

■ 2025-2026



Woodlots BC
Forests in Good Hands

ANNUAL REPORT



 woodlotsbc.ca
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**STEWARDING BC'S
FORESTS FOR FUTURE
GENERATIONS**

Woodlots BC - Forests in Good Hands



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OUR MISSION



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Connecting woodlot licensees and giving voice to their tenure.

WE BELIEVE IN ...



Woodlot licences and small-scale forestry



The diversity of licensees, and the privilege to be a caretaker of the land



Achieving social license by developing and maintaining a good reputation with neighbours, communities and business partners



Excellence in forest management

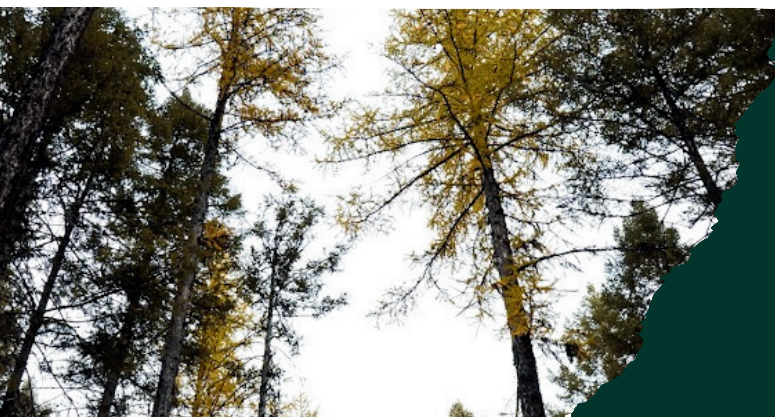


Resilient and healthy ecosystems



Advancing innovation

Woodlots BC is the operating name of the Woodlot Product Development Council (WPDC), which represents woodlot licensees in BC



“

Strong woodlot communities lead to healthy forests and a sustainable future.

– **WOODLOTS BC**



EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

A Message from Gord Chipman

The 2025–26 fiscal year has been defined by what our Executive Director characterizes as a “forestry roller coaster” — a period of extreme market volatility and significant policy shifts. Mill closures in Vanderhoof and Fort St. John, a surging Canadian dollar, and looming 34% dumping duties created a climate of uncertainty for woodlot licensees across the province.



Through these “rough seas,” Woodlots BC continued to strengthen its internal foundation. This year marked the official completion of our transition from the legacy Federation model to a unified Woodlots BC identity. A pivotal milestone in this transition was the formal wind-down of the FBCWA, including the final transfer of \$20,389.24 into unified accounts designated for the bursary program and member dividends.

Our mission, “Forests in Good Hands,” continues to guide our work, with a strategic focus on tenure security and reducing regulatory friction.

By consolidating our resources and advocacy efforts, Woodlots BC has continued its evolution from a reactive, troubleshooting-based organization into a proactive Community of Practice capable of influencing provincial discussions around area-based management on public and private land.

As we look toward the 2026–27 fiscal year, the momentum of the past twelve months must be balanced against the “Triple T” threats on the horizon: tariffs, timber pricing, and tenure. Anticipated dumping duties on U.S. lumber, ongoing uncertainty around timber pricing, and continued pressure on tenure security will shape our advocacy work in the year ahead.

Woodlots BC will continue to push for the No Net Loss principle and the full implementation of Single Cutting Permit 2.0 to improve regulatory efficiency and support the long-term viability of woodlot licences.

This work is strengthened by the practical knowledge and regional insight of our members, representatives, and partners. Their experience helps Woodlots BC respond to emerging issues while keeping advocacy grounded in the realities facing woodlot licensees.

We also look forward to the upcoming “Woods and Waves: Navigating the Narrative” Conference and AGM, hosted by the South Island Woodlot Association in the Parksville region. This event will provide an opportunity to strengthen our collective voice, share regional perspectives, and demonstrate the continued importance of small-scale, local forestry in British Columbia.

Woodlots BC remains dedicated to the conviction that BC’s local forests are in the best possible hands.

OUR 2025–26 STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

- 01** Relationships and Reputation
- 02** Financial Stability & Program Delivery
- 03** Tenure Viability & Advocacy
- 04** Serving the Membership

These four strategic goals shaped Woodlots BC’s work throughout 2025–26 and are expanded in the following section.

YEAR IN REVIEW



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This year, Woodlots BC focused on four strategic pillars that guide our work on behalf of woodlot licensees across British Columbia.

