



Deputy Minister's Holiday Message



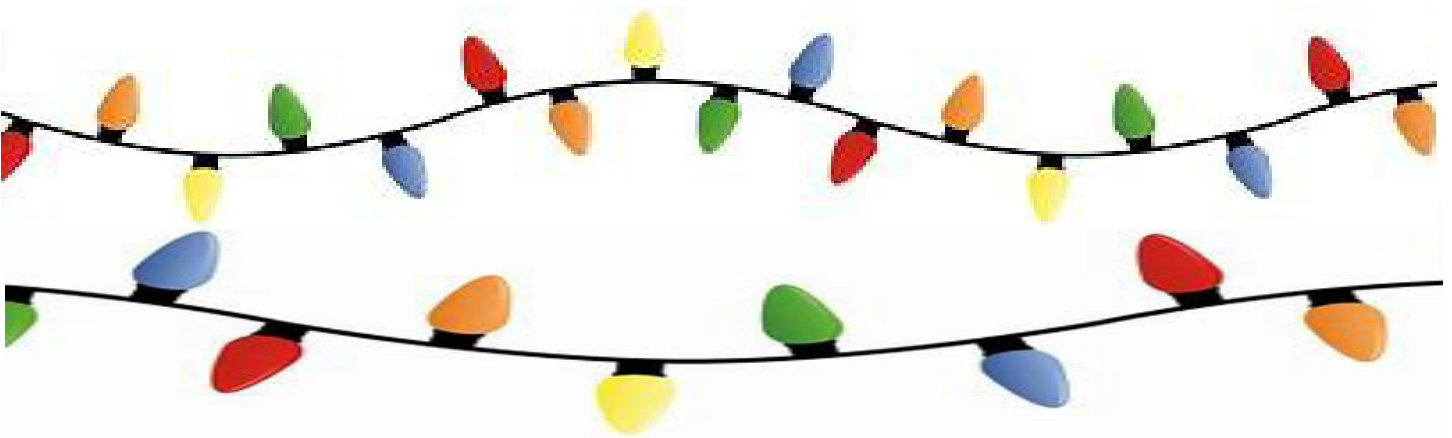
Season's Greetings!

I very much want to take this opportunity to extend my best wishes to all and your families for a wonderful Holiday Season.

Enjoy your time with family and friends. Please consider those less fortunate and extend your generosity in some form of assistance.

All The Best!

John Allan



Advisory Group Vision:

"True to our proud histories, informing ministry staff through balanced and timely communication"

First Indigenous Youth Intern

Submitted by: Dyllon Longpeter, Training and Program Development Intern, Compliance and Enforcement Branch



My name is Dyllon Longpeter. I am the first Indigenous Youth intern placed with the Compliance and Enforcement Branch (CEB).

The Indigenous Youth Internship Program (IYIP) runs annually from September to the following August. Interns are provided with professional experience, leadership development, cultural support, and a social network within the entire partnership of the program. Interns are placed with a government ministry for nine months and then with an Indigenous organization for three months. Interns are tasked with the importance of working and engaging with the community, developing policies and programs, managing projects, promoting healthy lifestyles, participating in adjudications, negotiations and conducting research. In addition, interns are mentored and participate in cultural related opportunities, attend workshops and conferences, take courses and receive career coaching.

My goal is to contribute to the social and economic gap that exists between Indigenous people and other Canadians. I want to provide opportunities for Indigenous youth so that they can develop their leadership skills to contribute and continue to improve the relationship between Indigenous communities/organizations and the provincial government. Ideally, these youth will consider the BC Public Service or Indigenous organizations as a place to pursue a rewarding career.

I work with the Training Program team at Headquarters. My focus is on community engagement with Indigenous bands and groups in British Columbia. My role includes:

- Attend meetings and conferences;
- Job shadow Natural Resource Officers in the field and in the courtroom;
- Visit field offices as invited by Regional Managers to connect with Indigenous organizations and bands;
- Research career opportunities for Indigenous youth with other compliance and enforcement entities within the BC Public Service and Federal Government; and
- Connect with Vancouver Island University to promote academic opportunities with the CEB.

My overall responsibility is to promote career opportunities as a Natural Resource Officer (NRO) to Indigenous youth, so these youth can protect the natural resources in their community.

One exciting project focus is to coordinate CEB representation at the annual Gathering Our Voices conference (www.gatheringourvoices.ca), a connection for Indigenous youth. Port Alberni is the host community in March 2019 and 1,000 Indigenous youth have registered. I have the opportunity to co-present with two great NROs and assist at an exhibitor booth to help promote career/education options as NROs in the communities across BC. I am beyond excited to build the gap with positive intentions between Indigenous people and the Provincial Government.

Melvin Edward Monteith 1931-2018

Submitted by: Sydney Monteith, Woodlands Supervisor, Silviculture



Melvin Edward Monteith died on 23 October 2018 after a long illness. He was predeceased by his wife of 56 years, Enid Norah (Lucas) Monteith.

