



## 2022 ACCOMPLISHMENTS REPORT



Forest Enhancement  
Society of British Columbia



**Our mosaic  
of B.C. forest sector  
organizations  
are uniting and  
collaborating on:**

**sustainability,**

**climate action,**

**increasing  
First Nations  
participation,**

**value-for-money,**

**jobs for workers,**

**abundant wildlife,**

**and healthy forests.**



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## A Message from the Minister of Forests

British Columbia is a world leader in sustainable forest management with leading-edge environmental practices. Alongside this, wildfire prevention, mitigation, and building a Province where communities are more resilient to the impacts of climate change is a top priority for our government. The Forest Enhancement Society of BC (FESBC) has been a strong partner in the delivery of projects that work toward both of these goals.

Above:  
Minister Conroy  
touring FESBC  
funded projects  
in Williams  
Lake, B.C.

FESBC supports First Nations, community forests, communities, local companies and many others to take on projects that contribute to the Province's key commitments of managing for climate change, sustainability, and reconciliation. The focus of these projects includes managing wildfire risk, enhancing wildlife habitat, reducing carbon emissions, improving recreational opportunities for people in our forests, and improving ecological resiliency.

In this most recent copy of FESBC's Accomplishment Report, perhaps you, like me, will be excited to learn about some of the innovative projects that are bringing transformation to our forests. Projects like the Atlantic Power Plant in Williams Lake where I had the opportunity to tour and learn about the recovery and utilization of uneconomic fibre to generate electricity. This is just one example of the 263 projects completed over the past five years.

A key part of addressing the impacts of climate change is the Province's investment in FESBC. These transformative forestry projects are helping us meet our CleanBC targets that support a Stronger BC. All the projects funded through the FESBC play a pivotal role in helping build safer and more resilient communities, while creating thousands of jobs in the process. A win-win for our forests and our future.

Sincerely,

The Honourable Katrine Conroy  
Minister of Forests





## A Message from the Chief Forester

Caring for B.C.'s forests requires expertise and commitment by natural resource sector partners and Indigenous people across the province. The influences of climate change and wildfire require that we develop strategies around silviculture, seed production, innovation and bioeconomy, and ensure that we consider species at risk, Old Growth, and the economic health of communities around B.C.

To manage the province's 57 million hectares of forests, we rely on forest professionals and land managers to help generate innovative solutions to emerging challenges on the natural resource landscape, and to help thoughtfully manage, and care for our forests in partnership with First Nations.

Working with the Forest Enhancement Society of BC (FESBC), we have helped implement innovative approaches to managing B.C.'s forests for all British Columbians. In this FESBC Accomplishments Report, you'll learn how millions of planted trees helped regenerate areas severely impacted by wildfires in B.C.'s interior. Other collaborative projects with FESBC and project partners saw reforestation activities take place in higher-elevation areas with provincially rare and endangered species, with the aim to increase the resiliency of our forests.

We recognize how important our forests are to mitigate the effects of our changing climate, and we are working together to ensure our strategies incorporate the best science and forest management tools available and consider the vast knowledge of our Indigenous communities across the province.

Sincerely,

Shane Berg, RPF  
Assistant Deputy Minister, Chief Forester

Above:  
Assistant  
Deputy Minister,  
Chief Forester  
Shane Berg  
touring forestry  
projects in B.C.





## Taking Action on Climate Change

Climate change is a concern for many people around the world, and is top of mind for FESBC as well.

In 2016, to follow through on international commitments and drive Canadian climate action, Canada's federal, provincial, and territorial leaders adopted a made-in-Canada climate plan. This plan provided funding over five years to support action under the Pan-Canadian Framework on Clean Growth and Climate Change, and to work toward transitioning Canada toward more sustainable economic growth and meeting or exceeding the Government of Canada's target under the Paris Agreement. **Under the Forest Carbon Initiative, B.C. proposed to invest in projects that sequester carbon and/or materially reduce carbon emissions.** The signed document between the two governments to achieve these goals was named the **Low Carbon Economy Leadership Fund (LCELF) Agreement.**

The LCELF is an important part of the plan and leveraged investments in projects that generated clean growth and reduced carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases. Under the Agreement, Canada and British Columbia jointly invested \$290 million. The Province of B.C. contributed \$150 million through FESBC. **This funding contributed to 134 forestry projects taking action on climate change through the three internationally accepted ways that forests can reduce greenhouse gases: planting trees that otherwise would not be planted (to absorb carbon dioxide from the air), fertilizing trees (when trees grow faster, they absorb carbon dioxide faster), and using**

**waste wood in the forest that otherwise would have been burned (avoiding greenhouse gas emissions).**

Additional benefits of these projects included the creation of 1,300+ full time-equivalent jobs\*, planting 66 million trees\*, and sequestering approximately 4.2 million tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub>e by 2050\*, which is equivalent to 904,000 gasoline-powered vehicles off the road for one year.\*\*

Throughout British Columbia, there are local project partners who have taken the climate change concerns and moved forward into taking action on climate change, using nature-based forestry solutions. These 134 projects spanned the entire province, and FESBC highlighted their exceptional outcomes in an award-winning video.

