave the islands on a Thursday afternoon flight; however, a fog bank rolled in and the flight was postponed to the next day. Our group used the extra time to visit the School District office in the Village of Queen Charlotte. As a result, the ABCFP and UBC had a joint booth at a career fair in mid-October. Although frustrating at the time, it was a good thing our flight was delayed!

The trip was a great chance for us to get to know this remote part of the province a bit better. Our group took advantage of the opportunity to listen a lot and now we feel that we have a better handle on the challenges of practising forestry on Haida Gwaii. 🍄

