



# THE WOODLOT COMMUNICATOR



www.woodlot.bc.ca

Winter 2023



Gord Chipman (right) new FBCWA General Manager touring woodlot licences around the province starting with WL #13 in Nanoose Bay, Vancouver Island, managed by Sid & Barb Dawson (left).

## Woodlotters and the Federation of BC Woodlot Associations welcome Gord Chipman as their new General Manager

By SARA GRADY

***Woodlotters and the Federation of BC Woodlot Associations are pleased to welcome Gord Chipman as its new General Manager.***

He takes over the reins from Brian McNaughton, who has tirelessly served for 22 years, ensuring the woodlot program was in good hands. Brian will still be sharing his knowledge through his company, Lone Tree Consulting, and will also be enjoying more time with his grandchildren!

Gord is a Registered Professional Forester (RPF) with extensive experience working in the BC forest sector including the North Coast,

Northern Interior and Central Interior.

He has his own consulting company – Xylem Resource Management Ltd.

For the past 12½ years, Gord has managed Alkali Resource Management Ltd. (ARM) – an integrated forest management company established to manage the Esk’etemc (Alkali Lake) First Nations’ woodlot licence (600ha), community forest (27,000ha), woodland tenure (60,000ha), and several forest licences. Under Gord’s management, ARM trained fire crews and carried out burning services, fire hazard reduction projects and tree spacing, including implementation of a landscape level Wildfire Risk Management plan by utilising provincial funding to alleviate wildfire risk around the Alkali Lake community.

Prior to his work with ARM, Gord worked for over 20 years as an area supervisor, operations manager, and log buyer for major forest companies in the Williams Lake area, where he lives with his wife Georgina.

In addition, he has experience working with numerous Boards of Directors, having served as a director for the BC Community Forest Association and President of the Cariboo Woodlot Association for many years.

Having been a forest manager of a woodlot licence, community forest and woodland tenure, Gord has a keen interest in small, area-based forest tenures in British Columbia. He’s looking forward to leading the Federation as it grapples with severe climate change and threat of wildfire. With 80% of woodlot licences within two

kilometres of a community, interface fires are a pressing issue that must be addressed. He's also eager to continue forging relationships with BC's First Nations.

He'll be making an effort to travel throughout the province to meet with woodlot holders and familiarise himself with the unique challenges on the 845+ woodlots that are managed by a diverse range of licensees.

Welcome, Gord. We look forward to your thoughtful and passionate leadership, especially at this pivotal time for BC's forests.



ARM wildfire risk crew with specialized training in wildfire mitigation, Cariboo Regional District.

## Honouring Al Water's, Distinguished Forest Professional (ABCFP)



Since 1970 the Association of BC Forest Professionals (ABCFP) has celebrated Registered Professional Foresters who exemplify the standards of the designation. The honour is given to foresters who are nominated by their peers and vetted by the ABCFP council and past presidents in recognition of their outstanding contribution to the forestry profession.

Al Waters, RPF(Ret), was acknowledged by the ABCFP with the prestigious Distinguished Forest Professional award this year. (News Release)

Peers talk about his work ethic, perfectionism, and willingness to share his knowledge with other stakeholders in forestry. He is a Life Member of the Federation of BC Woodlot Associations and a valued member of BC's forestry community.

Here's what the ABCFP had to say about him.

"Congratulations, Al, we're fortunate to have the benefit of your wisdom and experience."

"Alan's career exemplifies his integrity and commitment to achieving real and meaningful success in forestry and ensuring we are sustainably caring for BC's forests for future generations," said Garnet Mierau, RPF, ABCFP president.

"Waters was a consummate field silviculturist who consistently worked 15-hour days, walking every area he managed, completing field prescriptions and executing high standards of fire hazard abatement and reforestation on every cutblock. He perfected summer broadcast burning on thousands of hectares of north aspect Devil's club sites."

"Waters also established more than 40,000 hectares of free-growing stands by supervising the planting of 30 million seedlings, naturally regenerating pine stands to target densities, and executing almost every silviculture treatment imaginable."

"During his career, Al worked passionately to achieve forest management excellence," Mierau said, adding "Waters has also trained and inspired many young foresters."

### *Distinguished Forest Professional Al Water's Contributions to BC's Woodlot Licence Program*

Al Water's, retired Registered Professional Forester (RPF) and Woodlot Licence holder, received the 2022 Distinguished Forest Professional Award at the ABCFP 2023 Conference. Congratulations Al!

Al has made a significant impact on the woodlot program, first as a Senior Woodlot Licence Forester in the Tenures Branch (1997-2003), and later as a manager of two woodlot licences near Quesnel.

Al championed BC's Woodlot Licences and contributed to the woodlot program by improving and streamlining the Program to the benefit of both licences and Ministry staff. He visited more than 10% of woodlot licences around the province, providing support and knowledge.

He also served as the president of the Quesnel Woodlot Association, where he worked tirelessly to achieve excellence in forest management on his own woodlots while encouraging his colleagues to do the same.



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