



Moderator Speaking Notes – Panel 1 Strategic Direction – What do woodlotters need to know for the next 5 years?

Presented by David Elstone, RPF
Managing Director, Spar Tree Group Inc.
Publisher, View From The Stump

WOODLOTS BC
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Moderator Notes

- Thank you inviting me to moderate this panel
- I am David Elstone and have over 30 years of industry experience as a forester, financial analyst and lead advocate for forestry in BC.
- In a previous role, I was the former Executive Director of an association called the Truckloggers or TLA representing logging contractors in the province.
- The purpose of my consulting company, Spar Tree Group is to bring the big picture down to the ground level to help companies make informed strategic decisions.
- Also, Spar Tree Group publishes a newsletter, **View From The Stump**.



Moderator Notes

- There are many changes that the BC forest industry has been dealing and will continue to face.
- The upcoming provincial election will be pivotal to the future direction.
- There has been changing markets and social expectations for forestry
- Several new forest policies have been introduced.
- One big issue is the rising softwood lumber duties for Canadian lumber exports to the US. Duties increased last August and are expected to double to 30% to 35%+ in a year from now. That will without a doubt affect every woodlot owner given at the end of day, you are all market loggers – you need to sell your harvested timber.



Moderator Notes

- So really given all the challenges ahead, the title of the panel should be edited to say...

“What do woodlot owners need to know to survive for the next 5 years?”

- Woodlots play an increasingly important role to the industry, representing, by my estimate, in 2023, approx. 2% of the total provincial AAC, and 4% of the Crown harvest.
- While woodlot owners are often regarded as leaders on stewardship and innovative forest management, you are not immune to the challenges facing the forest sector. In today’s world of social media, misinformation is prevalent.



Moderator Notes

- One of subtext messages behind the design of this panel is that woodlot owners must be vigilant in managing public perception.
- The following presenters will help describe how woodlots are performing, issues coming up and provide some potential opportunities/ solutions.

Thank you.



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Thank you!

www.viewfromthestump.com

david@spartreegroup.com

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