He is survived by his sister Doreen (Roy Baillargeon) of Kamloops, his children Mike (Linda), Brandy (Brenton Wilkie), Terry (John Pisarczyk), Ken, Syd (Tracy Baird), 8 grandchildren and 12 great-grandchildren.

Mel grew up in Kamloops, graduating from the Senior Matriculation programme at Kamloops Senior Secondary School in 1952. In his final school years, he worked summers for the BC Forest Service and landed his first full-time position in Wells Grey Park in 1952. Before his retirement in 1994 he had attained the positions of Ranger and District Manager, and was well-liked by those he worked with, especially those who worked for him. His own superiors may have been less impressed by the application of his motto: it is better to beg forgiveness than to ask permission.

Mel was a devoted husband and father. From his proposal to Enid at the time of his first post in Wells Grey Park to their marriage in 1953, through many job postings around the interior of BC, to his loving attention as Enid's health declined after their retirement and he became her primary caregiver, theirs was a story of devotion and attention.



His children all remember the countless ways he showed his love of the family—the summer camping trips, the winter skating rinks, tobogganing, skiing, a swing and a climbing rope at every home they lived in, the attendance at countless sporting events and much, much more. Mel and Enid built and maintained a family that sticks together, despite geographical distance and differences of opinion. A loving home and support for the hopes and dreams of all are the legacy Mel and Enid leave behind as parents, grandparents and great-grandparents.

Mel was hard-working, intelligent, practical and caring. He was fair and open-minded, a ravenous reader of science-fiction and overall a very likeable man, right to the end. His children were endlessly amazed by his capacity to complete complex mathematical calculations in his head faster than they could do the same with their calculators.

One of Mel's great accomplishments was the building of the family's log home. He worked hard on weekends and holidays to accomplish this work, largely by hand, from felling the trees, to peeling the logs and winching them atop the structure to carrying rocks and mortar up ladders to build an immense central fireplace. The result was a beautiful home fitting for the loving family he had created.

You have all our love and appreciation for being the best father a family could have, Dad. We miss you terribly.

Monitoring of Biodiversity and Riparian Function in BCTS' Babine Business Area

Submitted by: BC Timber Sales, Babine Business Area



B C Timber Sales' (BCTS) Babine Business Area has been working with the local Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development's Stewardship Department to improve structural retention in cutblocks and along small streams located within cutblock boundaries. Riparian reserve requirements have been written into the Business Area's forest stewardship plans (FSP's), which include a no-harvest zone 10m wide on both sides of small streams. Analysis indicates the loss in harvestable volume is negligible within 10m of small streams. A 10m width is also the distance in which up to 98% of large woody debris falls or gets deposited into streams—an important component in proper stream function.

Establishing riparian reserves within cutblocks ensures the retention of large diameter trees, which are essential habitat for nesting birds, some species of carnivores and bats. A lack of mature trees along streams has been shown to cause significant increases in water temperature and change the species of insects and aquatic invertebrates supplying food to the streams.

Small corridors of mature timber on streams within cutblocks also provide wildlife habitat (thermal cover, security cover and screening from predators) and increases the use of cutblocks by wildlife, including raptors and small carnivores that reduce rodent populations in plantations. In addition, studies indicate riparian reserves reduce sedimentation from roads and increase the presence of large woody debris in streams, which reduces peak flood levels, water velocity and protects streambanks.

In addition to the new riparian reserve requirements implemented in BCTS' Babine Business Area, staff developed a Wildlife Tree Retention Area (WTRA) evaluation checklist based on the Forest and Range Evaluation Program's (FREP) protocols. The FREP program collects and communicates natural resource monitoring information in order to inform decision making, improve resource management outcomes and provide evidence of government's commitment to environmental sustainability. The riparian reserve requirements and the WTRA evaluations Babine Business Area conducts are additional monitoring above and beyond the FREP protocols, and will ensure the Business Area is meeting the FSP's results and strategies and the effectiveness of them.

In 2016, to help support this additional monitoring, BCTS hired summer students to assist with the WTRA evaluations. The WTRA checklist helps to ensure adequate mature tree retention within cutblocks. The students loaded the WTRA evaluation checklist onto tablets and evaluated harvested blocks. Evaluations were completed for standing trees and down trees, cavity nests, deciduous tree and shrub presence, wind firmness, berry production, seral stages present (poles, saplings, mature and old trees), riparian protection, species at risk and other biodiversity values.

In 2017, BCTS summer students began sampling of cutblocks for small stream function. The summer was one of the driest experienced in the region, and some streams had to be sampled with little or no water in them, but conclusions could still be drawn on streambank integrity, shading and species present on site. Their findings showed an overall improvement in stream function on streams with reserves, although windthrow (tree fall/damage due to wind) was more prevalent within reserves. The Babine Business Area is now in the process of investigating how to design riparian reserves in a way that will reduce windthrow; for example, leaving a scattering of mature trees along the perimeter of the reserve to reduce wind impacts. Past research and current findings indicate windthrow is averaging 7-10%, a manageable amount by most forest professional's standards.

