



BCCFA 2026 CONFERENCE & AGM

June 3-5, 2026

All events will take place at the Prestige Vernon Lodge and Conference Centre in Vernon, with the exception of the Field Tour on Day 1.

We respectfully acknowledge that we are gathering on the ancestral and unceded lands of the Sylix and Secwepemc Peoples.

**Program subject to change*

TUESDAY, JUNE 2

5:00 pm - 8:30 pm	Dinner on your own. Preferred location the Prestige Lodge, Cabana Bar and Grill or Brixx Brewhouse.
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DAY 1 - WEDNESDAY, JUNE 3

7:00 am - 8:00am	Breakfast
8:00am - 8:45am	<p>Welcome and Opening Remarks Including a pre-field tour presentation introducing the Monashee Community Forest (MCF) before loading onto the buses for departure at 9:00.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Molly Hudson, RPF, MC for the event • Trina Antoine, Splatsin First Nation • Jennifer Gunter, ED, BCCFA • Grahame Go, CEO, Splatsin Development Corporation, MCF Board Member • Kevin Acton, Mayor of Lumby, MCF Board Member
9:00 am - 4:30 pm	<p>Field Tour: Silvopasture in Action — Collaboration, Innovation, and Climate Adaptation</p> <p>This field tour showcases the innovative partnership between the Monashee Community Forest and Coldstream Ranch, where forestry and ranching are being integrated to manage multiple values on the same landscape.</p> <p>Participants will explore how silvopasture, combining tree growth, forage production, and livestock management, is being applied to support water protection, soil health, biodiversity, wildfire risk reduction, and economic resilience. The tour will highlight practical lessons from implementation, including silviculture approaches, grazing design, and strategies to adapt to changing climate conditions.</p>

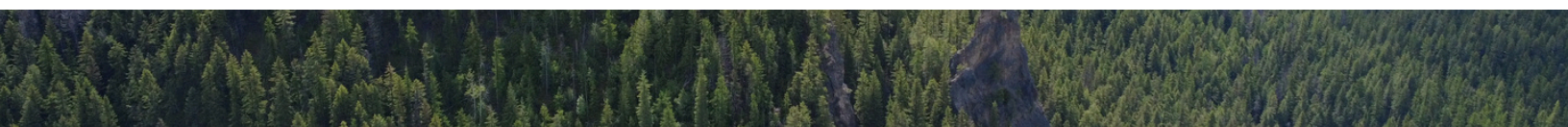
PROGRAM

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 3

	<p>Field Tour Continued</p> <p>Beyond the technical aspects, the tour will also examine the governance and partnership model behind the project, offering insights into how collaboration across sectors can build trust, share risk, and support more integrated decision-making.</p> <p>Grounded in experience, this tour provides a compelling example of how community forests can deliver ecological, economic, cultural and social outcomes through innovative, climate-adaptive stewardship. Participants will leave with practical insights and inspiration to apply similar approaches in their own communities.</p> <p>Field Tour presenters include:</p> <p>Stop 1: Nick Barry, RPF – Forester. Courtney Strassburger, RPF – Yucwmenlúcwu Forester</p> <p>Stop 2: Rob Dinwoodie, P.Ag – Ag Consultant. Rick Fairbairn, Director Electoral Area D and MCF Board Member</p> <p>Stop 3: Trish Balcaen – CEO (Balcaen Consolidated Ltd and Coldstream Ranch Ltd). Nicole Williams –Yucwmenlúcwu Forester</p> <p>Stop 4: Kyle Runzer, RPF – Yucwmenlúcwu Forestry Manager and MCF Board Member and Frank Joe, RFT – Yucwmenlúcwu Forestry Advisor</p>
5:30 pm - 9:00 pm	Registration desk open
6:00 pm - 10:00 pm	Reception and Exhibits 7:00pm – President's Welcome, sponsors, and guests

DAY 2 - THURSDAY, JUNE 4

7:00 am - 8:00 am	Breakfast
8:00 am - 8:20 am	Welcome



THURSDAY, JUNE 4

8:30 am - 10:00 am

Session 1

Community Forests in a Changing Sector: Growth, Governance and Accountability

As interest in community forestry grows, so does the complexity of how to expand the program.

This session will provide context on provincial strategic direction and examine how the Community Forest Program can expand in a way that is grounded in current government priorities, sector realities, and strengthened accountability expectations. It will support a shared understanding of evolving policy and explore how to move the program forward with clarity and confidence.