STRATEGIC GOALS IN ACTION



STRENGTHENING RELATIONSHIPS & REPUTATION

- Engaged with 400+ forestry peers at the Forest Professionals BC AGM
- Met with the Minister of Forests and senior staff at the Truck Loggers convention
- Strengthened regional outreach through AGMs, “Beer with your Rep” events and local partnerships

600 connections made with partners, stakeholders and communities.



FINANCIAL STABILITY & PROGRAM DELIVERY

- Managed 1.7M in FES Wildfire Risk Reduction funding.
- Lowered treatment costs from \$12,000/ha to \$6,500/ha through innovation and combined operations.
- Planted 350,000 trees through FIP and SIP programs.
- Modernized internal systems, including online levy voting.

1.7M+ in funding delivered to support members.



ADVOCACY, POLICY & TENURE VIABILITY

- Developed the “No Net Loss” approach in response to land-use pressures in the Peace Region.
- Advanced Single Cutting Permit 2.0 to simplify approvals.
- Secured Section 108 relief clarifications and key deadlines.
- Addressed waste and residue and road permit requirements.

Critical policy wins that protect tenure, reduce red tape and support viability.



SERVING THE MEMBERSHIP & COMMUNICATIONS

- Woodlots Talks webinars drew 33+ attendees on key topics.
- Kindling program connected 6 suitors with 3 orphaned woodlots in the Peace region.
- Woodland Almanac reaches 1,200+ subscribers.
- Woodlots Weekly achieved a 7.2% open rate.

Stronger member connections and resources for today and the next generation.



REGIONAL REPORTS

COAST REGION

ED HUGHES & MIKE LAROCK

Huock Resource Consultants
(Ed Hughes, Mike Larock
and team)



Several key initiatives were undertaken in the Coast Region between April 2025 to March 2026 to address ongoing challenges for woodlot licensees and advance strategic goals of Woodlots BC. There are ongoing and increasing risks causing uncertainty regarding the future of woodlot tenures and the woodlot program itself.

Five woodlots on Vancouver Island (Oceanside, and the Comox Valley) continue to be affected by the removal of tenure rights. Efforts have been made to support impacted woodlots by WLBC, North Island Woodlot Association and support groups/individuals. Expropriation involves the removal of woodlot tenure holders rights. The risk of losing more woodlots remains a significant concern. This issue is at the forefront of coastal woodlot licensees minds until there is a resolution that involves replacement.

As the use of coastal woodlots for multiple resource values increases, the role of the woodlot licensee as ambassadors and managers of living forests in their communities also increases. The Coast Region Woodlot Representative devoted significant effort this year in strengthening the ambassador role through the development of the woodlot brochure, engagement meetings, and local project development.

Primary areas of focus have included wildfire risk reduction, forest enhancement and fibre recovery. Projects may target a specific area or treatment within a single woodlot, or connect two or more woodlots with adjacent Crown forest land.

Committee meetings in 2025 included timber pricing, waste, future risks to woodlots, joint working group with the MOF, the MOF/industry Operations Issues Forum (OIF). Contractors for WLBC regularly have brief meetings to share experiences and work related woodlot issues and concerns.

The South Island Woodlot conference organization started right after last year's conference. Preparation is well at hand for this year's event. See you in Parksville, October 1st to 3rd, 2026!

SOUTH REGION

CHRIS COLE



Over the past year, the South Region has focused on building relationships and advancing WoodlotsBC strategic goals. This was accomplished through relationship building with woodlot licensees, First Nations, government representatives, and forestry committees. South Region woodlot association meetings were a great way to connect efficiently with many woodlots license holders and key government supports.

The work directly supported woodlot licensees with community engagement, woodlot management, waste and residue issues, wildfire reduction, audits, and navigating regulatory requirements. Infoplip brochures produced by the Silviculture Innovation Investment Program (SIP) were distributed to woodlot licensees at various meetings and field interactions. Log markets were discussed through presenters at localized AGMs.

The FESBC funded wildfire risk reduction program was expanded in the South Region for Woodlots BC. Prescriptions were developed and approved for a dozen woodlots as funding priorities were coordinated closely with BC Wildfire Service and the Ministry of Forests to identify priority treatment areas. Liaison roles were continued and strengthened to provide localized support for this program. Administrative responsibilities through Woodlots BC included managing funded projects, along with assisting licensees with applications and contracts.





NORTH REGION

MELISSA STEIDLE



Across 2025, regional activities focused on strengthening relationships, advancing tenure viability, supporting members, and coordinating reforestation work. In July, I travelled from Prince George to Kispiox engaging associations in tours, including the John Prince Research Forest, Burns Lake Community Forest, a Roase Lake Woodlot/Agroforestry site, and a Smithers and Kispiox woodlot.