The **B.C. Forestry Workers are Climate Change Heroes** video highlights several climate change heroes who can often be found in B.C.'s forests wearing hard hats. These climate change heroes from local communities are empowered to continue to do important work to help enhance our forests and take action on climate change now, and for future generations.

To watch the video, visit:

**[bit.ly/ClimateChangeHeroes](https://bit.ly/ClimateChangeHeroes)**

\*with LCELF funding since 2016

\*\*SOURCE: calculation-greenhouse gas equivalencies calculator (US Environmental Protection Agency)



# Climate Change Heroes



**Percy Guichon** | Central Chilcotin Rehabilitation Ltd.  
Director



**Otis Guichon** | T̓sidedel First Nation  
Chief



**Joe Alphonse** | Tl'etinqox Government  
Chief



**Nicole Harrison** | Zanzibar Holdings Ltd.  
Silviculture Operations



**John Walker** | Williams Lake First Nation  
Stewardship Forester



**Aaron Higginbottom** | Williams Lake First Nation  
Senior Manager, Natural Resources & Economic Development



**Greg Kilba** | Arrow Transportation Systems Inc.  
Division Manager



**Ervin Charleyboy** | Central Chilcotin Rehabilitation Ltd.  
President



**Bill Layton** | Zanzibar Holdings Ltd.  
Professional Forester



**Ken Day** | Williams Lake Community Forest  
Consulting Forester

# AWARD WINNING PROJECTS

## Premier's Innovation and Excellence Awards Recognizes Historic Tree Planting Season

Each year, the Premier of British Columbia recognizes government programs and initiatives. In 2021, the Ministry of Forests, together with partners including FESBC, was recognized as a Provincial Finalist for the B.C. 2020 Planting Season in the Partnership Category.

**Well over 5,000 tree planters pulled together to plant over 300 million seedlings without a single case of COVID-19.**

*"The combined efforts of many to protect workers and communities from COVID-19 were successful—not a single planting-related infection was reported. Special thanks to those who worked together to develop and implement the COVID-19 measures on such short notice under Dr. Bonnie Henry's leadership. The creativeness of the planting companies and their willingness to collaborate with others was a key to this success. There are few jobs that promise so much return for future generations, so we thank everyone for their important and lasting contribution."*

—Jim Snetsinger, Board Chair, FESBC



## Climate Change Heroes "Golden" in the 2022 MUSE Creative Awards and 2022 Hermes Creative Awards

FESBC is the proud recipient of a Muse Creative Award and a Hermes Creative Award for its video titled **B.C. Forestry Workers are Climate Change Heroes**, winning gold for the educational video.

*"Climate change is a concern for many people around the world. Throughout British Columbia, there are locals who have channeled that concern into taking action on climate change using the natural power of our forests. Climate change heroes can often be found in B.C.'s forests wearing hard hats and they deserve to be recognized. To win this award for our video is a great acknowledgement of their collective efforts."*

—Steve Kozuki, Executive Director, FESBC

To watch the award winning video, visit [bit.ly/ClimateChangeHeroes](https://bit.ly/ClimateChangeHeroes)





## Operational Excellence

Since the time of its creation, FESBC has strived to be a best-in-class operation, with a laser focus on:

- having the lowest administrative costs: currently about 6% of funds administered,
- achieving clean and transparent financial management—as verified by KPMG auditors,
- earning a high degree of social licence from the public via extensive and consistent media coverage,
- becoming the funding agency preferred by project partners: FESBC is service-oriented, with a business mantra to help others succeed,
- being a significant cultivator of new entrants to the forest sector in B.C., and
- driving down the cost of forest enhancement projects over time; for example, in six years the FESBC cost of wildfire risk reduction treatments has gone from \$8,000 per hectare, down to \$2,400 per hectare.

