

NEWS RELEASE



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Dawson Creek Resident Named ABCFP's Valedictorian

(Nanaimo, BC) The Association of BC Forest Professionals (ABCFP) welcomed 86 new members into the association during a special recognition ceremony today at its conference and AGM. Among the new inductees, two individuals were recognized for having scored at the top of their classes in the required registration exam.

Andrew Flegel, Registered Professional Forester (RPF), of Prince George, scored the highest mark for the Registered Professional Forester exam.

Andrew grew up in Bella Coola with a Crown forest to explore right next to his home. That easy access, combined with the fact that his father is a Registered Forest Technologist, meant that a career in forestry was inevitable.

Wanting to keep his options open, Andrew attended Thompson Rivers University and completed a Natural Resource degree. He soon realized that while careers in biology or environmental management would be interesting, his heart was really in forestry.

His summer jobs took him from the mid-coast to Kamloops and after graduation he spent a year working in Merritt. He moved to Prince George four years ago when he took a job with Canfor. He is now a permitting forester in this northern community. Andrew loves forestry because something new comes up every day and there is always a new issue to learn and solve.

Prince George and its surrounding areas offer unlimited access to outdoor activities, which combined with the amazing work experience and career opportunities at Canfor, have led Andrew to truly believe in all the potential Northern BC has to offer.

Tasha Brekkas, Registered Forest Technologist (RFT), of Dawson Creek, scored the highest mark for the Registered Forest Technologist exam.

Tasha was born and raised in Dawson Creek. She had a passion for the outdoors at an early age and applied for the forestry technician program at Selkirk College in Nelson. After graduating, she took a position as a forest fire fighter with the Fort St. John Rhinos as a unit crew member. She then moved back to Dawson Creek to pursue her forestry career with Industrial Forestry Service. In September of last year, Tasha made the move to the Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations where she works as an Authorizations Technician in Dawson Creek.

When not at work, Tasha spends much of her winter snowboarding at Powder King Mountain Resort. She is a snowboarding instructor and has taken courses in avalanche and backcountry safety. In the summer, you can find her at music festivals as well as hiking and camping in our great province. Tasha also has an interest in complementary medicine and has studied reiki and acutonics (sound therapy healing).

ABCFP members must fulfill post-secondary education requirements, complete a two-year articling period and pass a registration exam before being allowed to practise forestry independently.

The ABCFP 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.

New ABCFP Members

100 Mile House Robert Nash, RPF	Merritt Andrew Vanden Dool, RFT
Abbotsford Navdeep Saini, FIT*	Nanaimo Molly Hudson, RPF
Alkali Lake Francis Johnson, RPF	New Westminster Matthew Brine, RPF, ATC
Britannia Beach Jesse Montgomery, NRP	North Vancouver Joanna de Montreuil, RPF Maxime Lépine, RPF Rueben Schulz, RPF
Burnaby Tara Bergeson, RPF Shaun Da Silva, RPF	Parksville Theresa Denton, TFT*
Campbell River Keiko Arakawa, RFT Jordan deGraaf, RFT Amanda Harvey, RPF Roseanne Keatley, RPF Matthew Lebron, RPF Martin Lewynsky, RPF Joel Richards, RFT Marc Rowan, RPF Lauren Thompson, RPF	Port Alberni Gavin Anderson, RFT Heidi Reinikka, RPF
Castlegar Loreen Hodgkinson, RPF Troy Van Skiver, RFT	Port McNeill Charlotte Mellstrom, RPF Peter Wright, RPF
Chetwynd Sarah Bowers, RPF Janelle Dale, RPF Anthony Nickel, RFT	Prince George Alexander Burkinshaw, RPF, ATC Cory Byron, RPF Christopher David, RPF Aaron Day, RPF Andrew Flegel, RPF Michael Hoar, RPF Jarmo Laitinen, TFT*, ATC Hayley Letchford, RFT Carlos Molina, RPF Joseph Vanderzwan, RPF
Chilliwack Todd Singer, TFT*	Qualicum Beach Deirdre Bruce, RPF

Cranbrook Taye Ayele, PhD, FIT* Todd Blewett, RPF	Queen Charlotte City Alexandra Ryland, RPF
Creston Stefan Feldmann, RFT	Quesnel Derek Burdikin, RPF
Cumberland Leah Ballin, RPF Emilie Thy, RPF	Revelstoke Benjamin Harper-Heir, RPF Federico Osorio, FIT*
Dawson Creek Tasha Brekkas, RFT	Salmon Arm Jeffrey O'Hara, FIT* Blase Orchard, RFT Dylan Andrew Young, RFT
Errington Kurtis Buyze, RFT	Sechelt Owen Coombes, RPF Joshua Klok, RFT
Falkland Brent Lipinski, RFT	Squamish Curtis Bennett, RPF
Fort St. James Alana Brown, TFT* Cindy Holland, RPF	Tahsis Kathleen Crowhurst, RFT
Fort St. John Susan Willis, RPF	Terrace Thomas Pollard, RPF
Grand Forks Daniel Macmaster, RPF	Tofino Michael Davis, RPF
Grande Prairie, AB Ye Huang, RPF	Vanderhoof Cheryl McNolty, TFT*
Houston Danielle Gnoyke, RFT	Vernon Sarita Burgoon, RFT Amy Irvine, RPF Laurel Priest, RPF Steven Ward, RPF
Kamloops Dwayne Paradis, RPF Blake Threlkeld, RPF Matthew Scott Williams, RPF	Victoria Wenli Xu, RPF
Kaslo Jeffrey Reyden, RPF	Whitehorse, YK Gavin Dykshoorn, RPF
Lake Country Joshua Macy, TFT*	Williams Lake Janelle Hale, RPF Michael Tomlinson, RPF
Mackenzie Carmen Augustine, RPF Aiden Wiechula, RPF	

*Has work experience remaining to complete his/her articling period

For More Information:

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