Moderator - Randy Spyksma, RPF, President, BCCFA and Manager, Logan Lake Community Forest

Panel

- Patrick Russell, RPF, Director, Tenures, Compensation & Business Analysis Branch, Ministry of Forests
- Amanda Fouty, RPF, A/Director, Timber Pricing Branch, Ministry of Forests
- Jennifer Gunter, Executive Director, BCCFA

10:00 am - 10:30 am

Break

10:30 am - 12:00 pm

Session 2

Stewardship and the Long Game: Rethinking AAC and Timber Supply

This session shifts the focus from timber targets to informed decision-making that reflects the full range of values managed within community forests. As fibre becomes more constrained, AAC is increasingly understood as an outcome of good data, shared understanding, and integrated planning—not a target.

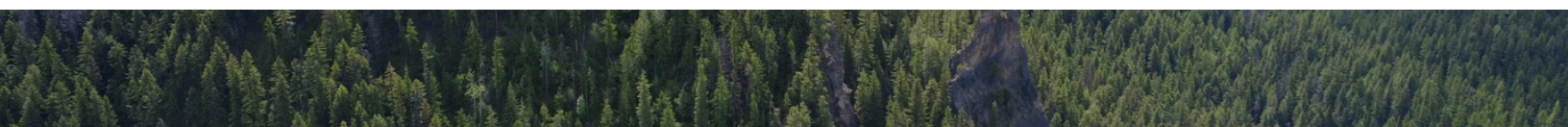
Hear how community forests are reassessing timber availability, managing for long-term values like water, access, fuels management, and resilience, and adapting to real-world constraints.

Participants will explore implications for budgets and local economies, and gain practical insights from managers using both Western science and First Nations knowledge systems.

Moderator – Casey Macaulay, RPF, Manager, Wells Gray Community Forest

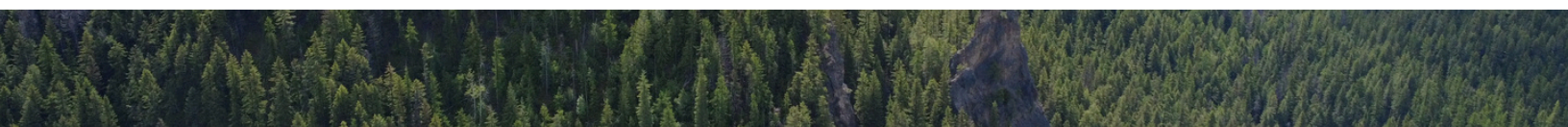
Panel

- Coulter Roberts, RPF, Planning Supervisor, Westbank First Nation Community Forest, Ntityix Resources
- Erik Holbek, RPF, Barkley Community Forest
- Albert Nussbaum, RPF, Deputy Chief Forester, Office of the Chief Forester
- Hugh Scolah, PhD, Advisor, Economic Strategy and Community Development



THURSDAY, JUNE 4

12:00 pm - 1:00 pm	Lunch
1:00 pm - 2:00 pm	<p>Session 3 Community Forest Showcase: Defining and Delivering Benefits</p> <p>The goal of this session is to examine how community forests define, deliver, and demonstrate the full range of benefits they provide, and how these benefits are shaped by policy and community priorities.</p> <p>Community forests create value in many ways, from local employment and economic activity to stewardship, recreation, and community well-being. This session highlights how community forests are defining and delivering these benefits in practice and within the policy context that shapes them.</p> <p>Through case examples, presenters will share approaches, innovations, and lessons learned. The session will explore how benefits are measured, communicated, delivered, and adapted over time, offering practical insights and ideas for strengthening impact.</p> <p>Moderator – Dan Macmaster, RPF, Forest Manager for the Osoyoos Indian Band and the West Boundary Community Forest</p> <p>Panel</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mike Crone, RPF, General Manager, Nakusp and Area Community Forest, partner/manager at Cabin Resource Management• Hugh Flinton, RPF, P. Ag. Manager, Williams Lake Community Forest• Warren Hansen, RPF, Operations Manager, Sunshine Coast Community Forest• Jean-Yves Landry, Director, Wetzin'Kwa Community Forest
2:00 pm - 2:30 pm	<p>Session 4 Keynote - Strengthening Public Understanding of Forestry</p> <p>Hélène Marcoux, RPF, Director, Malcolm Knapp Research Forest</p> <p>This session shares key insights to support new approaches to community engagement and to help reshape how forestry is understood by the public.</p>
2:30 pm - 3:00 pm	Break