Wildlife prescriptions dominated operations; however, extensive past bark-beetle harvesting and limited infrastructure adjacency mean most northern woodlots do not require fuel-load mitigation.

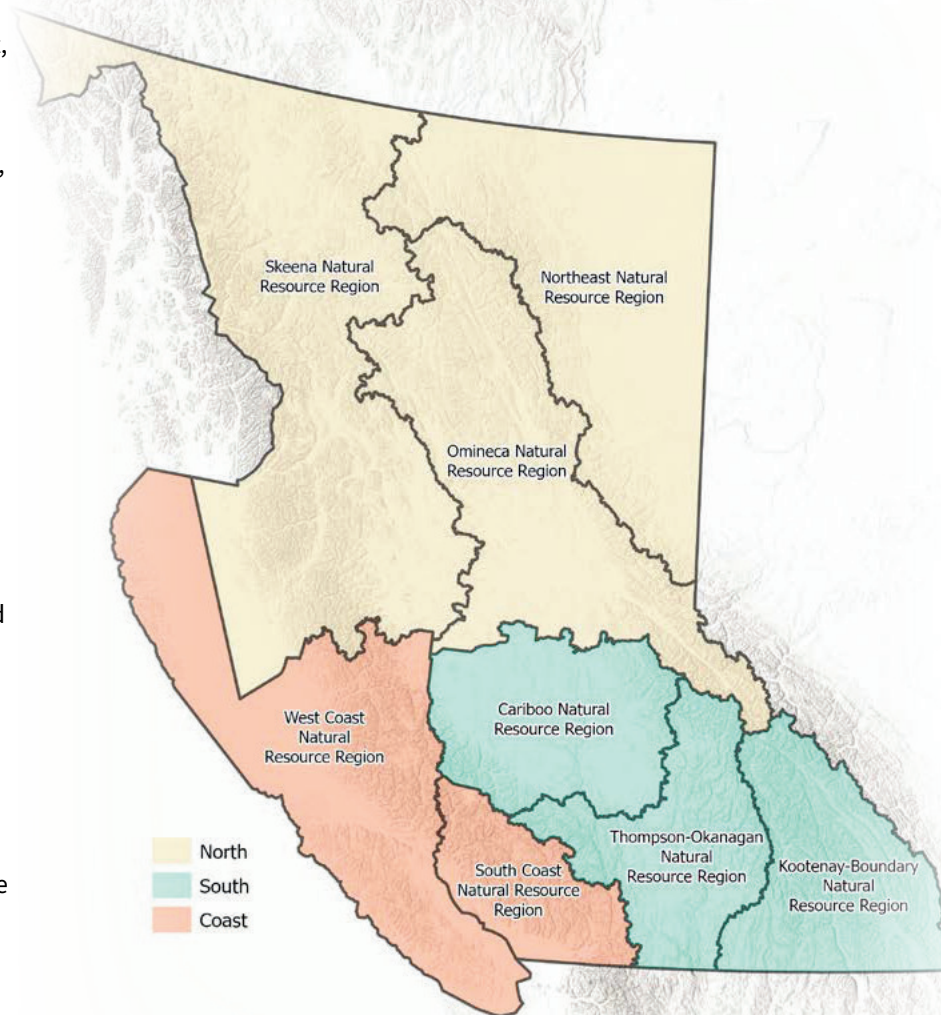
Policy advocacy centered on waste and residue, cut-control impacts, commercial-thinning barriers, and silviculture changes. Meetings with district managers, and Chief Forester committees, addressed approval timelines, data gaps, stocking standards, and AAC uplift advocacy for commercial thinning.

Member support remained high, with 10 - 35 inquiries monthly, and strong engagement in Woodlot Weekly communications. Funding submissions included owing over 550,000 seedlings for burned woodlots and eligibility surveys to restore woodlots after fire.

Kindling activity increased, with burned or aging woodlots entering the transfer processes; however, transfers are slow and numbers won't be known for years.

Highlights of the year was launching the Resilient Ecosystems Pamphlet and its webpage. SIP funded the project and highlighted its impact. We were invited to present the topic at SISCO, where it was well received. The pamphlet has been widely adopted, and a printable version is now available digitally.

Another highlight was the donation of fall shrubs and trees for woodlots in the Stuart Nechako. Woodlotters had a fabulous time picking seedlings for their woodlots.





OUR IMPACT

Woodlots continue to be an important part of BC's managed forest landscape, not because of their overall size, but because of the role they play. Managed by individuals, families, communities, and small businesses, woodlots support hands-on forest stewardship, local employment, timber supply, and long-term care of both private and Crown forest land. In the 2025/2026 fiscal year, a volume of 809,224 m³ for a value of \$93,804,582 came off woodlots.

