

NEWS RELEASE



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Photos Available

ABCFP Announces New Councillors

(Kelowna, BC) The 67th council of the Association of BC Forest Professionals (ABCFP) officially took office at **Forestry Fast Forward: The 2020 Vision** —the ABCFP’s annual forestry conference and AGM in Kelowna, BC. This year’s president is Dan Graham, a Registered Professional Forester (RPF) and lawyer (LLB), from Victoria, BC.

The 67th council includes forest professionals from around the province who have a variety of backgrounds that will enhance the work of the ABCFP. This year’s council includes representatives from government, large forest companies and independent consultants.

The ABCFP council governs the affairs of the association and works to fulfill the ABCFP’s mandate as defined in the *Foresters Act*. The ABCFP council is made up of 10 elected councillors and two lay councillors who are appointed by the provincial government.

President

Dan Graham, RPF, LLB, North Cowichan

Dan is both a registered professional forester and a lawyer, which has allowed him to lead an unusual career path. Early on, he worked in field operations in the forest industry. Later he provided services as a lawyer and land management consultant for a number of corporate and individual clients. He then spent 14 years with the Compliance and Enforcement Branch of the BC’s Ministry of Forests and Range – the last 9 years as the director of the branch. Currently, Dan enjoys semi-retirement where he splits his time working as a lawyer/adjudicator and travelling North America by motorcycle with his wife Cindy.

Dan was elected to the council of the Association of BC Forest Professionals in 2011 and served two years as a council member before being acclaimed to the position of vice-president in 2013. He will now serve one year as president and another year as past president before stepping down from council.

Newly Elected Members of Council

Vice-President

Jonathan Lok, RFT

Jon is a managing partner of Strategic Natural Resource Consultants, one of the West Coast’s most progressive natural resource consulting companies. Before co-founding Strategic over 10 years ago, Jon worked with Canfor, Canadian Air Crane, TimberWest and Weyerhaeuser in both logging and timber development capacities. These experiences helped to develop his skill sets in strategic planning, project management and business development. When not actively engaged as a principal of Strategic, Jon volunteers his time with the Association of BC Forest Professionals, Consulting Foresters of BC, and the Canadian Institute of Forestry. He also serves as a director on several boards, including the North Island Community Forest and the Port McNeill Marine Rescue Society. Born in Oakville, ON and growing up all over Canada as part of an RCMP family, Jon put down roots in Port McNeill while he studied at SFU and BCIT before returning with his wife, Jennifer, to his North Island home.

Councillors at Large

Gail Brewer, RPF

Gail earned her Bachelor of Science in Forest Resource Management from UBC and became an RPF in 1984. She began her career with the government in 1982 in Port McNeill where she worked in silviculture, timber sales, major tenure administration and resource planning. In 1989 she traded in her boots and rain gear for a position at the then Ministry of Forests headquarters in Victoria. Since that time she has held positions in a number of departments including timber tenure policy, Aboriginal affairs, strategic policy and planning, organizational development, and BC Timber Sales, culminating in her current position as the director of strategic business initiatives with the Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations. During this time she has contributed to several major policy initiatives including the development of the *Forest Practices Code*, the Community Forest Program, the Wood First initiative, Strategic Human Resource Planning for the Forest Sector, and most recently, development of the new *Water Sustainability Act*.

Mauro Calabrese, RPF, RPBio

Mauro started his career as a forest fire fighter while earning bachelor degrees in forestry and biology. He also spent time as a summer student with West Fraser Mills in Williams Lake and has progressed to become the Planning Superintendent for West Fraser Timber where he supervises the planning staff including the GIS department. In addition, Mauro is West Fraser's divisional biologist. When not working, Mauro enjoys spending time outdoors camping, hunting and fishing. He's also known around town for coaching soccer, cross country skiing and refereeing rugby games. Mauro and his wife, Kendra, have four sons and love living in Williams Lake.

Tom Hoffman, RPF

Tom's 32-year career in forestry spans two provinces, BC and Alberta – and he is still a member of the College of Alberta Professional Foresters in addition to the ABCFP. In his current role with Tolko Industries based in Williams Lake, Tom works with senior government staff and elected officials in BC, Alberta, Saskatchewan and Manitoba. He also has had the privilege of working with various First Nations communities, municipal and provincial governments as well as various ministries.

When not working, Tom loves to fly small airplanes and fish and has even found a way to combine his two hobbies. He earned his float endorsement so now he can fly himself to small lakes to fish! Tom and his wife, Wendy, have three grown children.

Robin Modesto, RPF, PEng

Robin is proud to be a member of the Campbell River community where he, his wife and two children have lived and worked since 1995. He is on the management team at International Forest Products (Interfor) and specializes on timber pricing and analytics. Robin has a background in harvesting and operations planning and as well as an MBA from Simon Fraser University.

Robin has served as a volunteer on many committees over the years. He was a member of the ABCFP's Board of Examiners, the committee that helps new graduates become registered members, for five years. He is a proud coach with the Campbell River Minor Hockey Association and passionate about coastal fishing, in particular rowing for Tyees in the Tyee Pool.

The ABCFP Council

President: **Dan Graham, RPF, LLB**

Resident of: North Cowichan

Employer: Consultant

Vice-President: **Jonathan Lok, RFT***

Resident of: Port McNeill

Employer: Strategic Natural Resource Consultants

Michael Sandvoss, RFT

Resident of: Prince George

Employer: Timberline Natural Resources Group

Gail Brewer, RPF*

Resident of: Victoria

Employer: Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations

Doug Campbell, RFT

Resident of: Summerland

Employer: Doug Campbell Consulting

Past President: **Christine Gelowitz, RPF**

Resident of: Victoria

Employer: Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations

Christopher Stagg, RPF

Resident of: Prince George

Employer: Canadian Forest Products

Mauro Calabrese, RPF, RPBio*

Resident of: Williams Lake

Employer: West Fraser Timber

Tom Hoffman, RPF*

Resident of: Williams Lake

Employer: Tolko

Robin Modesto, RPF, PEng*

Resident of: Campbell River

Employer: Interfor

*Newly elected to the 67th council.

Lay Councillors

Rod Visser

Resident of: Campbell River

Employer: MiddlePoint Management

Tom Walker

Resident of: Duncan

Employer: Retired

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*The **Association of BC Forest Professionals'** forestry conference and AGM, is held in different locations around BC each year. Attending are Registered Professional Foresters and Registered Forest Technologists who come to learn from the best, share ideas and best practices, and network with colleagues.*

*The **Association of BC Forest Professionals** is responsible for registering and regulating British Columbia's professional foresters and forest technologists. Today, it is the largest professional forestry association in Canada and the first to include forest technologists. Here in BC, the practice of professional forestry has been regulated since 1947 when foresters first agreed to help protect the public's interest in the province's forests in return for the exclusive right to practise forestry.*

For more information: www.abcfp.ca

Amanda Brittain, Director of Communications

Cell: 778.233.1169 | Direct: 604.331.2321 | E-mail: abrittain@abcfp.ca