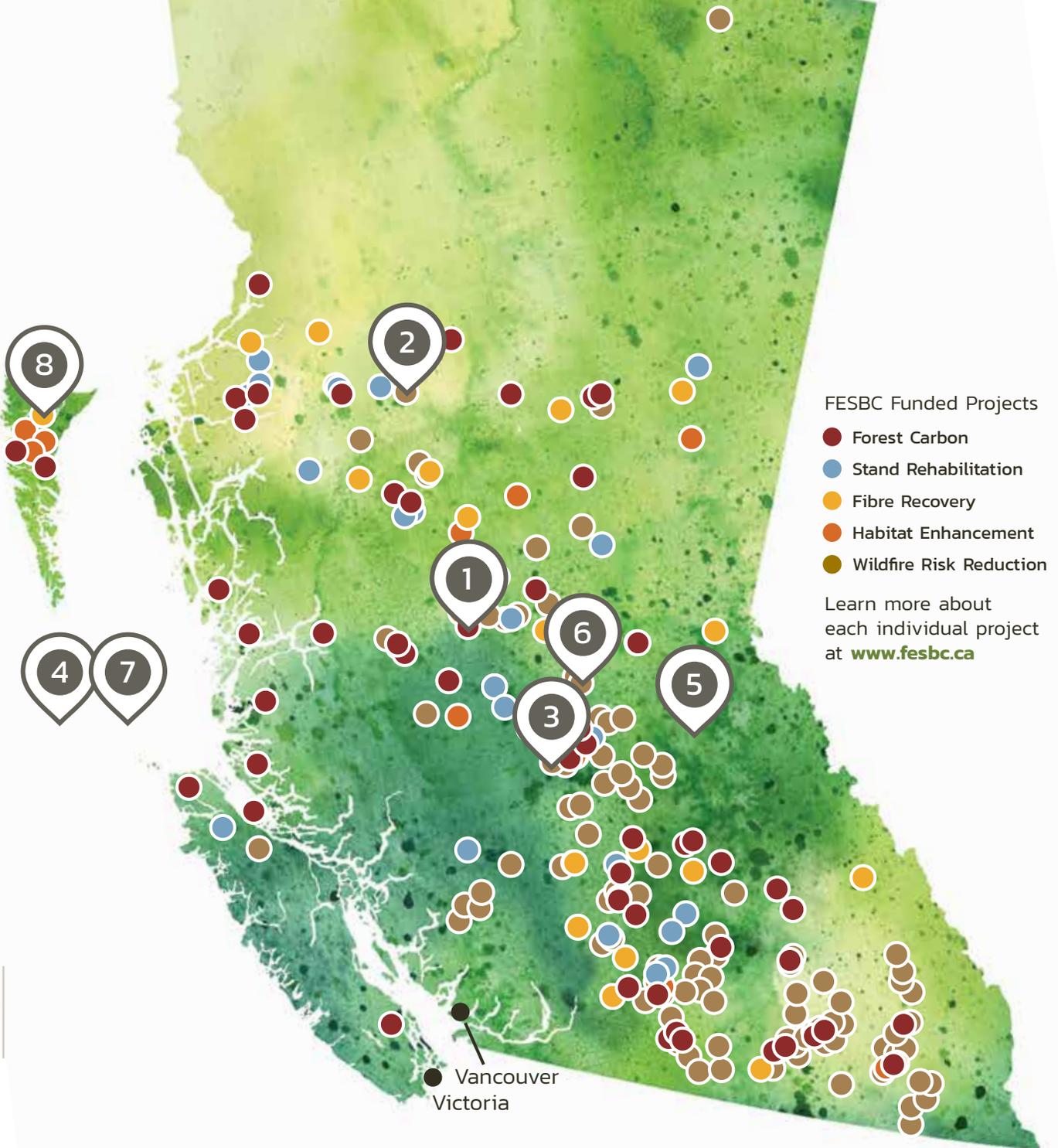
PricewaterhouseCoopers (PwC) has been a trusted, reliable partner with FESBC, providing taxation advice, project management and oversight functions. PwC has a long history and deep experience in providing these kinds of services to the forest sector and FESBC is very grateful to PwC.

**On innovation, FESBC walks the talk.** Experimenting with new methods of doing things and allowing new organizations to deliver projects is never a sure thing. Innovation inherently entails taking risks because the outcomes are not guaranteed. We know that not every project will be a success and new organizations won't get it right on the first try. That's okay because that's how humans have always learned how to do things better. For FESBC, taking calculated risks to achieve big environmental and social benefits is part of their DNA.

Of course, worker safety is paramount. **To date, there have been no reported serious worker injuries related to FESBC funded projects.**



# FESBC Project Map



Read about eight stories of transformation on the following pages, and learn more about all of FESBC's funded projects at [www.fesbc.ca](http://www.fesbc.ca)

# Stories of Transformation





## Stories of Transformation



FESBC projects have fostered long-lasting and permanent changes.

Some of the **profound and beneficial transformations** include:

### Enhancing the Use of Wood Fibre

The utilization of low-quality wood fibre has become much more normalized today. In the past, this waste wood in the forest was piled and burned. Before that waste wood can be used instead of burned, a number of barriers needed to be overcome. Most significant is that FESBC funding has helped with the economics. Additionally, partnerships in the forest sector need to be forged, and contractors need forward-looking business certainty to justify investments in equipment and workers. When the volume of fibre is significantly increased, operations are carefully planned by the partners in advance, the right equipment is used, and when workers have gained all-important experience, then costs go down and the low-quality wood fibre becomes more economic to utilize. **This is the kind of transformation that benefits communities, workers, the bioeconomy, and the environment.**

### Indigenous Peoples Taking the Lead in Forest Management

**Indigenous peoples have become forest enhancement project leaders, and by extension, are becoming forest management leaders.** Other forest managers have gained a better appreciation for Indigenous perspectives and world-view of the interconnectedness of everything. In one FESBC-funded project, the commercial objective was to increase timber supply by thinning and fertilizing trees, however a primary objective of the Williams Lake First Nation was to increase berry production for food. Through collaboration and thoughtful planning, both objectives were achieved.

When FESBC was created, no one realized just how many tangential, durable, and profound co-benefits were possible to achieve with forestry projects. Now we know.



## Better Understanding and Mitigating Wildfire Risk

Across the province, people are recognizing that some forests have become unnaturally overgrown due to decades of the suppression of wildfires. They are now taking action to **reduce their wildfire risks** by implementing FireSmart disciplines, which includes restoring more natural ecosystem functions resulting in healthier forests that are more ecologically resilient to disease, insects, wildfire, and further climate change.

