



A Year in Review

A lot can happen in a year...

- An Olympic party
- A significant reduction in forest industry injuries (especially fatalities)
- Fiscal stability for the association
- A growing recognition of the broad application of the practice of professional forestry
- Lumber industry resurgence
- Partnering of the profession, government and industry to promote and enable professional reliance
- Growing Aboriginal involvement in forest land management
- Acceptance of the Land-Based Management concept (one land manager) as part of the recent reorganisation of government
- A new strategic plan for the ABCFP

All aided by efforts from a bunch of very good people—forest professionals!

I'm very proud of the involvement and influence of the association and the many forest professionals on these and similar items and I'm extremely happy to know much of the work of the past year will ensure that this involvement and influence will continue to grow in the future. I'm also encouraged by the involvement of so many forest professionals in landscape level issues like pine beetle impacts, wildlife and ecosystem management, and wildfire protection.

As my term as president comes to a close, it's very important to me to extend thanks and recognition.

- To each and every one of the members of this great association—thank you for everything that you have done or will do.
- To my fellow council members, who are a diverse, opinionated, engaged, committed and all-round great bunch of passionate people—who also have a sense of humour—thanks for all of that!

- To Sharon Glover, CEO of the ABCFP—thanks for your assistance and adaptability.
- To Jonathan Lok, who is leaving council after five years - thanks for your insight, your wit and your passion.
- To Ian Emery, the ABCFP's incoming president—thanks for your commitment and desire to make a difference: I know you will serve the association and our profession well, and we can do no better in having you as our president.
- To the staff of the ABCFP, who work so hard to meet the needs and expectations of our members—thanks for all the smiles!
- Thanks to previous council members, committee members and network of forest professionals, who provide so much spark and serve the membership so selflessly.
- To distinguished forest professionals, past presidents, valedictorians, and award recipients—thanks for being such inspiring people.
- And lastly, to all our new inductees, thanks for choosing a wonderful profession, and good on you!

Remember: it's about leading, balancing, and knowing what it is to be a professional. It's about promoting the culture of the forest, taking the long view and, in no small part, it's about having fun while you do all those things.

Speaking of fun, I think I'll end with a poem.

*Let's not be misunderstood
It's much more than a livelihood
As a source of culture and products and
feelings and fellings
So listen now to the tails and tellings
It's trees and bees
ferns and burns
sun and fun
loot and root
chemicals and minerals produced
and consumed.*

*It's cleaning and fixing
dishes and fishes
schools and tools
homes and highways
and health.
It's holiday and work-a-day
Spiritual, cultural, diurnal, nocturnal
Full of all that makes us great while at the
same time showing us how insignificant we
really are
As it does and dies and lives without love—
but is loved
By us.*

*Trees and soil, work and toil
Time pent behind the thousandth desk
When we really would rather risk
A walk in the woods
And realize that it's all
More than that
It's everyone!
All of us.*

*It grows and we grow and grew
And realize there's something to do
With the feeling of the forest
And the need to deliver a steady course
That is the desire to contribute
More than in the absolute*

*Forest
Forestry
Forester
All grow from the same earth
All go to the same hearth
Of the human word and culture*

*It exists without definition
And without contradiction
Or borders
It takes no orders
It is the we who define it
And as we refine it
We refine the term
But the worm
Still burrows and shapes the soil
Independent of our verbal toil
But that matters not as by describing
We are also inscribing
And instilling the definition and the part
Of the culture of the forest
Directly into our heart. 🐛*