WOODLOTS AT A GLANCE

	AREA (ha)			AAC (m2)		
	Private Land	Crown Land	Total	Private Land	Crown Land	Total
Coast	4,030	62,524	66,554	21,918	341,948	363,866
North	12,409	207,506	219,915	15,550	444,322	459,872
South	27,041	251,085	278,126	27,086	549,575	576,661
Total	43,481	521,116	564,595	64,554	1,335,845	1,400,399

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

BUILDING ON LAST YEAR'S MOMENTUM

Building on last year's communication initiatives, Woodlots BC continued to strengthen connections across the woodlot community through **Meet a Woodlotter**, **Woodlot Talks**, and **Kindling**. These initiatives support knowledge sharing, mentorship, program awareness, and member-to-member connection.

This year, we also expanded our presence on social media and encouraged members to share posts and stories through their own networks. This helped Woodlots BC reach a wider audience, increase visibility for woodlot licence holders, and share the value of woodlots with the broader public.

KINDLING PROGRAM IMPACTS

3

woodlot sales
shared

2

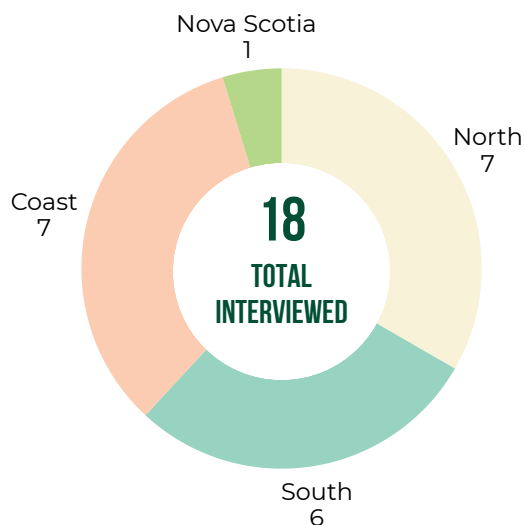
woodlots in
transfer process

1

woodlotter
considering joining
the program

MEET A WOODLOTTER SERIES

The number of woodlots represented by woodlotter interviews in 2025/2026 - these stories are shared in the Woodland Almanac, Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn, and our website.



EVENTS AND AWARDS



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ANNUAL CONFERENCE IN OSOYOOS

The passion and strong sense of community that define Woodlots BC were evident at the 2025 Woodlots BC Conference, held October 16-18 in Osoyoos. The event provided two options for field tours on Friday October 17 and a full line-up of speakers on Saturday exploring topics on forestry management and innovation. A great discussion was sparked by the SIP workshop “The Good, the Bad, and the Ugly”, as well as some innovative ideas during an open-floor discussion on “Goals for the Woodlot Program”. The conference concluded with the annual banquet and silent auction, which raised \$5,355 for the bursary fund. Once again, the event highlighted the dedication of woodlotters and their shared commitment to the land, sustainable forestry, and the future of the Woodlot Program.

2025 MINISTER’S AWARD

Russ Clinton has spent his career growing and managing trees, both near his home in Quesnel and through forestry work in places such as Brazil and New Zealand. That experience has shaped a strong land ethic and an ongoing interest in new approaches, including forest carbon management. On Woodlot 0205, Russ has invested in disc trenching, juvenile spacing, brushing and commercial thinning. He also manages Schedule A land within mule deer winter range to a higher standard than required and has added privately owned forest land to the woodlot. Russ is now working through an intergenerational transfer to his children, continuing a family connection to the land that has included working together on stand-tending projects over the years.



Left: Russ Clinton accepts the 2025 Minister’s Award for Innovation and Excellence from Forest Tenures Branch representative Patrick Russell at the Annual Woodlot Conference.

Above: Patrick Russell (left), Russ Clinton (centre), and Gord Chipman, Woodlots BC Executive Director (right), at the 2025 Woodlots BC Conference and AGM in Osoyoos.



FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Woodlot Product Development Council 2026 Year End Financials

Statement of Activities

	2026	2025
Operations Revenues		
Investment	64,872.56	114,534.39
Conference Sponsorship / AGM Reg	65,355.00	44,650.00
Advertising / Silent Auction / Clothing	11,640.25	9,526.00
MoF Levy	358,838.73	354,414.00
Activities from Scholarship Fund (restricted)	9,476.90	(3,821.53)
Levy Fund Draw Down (not included)	174,000.00	180,000.00
Total Operations Revenue	510,183.44	519,303.86
Operations Expenses		
Bank Charges	1,114.32	1,693.89
Insurance	3,361.79	1,623.74
Board and Representatives Travel & Meeting Rooms	27,456.84	41,687.46
Support to Board of Directors and Governance	27,102.50	41,379.89
Governance Training	4,766.25	18,706.25
Professional Services Legal / Accounting	8,661.63	9,914.63
Investment Fees	17,515.85	16,889.91
Levy Returns	12,271.25	9,039.99
AGM / Conference	119,419.65	57,045.41
Administration	80,904.75	60,716.15
Bookkeeping	23,733.10	22,442.53
Communications	44,852.61	52,452.66
Almanac	22,337.97	20,570.34
Writer, Website, Social Media	6,377.63	10,686.67
Woodlot Advocacy	118,666.46	226,281.30
Special Projects	20,907.58	12,079.74
Travel & Meals	60,925.07	56,570.33
GST Expense	10,329.06	0.00
Total Operating Expenses	(610,704.31)	(659,780.89)
Operations Loss	(100,520.87)	(140,477.03)
Funding Program Administration Revenues (Delivery Allowance)		
BCWS	22,844.44	45,709.05
FIP	35,960.76	37,632.01
FESBC	60,329.77	20,325.70
Total Funding Program Administration Revenue	119,134.97	103,666.76
Funding Program Expenses		
WPDC contractors	(84,513.10)	(96,808.25)
Funding Programs Income	34,621.87	6,858.51
Net Loss	(65,899.00)	(133,618.52)

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS



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Balance Sheet

	Assets 2026	Assets 2025
Cash	676,158.23	952,958.20
Cash Investments	18,370.45	14,738.97
GIC	25,562.50	25,000.00
Receivables	106,606.95	139,286.35 MoF, GST, interest
Prepaid Expenses	8,326.80	37,591.15
Restricted Cash	111,283.47	100,251.65 Scholarship
Long Term Investments	2,329,178.60	2,441,500.58
Total Assets	3,275,487.00	3,711,326.90
	Liabilities 2026	Liabilities 2025
Payables	114,955.22	252,623.81
Conference Sponsorship Funding Programs	221,408.99	1,500.00 2026
Minister's Award	1,554.82	474,895.73 Owed to the organizations
Ernie Day Bursary Fund	1,550.00	4,655.00 Restricted
Total Liabilities	339,469.03	733,674.54
Retained Earnings	2,877,400.53*	3,005,769.51
FBCWA - Transfer	25,814.69	1,428.19
Current Earnings	(65,899.00)	(133,618.52)
Levy Draw Down	(174,000.00)	(180,000.00) Not Included
Retained Earnings Subtotal	2,837,316.22	2,873,579.18
Scholarship Fund	108,178.65	100,251.65 Restricted
Restricted Funds Earnings	(9,476.90)	3,821.53
Total Retained Earnings	2,936,017.97	2,977,652.36
Total Liability & Ret Earnings	3,275,487.00	3,711,326.90

* 2025ye Retained Earning + activities from restricted funds = 2,877,400.53

Note to Reader: Income includes an Investment Fund Transfer, which is drawn down annually.

Detailed Financial Statements and 2025 AGM Minutes are available at <https://woodlotsbc.ca/about/wpdc/>



FUNDING SUMMARY

WOODLOTS BC: FOREST INVESTMENT PROGRAM SUMMARY FOR THE 2025/2026 FISCAL YEAR

TOTAL RECEIVED: \$430,993

8 ACTIVITIES: PRESCRIPTIONS, PLANTING, ROAD REHAB, SITE PREPARATION & OVERSTORY REMOVAL, AND SURVEYS (ELIGIBILITY, MONITORING & NUTRIENT MANAGEMENT)

8 DISTRICTS: CASCADES, NADINA, PEACE RIVER, PRINCE GEORGE, QUESNEL, ROCKY MOUNTAIN, SELKIRK, THOMPSON RIVER

13 WOODLOTS





WHO WE ARE

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President	Kevin Webber
Vice President	Dean Daly
Treasurer	Ross Harris
Secretary	Samantha Carter
Director	Lee Pond
Director	Maxime Lepine
Director	Marvin Strimbold
Director	Lisa Zabek (non-voting)

STAFF

Executive Director	Gord Chipman
Administrative Assistant	Alex Pite
Bookkeeping/Accounts Payable	Heidi Denney
Communications	Sarah Sutton
e-Business & RESULTS Support	Shelley Desautels
Woodlot Rep (Coast)	Mike Larock, Ed Hughes
Woodlot Rep (North)	Melissa Steidle
Woodlot Rep (South)	Chris Cole

CONTACT

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Woodlots BC