After the 2017 Cariboo Wildfire



# 1

CARIBOO-  
CHILCOTIN



## First Nations Working to Bring Transformation through Innovation

### FESBC funding a catalyst to seeding innovation in forestry

The 2017 Hanceville wildfires, and many others across the province had a devastating effect, especially for the First Nations communities and those who live and work in the Cariboo-Chilcotin region. With many generations of people who rely on the land today, and will continue to in the future, the fire produced far reaching and long-term impacts.

To regenerate the forests faster and accelerate ecological recovery, the Indigenous-owned company called **Central Chilcotin Rehabilitation (CCR)** proactively took the lead to reforest large areas of land using both innovative and traditional methods. The project, a trial using drones and hand deployment methods, directly seeded over 52 hectares with many thousands of lodgepole pine and douglas-fir, undertaken in partnership with DroneSeed.

*"We don't have the resources to plant all the trees lost in the fires, or the resources to grow all the seedlings, in a short amount of time," said Percy Guichon, Director, CCR. "FESBC's support and this tool, will help in our current efforts of reforestation, and to increase our capacity in the future."*

In the past, spreading tree seed by hand, machines or aircraft was usually not successful, often because small rodents and birds eat most of the seed. In this project, the seed was encased in a protective pod containing pepper-based animal repellent. Each pod was then precisely placed in the exact perfect spot by

flyng drones guided by GPS technology.

This means much less seed is wasted.

The project was a technical marvel. However, what made it transformational on a human level is the fact that it was being done by local Indigenous people. CCR and the Tshilqot'in are now leading they way in modern forest management in their traditional territory.

By combining new, innovative methods of reforestation with traditional ones, CCR's goal was to use a hybrid approach of seed vessels and seedlings, both of which have distinct advantages in post-wildfire restoration.

**The DroneSeed team worked with FESBC and CCR on the project by providing aerial seeding with heavy-lift drones.** Additionally, DroneSeed is currently growing approximately 50,000 seedlings—from seed supplied by CCR—for interplanting within the pilot area of other CCR burned areas in spring of 2023.

Nature will be helped along through CCR's intervention, helping to return the forest to a productive state faster.

A lot of these areas where CCR is undertaking the reforestation work are not under their licensee obligation to reforest, yet they have still taken the initiative to reforest these areas. CCR knows that planting trees is important to help take meaningful action to address climate change, because growing forests faster means trees will absorb more carbon.

# PLANTING TREES WITH DRONES



Paul Grindler (Councillor, Tl'etinqox Government), Dave Conly (Operations Manager, FESBC), Grant Canary (CEO, Drone Seed), and Percy Guichon (Director, CCR) on site for the tree planting using drone technology.

*"We wanted to find a method to reforest that would complement our traditional planting methods using tree planters, especially since there are danger trees, steep slopes, and places logging equipment can't get to that you can't salvage—there's places you can't send tree planters into,"* said Guichon.

**For CCR, replanting trees is extremely important as the forests provide many economic, social, and environmental benefits.** The reforestation of damaged areas supports healthy watersheds, enhances wildlife habitat,

and re-establishes a forest ecosystem left barren by wildfire.

As part of the collaboration, DroneSeed's experts will be regularly revisiting the planting sites to track the seeds' and seedlings' growth to report progress back to CCR and FESBC. If successful, the project will help restore and transform large fire-devastated areas quickly, safely, and more cost effectively than if done solely by hand.





# 2

## WILDFIRE BUFFER

Granisle Community Wildland Fire Protection Plan Implementation  
Photo Credit: Babine Lake Community Forest

### Transforming a Community's Barrier to Wildfire

#### Granisle's reforestation efforts bring greater protection from wildfire

Granisle, a small village in northern British Columbia along with a neighbouring First Nations community, took unique steps together to create communities that would be safer from the threat of wildfires. How? Through planting trees.

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In 2018, a FESBC grant was provided to the Babine Lake Community Forest (BLCF), a partnership between Lake Babine Nation and the Village of Granisle, to surround the village with mixed species of trees, mostly made up of deciduous species which are less susceptible to forest fires than conifers. They transformed the forest from being a big wildfire threat, to a forest that will reduce the risk to the community.

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The village, with a population of about 350 people, could not afford to take the project on alone. With the BLCF on board and FESBC funding, they were able to kickstart the project to move it forward to plant a buffer of 225,000 trees.

Mayor Linda McGuire of the Village of Granisle said, "FESBC funding helped support this crucial project, which is now making a difference on the ground, protecting communities and creating local employment opportunities."

FESBC's grant supported the project and assisted BLCF with its long-term wildfire mitigation strategy work, which included community consultation and long-term site plans that integrate wildlife values. A review by the BLCF and the BC Wildfire Service concluded that **replacing the dense conifer stand around the community with deciduous trees would be a low-maintenance, long-term solution to create a wildfire buffer around the community.**

Chief of Lake Babine Nation, Gordon Alec remarked, "Having worked in the forest industry for 43 years, I know managing and sustaining the forest and economy is vitally important. I am quite confident that this venture will go a very long way in benefiting all of the communities involved."