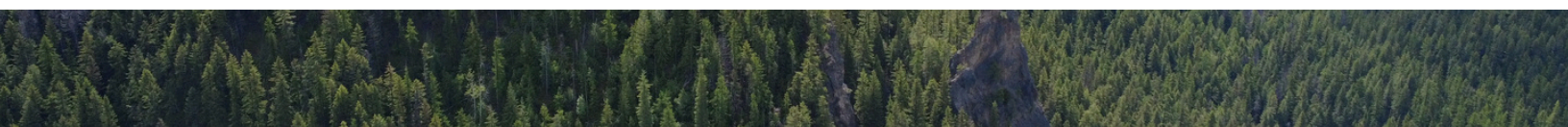


THURSDAY, JUNE 4

3:00 pm - 4:30 pm	<p>Session 5 Wildfire Planning and Regional Network Development</p> <p>Wildfire risk reduction efforts need to be strategically designed and located, and planning is required to guide and prioritize fuel treatments. Plans also need to be appropriate to scale and useful for community forests. This session will explore wildfire-related planning work currently being done in BC, and how community forests can develop practical plans that direct WRR treatments.</p> <p>A series of short panel presentations will be followed by regional breakouts led by BCCFA's regional wildfire liaisons Gord Pratt (South), Sam Coggins (North), and Simon Craig (Coast). This is an opportunity for community forests to further develop regional networks that support wildfire planning and treatment work.</p> <p>Moderator – Angela French, RFT, BCCFA, Wildfire Resiliency Project Coordinator</p> <p>Panel</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Sam Coggins, RPF, Wetzin'Kwa Community Forest• Kelly Osbourne, RPF, Fire and Fuel Management Officer, BC Wildfire Service• Brent Lipinski, RFT, Vernon District, Land and Resource Specialist, Ministry of Forests• Erik Leslie, RPF, Manager, Harrop Procter Community Forest
6:30 pm - 11:00 pm	<p>Annual Banquet Awards and Silent Auction 6:30pm – Cash Bar and Silent Auction</p> <p>BCCFA Board of Directors Recognition</p> <p>Robin Hood Memorial Award for Excellence in Community Forestry, Presented by Steve Morisette, MLA, Kootenay-Monashee and Parliamentary Secretary for Rural Development.</p>

DAY 3 - FRIDAY, JUNE 5

7:30 am - 8:30 am	Breakfast
8:30 am - 9:30 am	BCCFA AGM - members only
9:30 am – 9:50 am	Break



FRIDAY, JUNE 5

<p>9:50 am – 10:30 am</p>	<p>Session 6 Storytelling and Why it is Important</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Laura Stanton, Program Manager, Silviculture Innovation Program (SIP)• Alana Clason, Forest Ecologist, Director of Research, Silviculture Innovation Program• Jodi Axelson, AFP, Research Leader, Silviculture, Ministry of Forests
<p>10:30 am – 11:00 am</p>	<p>Session 7 Minister's Address Live Stream</p> <p>The Honourable Ravi Parmar, Minister of Forests</p>
<p>11:00 am – 12:10 pm</p>	<p>Session 8</p> <p>The Big Ideas Panel</p> <p>The Big Ideas Panel brings together innovative and forward-looking leaders who are challenging conventional approaches and offering bold ideas for the future of forestry.</p> <p>The goal of this session is to support forward-looking thinking on potential directions for forestry by bringing together leaders who are challenging conventional approaches and exploring new ideas.</p> <p>The session will encourage participants to consider emerging opportunities, question assumptions, and engage with bold perspectives that can help shape the direction of community forestry and the broader forest sector.</p> <p>Moderator - Jason Fisher, RPF, Executive Director, Forest Enhancement Society of BC</p> <p>Panel</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Trish Balcaen, Chief Executive Officer, Balcaen Consolidated Ltd and Coldstream Ranch Ltd• Shannon Janzen, RPF, Hypha Consulting• Kyle Runzer, RPF, Forestry Manager, Yucwmenlúcwu Forestry Division, Splatsin First Nation and Monashee Community Forest• Dan Macmaster, RPF, Forest Manager for the Osoyoos Indian Band and the West Boundary Community Forest• Erik Leslie, RPF, Manager, Harrop Procter Community Forest
<p>12:10 pm – 12:30 pm</p>	<p>Conference Wrap Up</p>