Not only has the project taken a unique path to wildfire risk reduction, but it has also contributed to the transformation of the community by enhancing skills training opportunities and providing employment to residents of both Lake Babine Nation and the Village of Granisle. And when the birch trees grow to maturity, they might be used to create valuable hardwood flooring or other fine wood products.



# 3

ALKALI LAKE



## Innovation and Partnership Bring Transformation to Esk'etemc A Community Transitions from Fossil Fuels to Biomass Boilers

While climate change is top of mind for many people, **one rural B.C. community took action to implement a sustainable and enduring transformation to shift from the use of fossil fuels to green energy.** It is an example of how when people come together with good intentions to find new solutions, and implement a well-developed plan, massive change is possible.

The proud community of Esk'etemc (pronounced ess-ke-tem) in Alkali Lake, located approximately 50 kilometres south of Williams Lake, B.C., started work on a project that would eventually change the way the community consumed energy.

The project's goal was to shift from propane, a fossil fuel, to woody biomass to generate heat for the community. FESBC funded part of the project to thin the over-grown forests surrounding the community to reduce the wildfire threat and then chip the logging debris. The wood waste was converted to green energy instead of being burned in slash piles. The heat from the forest biomass is then distributed

to the school, health building, administration offices and some residential homes.

While capital funding for the project's infrastructure originally came from the Government of Canada in 2016, FESBC funded the part of the project which helped to utilize and transport the biomass for the boilers that is used to produce heat for the community, reducing the reliance on propane.

*"I am often challenged to find solutions that work for our community and for the general market,"* noted Francis Johnson, RPF, Alkali Resource Management. *"The partnership with FESBC has been critical to us to help us learn new and innovative approaches to managing forest resources and incorporating Indigenous values into our activities."*

Today, the community's reliance on fossil fuels has been transformed. Through collaboration and innovation, the use of fossil fuels for heat has been replaced by using sustainably-sourced biomass from local forests.



## SHIFTING TO GREEN ENERGY



Supervising the chipping for the biomass plant.

Photo Credit: Gord Chipman



**RESTORE  
REVIVE  
TRANSFORM  
WILDFIRE-  
IMPACTED  
AREAS**

Pine seedling on its way to contributing to the restoration of a new forest

# 4



## Millions of Trees Transforming B.C.'s Forests

Office of the Chief Forester leads reforestation efforts throughout B.C.

The record-breaking 2017 and 2018 wildfires devastated large portions of forests in British Columbia. While these wildfires had devastating effects on communities and citizens, they also created long-term effects on ecosystem health. In response, the Office of the Chief Forester undertook two remarkable projects to restore, revive, and transform wildfire-impacted forests in the province.

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One of the projects was to reforest areas severely impacted by wildfires in the Cariboo-Chilcotin and Thompson Okanagan regions. With over \$64 million in FESBC funding, activities were undertaken to plan, map, survey, and plant trees to rehabilitate the forests in these hardest-hit regions.

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*"We know in forestry, there is no 'one size fits all' way of managing B.C.'s forests under the expected climate, social and economic projections. We only need to look at the devastation of the 2017 wildfires to know innovative and collaborative thinking is what will help us best protect and enhance our forest today and for generations,"* said Diane Nicholls, former Chief Forester, Ministry of Forests.

*"Our partnership with FESBC to take on a project of this magnitude, was essential to deliver not only on the reforestation work, but the environmental benefits we'll realize because of this collaboration."*

In another project, the Office of the Chief Forester focused on **reforesting multiple areas of Crown land**, implemented in part with an

FESBC grant of over \$15 million. Specialists determined that natural regeneration of a healthy forest in targeted areas would have been very difficult, and could take decades. By the fall of 2021, 13 million trees were planted, a difficult job which was made even more challenging with COVID-19 restrictions in full effect. This work was comprised of 30 separate projects in six regions of the province. While most of these projects included planting in areas impacted by wildfire, the managers of the provincial reforestation program also dedicated resources to revegetate and rehabilitate old logging roads and plant trees in BC Provincial Parks.

**Reforestation of whitebark pine** was also undertaken in some higher-elevation areas, with provincially rare and endangered species, to increase the resiliency of the forests in the province.

At the time, Thomas White, Director of Climate Change and Integrated Planning Branch, Office of the Chief Forester noted, *"I am proud to be advancing the province's climate objectives in partnership with the Forest Enhancement Society of BC. This is an ambitious program with many collaborating parties. Our program has successfully planted millions of new seedlings on forest land that had been very degraded due to wildfires in 2017 and 2018. These seedlings will grow into healthy forests and sequester carbon as well as create many other benefits for British Columbians."*



# ENHANCING THE USE OF WOOD WASTE



18

## 5

CLEARWATER



### Transforming community safety and the local airshed

#### A community forest and industry working together

A project in the Wells Gray Community Forest (WGCF) in Clearwater, B.C., funded by FESBC to support the enhanced utilization of residual fibre left over after harvesting operations, was a collaborative effort of community and industry to put sustainable forestry management practices into action.

In the past when the Arrow Transportation Systems Inc. (Arrow) team first considered a fibre utilization project in the WGCF, there were many challenges. There was a lot of wood fibre in the forest that could not be utilized by sawmills because the logs were rotten,

too cracked, or too crooked. Road access to the fibre was also a significant challenge because of soft ground and large ditches across the roads.

The transformation that occurred on this project is how many different businesses in the forest are now working together.

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Now, because of the collaboration of the community forest, forest contractors, workers and industry, roads are built into the overall plan to facilitate a large grinder to come on site and for Arrow trucks to have easy access to enable the hauling. On this one project, Arrow was able to grind 18,992 cubic metres



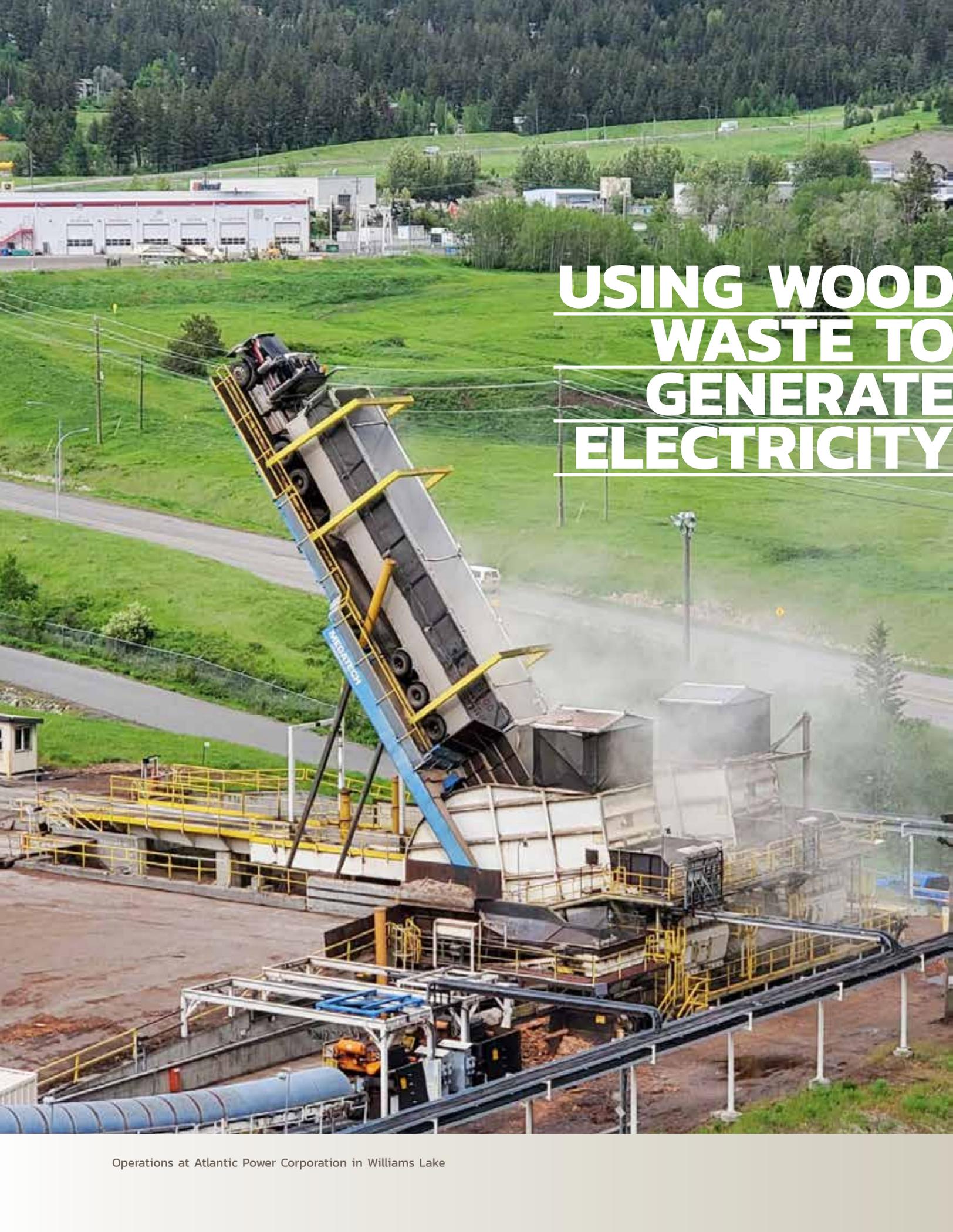
River City Fibre yard with Arrow Transportation Systems Inc. team members

(roughly 350 logging trucks) of wood fibre. The fibre was then transported to Domtar in Kamloops, to generate electricity to run operations, with additional green energy being put back into the electrical power grid.

The project created an estimated 600 person days of work, or close to 5,000 employable hours. **Most transformational was the avoidance of the open burning of slash piles.** As a result, the Clearwater airshed was spared smoke normally emitted from the fires, according to George Brcko, WGCF General Manager.

*“As a Community Forest, we can be nimble and innovative in finding ways to be collaborative and get work done,”* noted Brcko. *“The grinding and hauling of these residuals meant that we didn’t have smoke hanging in our valleys from burning slash. Additionally, removing the leftover wood fibre means we lessen the opportunity for a catastrophic wildfire in these areas. Without FESBC filling the gap financially, this project would not have happened.”*



An aerial view of a power plant facility. A large truck is tilted, dumping a load of wood waste into a processing area. The facility includes various structures, pipes, and railings. In the background, there are green hills and a forested area. The text "USING WOOD WASTE TO GENERATE ELECTRICITY" is overlaid on the right side of the image.

# USING WOOD WASTE TO GENERATE ELECTRICITY

Operations at Atlantic Power Corporation in Williams Lake



# 6

## Transforming the way wood waste is utilized

### Fibre recovery support helps generate electricity near Williams Lake

While the recovery and enhanced utilization of wood waste, or residual fibre left over after harvesting operations, is a goal of many forestry companies, the transportation cost of this fibre isn't always economical. When Atlantic Power (Williams Lake) Ltd. proposed working in collaboration with local First Nations companies, FESBC granted funding for the project.

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Through the funding, local First Nations companies were able to cost effectively deliver residual waste wood fibre to Atlantic Power to, in turn, generate electricity. This avoided the need to pile and burn the fibre roadside, and therefore avoided significant greenhouse gas emissions. Atlantic Power and their fibre partners are proud to do their part in creating climate solutions.

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Atlantic Power in Williams Lake is a 66-Megawatt biomass-fueled electricity generation power plant which has been in operation since 1993. It was originally built to assist the forest industry to replace beehive burners to help mitigate the smoke in the air in the local area.

Historically, the power plant sourced its wood fibre exclusively through local sawmills. In recent years though, **with the reduction of timber being harvested, the loss of trees due to insects, disease, wildfire, and drought, the company has had to shift its focus to consider the utilization of fibre directly from the forest.**

*"The funding from FESBC has allowed the plant to use an otherwise uneconomical fuel—roadside logging debris,"* said Frankie Nelson, Business Manager, Atlantic Power. *"With partnerships established with several local First Nations, we have been able to not only create new jobs and procure much needed new fuel supply, but we are now utilizing a product that would otherwise be open-burned, and instead turning wood waste into green energy."*

**The Atlantic Power facility is capable of generating green electricity for 50,000 B.C. homes.**



# 7

B.C.-WIDE



## Transforming the safety of recreational assets

### BC Parks makes parks safer for visitors through wildfire risk reduction

After several devastating wildfires in recent history, British Columbians and visitors to our province better understand **the importance of proactive wildfire risk reduction work**. BC Parks, an agency of the British Columbia Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy that manages all provincial parks and other conservation and historical properties, put together plans to make two provincial parks safer, not only for park visitors, but for adjoining communities as well.

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One was a wildfire risk reduction project at the Champion Lakes Park near Fruitvale, B.C. The project required fuel reduction treatments on an area over 50 hectares (equal to roughly 93 football fields) to reduce the wildfire risk to the park and important park infrastructure, while also adding better protection to nearby private properties and adjacent Crown land.

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FESBC approved funding for the project because of the critical need to do the work in an area with a significant amount of forest fuels due in part to the mountain pine beetle.

*“As a result of FESBC funding, BC Parks has been able to reduce fuel loading around the campground and park infrastructure, and create*

*safe muster areas and egress routes,”* said Amanda Weber-Roy, R.P. Bio, P.Ag. Kootenay Conservation Specialist, BC Parks, Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy.

With FESBC funding, BC Parks was also able to conduct wildfire fuel management treatments along Lasca Creek Road and an adjacent area of the West Arm Provincial Park in Balfour, B.C. The project not only **created a shaded fuel break to reduce the risk of a wildfire** but in the future will give BC Wildfire Service crews a better opportunity to suppress a wildfire, should one start in the area.

*“Treatments are exceptionally expensive, but are essential to preserve the ecological and recreational values in the West Arm Provincial Park from wildfire. And without FESBC funding, the prescription and subsequent treatments would not have been possible,”* added Weber-Roy.

**What made these B.C. projects transformational is that the sale of some of the logs was profitable.** Now that BC Parks has some operational experience, it is expected they will be able to fund future projects without further financial assistance.



# MAKING B.C. PARKS SAFER



Above: Before and After Wildfire Risk Reduction work at Champion Lakes Provincial Park



# 8



## Transformation through incorporating Haida values

### Haida values lead the way in the work of Taan Forest

When it comes to forest management, First Nations communities are using their traditional knowledge and expertise to develop and incorporate management plans that are generationally focused. Located in the West Coast Region in the Haida Gwaii District, **Taan Forest, an enterprise established by the Haida Enterprise Corporation (HaiCo) in 2010, is managing the forest by incorporating Haida values through its work on several forest rehabilitation projects funded by FESBC.**

From forestry projects focused on accelerating the growth of western red cedar on Haida Gwaii and utilizing residual fibre, to enhancing wildlife habitat using silviculture techniques, Taan Forest has been working to transform forests on Haida Gwaii.

With forest health as a primary focus, Taan Forest utilized a portion of its FESBC funding **to enhance and accelerate the growth of western red cedar**, a species that is harder to re-establish because of deer browse. Throughout the project, Taan Forest monitored the growth of trees and hand-fertilized individual stems to boost the rate of reestablishment. Western red cedar is very important both economically and culturally.

**Taan Forest also undertook thinning of dense forests through FESBC funding and utilized the funds to enable the use of uneconomic residual fibre that would otherwise have been burned. The funding allowed for moving of 51,000 cubic metres of low economically valued timber,**

**creating 10 direct full-time jobs, and helped the Haida Nation's forest company to fully utilize the residual fibre, instead of burning it, thus giving the community a sustainable way to reduce greenhouse gases.**

While reducing the number of trees created more open flight paths between trees for bats, migratory and resident birds, **the work to thin out the trees also allowed sunlight to reach plants on the ground, increasing the development of berry producing shrubs and bushes.** The various forest management activities have also resulted in increased forage for smaller animals that eat the vegetation, which means there are more small animals available as prey for the stads k'un (Northern Goshawk), the National Bird of Haida Gwaii and a sub-species in danger of extinction.

*"With FESBC funding, the planning, overstory removal, fertilization, and thinning, it's an exceptional collaboration with what we hope will provide some outstanding results," said Jeff Mosher, RPF, Chief Forester, Taan Forest. "It's significant towards reconciliation with the Nation and to restoring areas impacted by war-effort and pre-Forest Practices code logging."*

Another project in areas within the Yakoun River drainage is helping Taan Forest to realize its goal to have a permanent silviculture crew on Haida Gwaii, comprised of members of the Haida Nation. The project supported local crews to focus on **restoring wildlife habitat for salmon, black bear, and raptors** while also



# ENHANCING WESTERN RED CEDAR

Western red cedar

creating economic benefits of employment and enhanced value of forest products such as western red cedar. Through the forest management work incorporating Haida values, Taan Forest is bringing transformation to the forest.

*“Without the FESBC funding we wouldn’t have been able to do the work we’ve done so far and start an initiative for more restoration work,” noted Mosher. “The funding allows us to move forward with treatments to the land.*

*By accelerating the transition of young trees, through thinning and fertilization, to become forests with more old growth characteristics and values, we will improve the black bear habitat. The projects will also restore forests within the river valley with benefits to salmon and other fish, and many spin-off benefits to goshawk, eagles, saw whet owls, bats and many other resident and migratory birds.”*





Inquisitive squirrel



## FESBC by the Numbers

All numbers are current as of March 31, 2022.

**\$238** MILLION  
approved funding for projects

**\$363** MILLION  
in economic activity  
created by 263 projects

**263** PROJECTS  
approved across B.C.

**2,100+**  
Full-time-equivalent  
**JOBS CREATED**

**63** projects led by  
**FIRST NATIONS**

...and 23 projects  
have significant  
First Nations  
involvement for  
a total value of... **\$72**  
MILLION

**4.2** MILLION  
TONNES  
CO<sub>2</sub>e\*  
sequestered or avoided, equivalent to...

**904,000**  
...cars off the road for 1 year

\*cumulative from project initiation to 2050



## Message from FESBC's Board Chair

JIM SNETSINGER

FESBC was created in 2016 with a very ambitious vision: to enhance forest resilience to wildfire and climate change for the lasting benefit of British Columbia's environment, wildlife, forest health, and communities. The Board of Directors is pleased that FESBC has made considerable progress toward achieving that vision. **FESBC has been a catalyst for creating permanent shifts that have contributed to the acceleration and solidification of the transition of British Columbia to a new, modern era for forestry.** Forests are **much more than trees**—they are also critical for wildlife, people, communities, and the well-being of our broader environment. FESBC projects have demonstrated that it is not only possible, but desirable, for forestry projects to achieve multiple objectives at the same time with the same funding. Projects that are well-designed will synergistically achieve social, environmental, and economic benefits, which we have seen.

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## Message from FESBC's Executive Director

STEVE KOZUKI

The forest sector in B.C. is comprised of a mosaic of organizations, each with their own business or management objectives. Yet, there are unifying things that everyone is aligned on: sustainability, climate action, increasing First Nations participation, value-for-money, jobs for workers, abundant wildlife, and healthy forests. We know the forests of British Columbia can be a powerful tool to achieve many of our collective needs. We have seen people with diverse interests collaborating more than ever before. Forestry has become a significant component of the bioeconomy. Communities are proactively reducing their risk of catastrophic wildfire. And Indigenous peoples are much more involved in forestry. **FESBC has created a carefully-crafted program that enables others to achieve all this, and more!**

Learn more about the **Forest Enhancement Society of BC** and connect with us at [www.fesbc.ca](http://www.fesbc.ca)



**Collaboration,  
and the  
resulting  
positive  
relationships,  
is a platform  
for deeper  
partnerships  
moving forward.**



Pac Bio Grinding and Utilization | Photo Credit: Pacific Bioenergy Corporation

For more Stories of Transformation, visit...

**FESBC.CA**



Forest Enhancement  
Society of British Columbia