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Monitoring of Biodiversity and Riparian Function continued...

In 2018, BCTS hired four summer students, two in Houston and two in Smithers. The students monitored small streams, small wetlands (1 to 5 hectares) and WTRA's. It was another dry summer but most of the sampling was completed by mid-July before streams ran dry. Analysis of the data collected will be completed this winter.

Future monitoring plans for the Babine Business Area include assessing the amount of coarse woody debris dispersed within cutblocks, as per FREP's protocol on stand-level biodiversity, and more data collection on WTRA's, small streams and wetlands. In addition and in support of these plans, Babine Business Area also has a biologist on contract to assess wildlife features during block layout and to complete riparian reserve and coarse woody debris assessments.



Shade cover 10m No Harvest Zone



Stream Invertabrates



Shade cover 5m
Machine Free Zone

Premier's Award Innovation: 3 Nations-BC Partnership



The 3 Nations-BC Regional Partnership won the Provincial Innovation Award at the 2018 Premier's Awards. Kala Hooker represented FLNRORD at the ceremony in Victoria and accepted this award along with MIRR, MCFD and Indigenous partners.

Check out the video that was part of the nominations:

[3 Nations-BC Regional Partnership](#)

World-class Mountain Biking in the North

Submitted by: Recreation Sites and Trails Branch

photo credit: Lee Lau



When fire destroyed the Babine Forest Products lumber mill in January 2012, the Village of Burns Lake was devastated. Two citizens lost their lives, 19 were injured, and 250 were left unemployed. The community, already reeling from a dwindling forest industry and mountain pine beetle infestation, was hit hard and left searching for answers.

Four years earlier, in what seems like remarkable foresight, the Burns Lake Mountain Biking Association (BLMBA) approached Recreation Sites and Trails BC (RSTBC) with an ambitious proposal to develop a world-class mountain biking destination to help diversify the floundering local economy. The District Recreation

Officer at the time, Kevin Eskelin, a mountain biker himself, quickly recognized the project's potential and jumped on board. It turned out to be the right idea at the right time.

"As an organization, we were looking for a way to pilot test our new policy for authorizing and legitimizing mountain bike trails on Crown land," explains Eskelin. "BLMBA's proposal provided an excellent opportunity to implement the policy while at the same time assisting a small community that was undergoing tough times economically."

Eskelin began by establishing the Boer Mountain Recreation Site, a 4000-hectare area where the mountain bike trail network would be developed. Two years later, a staging area and family-oriented campground was added at Kager Lake to provide direct access to the mountain bike trails. Located only three kilometres from town, Kager Lake quickly became the hub for mountain biking enthusiasts where people gathered to picnic, camp, and ride the trails. Trail construction continued at a steady pace to where today there are 80+ kilometres of multi-use, non-motorized mountain bike trails at Boer Mountain. The broad mix of high-quality tracks offer something for everyone, even those that don't ride. Locals also use the trails for hiking, running, dog walking, snowshoeing, and cross-country skiing.

BLMBA manages the mountain bike trails and campground at Kager Lake under a partnership agreement with RSTBC. From 2011 to 2017, Boer Mountain and Kager Lake received more than 88,600 visitors. Between May and October 2017 alone, the number of visitors was 24,700.

From the beginning, local citizens embraced BLMBA's vision to build a mountain bike destination in the north, the first of its kind in BC. "Success came very quickly", says Joanne Williams, Recreation Technician in the Nadina-Skeena Recreation District. "After only five short years (2008-2013), Boer Mountain became a globally recognized mountain biking destination, which speaks volumes about BLMBA and the people of Burns Lake." Mountain biking has become so important to Burns Lake that trail building and maintenance classes are now included in the high school curriculum. Students are constructing their own trails and assuming an active stewardship role in maintaining them. This investment is paying off as many young adults are now choosing to stay in Burns Lake because of the trails.

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World-class Mountain Biking in the North continued...

People are drawn to move here for the ability to ride world-class trails out their own back door. The community's pride of ownership and enthusiasm for riding the trails is contagious, something that tourists are quick to pick up on—and one of the reasons they keep coming back.

It's been 10 years now since a courageous idea transformed the struggling forestry-dependant town of Burns Lake into an international mountain biking centre. The current District Recreation Officer, Brandy Hughes, is amazed at how mountain biking has brought the community together. "The atmosphere in Burns Lake is truly energizing," she says. "When you participate in one of the weekly group rides, the parking lot is a sea of colourful helmets and bikes. The community comes out in full force and you just want to be part of it."

The residents of Burns Lake have indeed embraced the trails as their own, but they're more than willing to share them with the rest of the world. It's safe to say that mountain biking is here to stay, and so is Burns Lake. Check out video: [Not Another Ghost Town – Burns Lake, BC](#)

Reunion former "Clearwater" Forest District office



PAST and Present employees of the former "Clearwater District" office

We will be holding a reunion at the Clearwater ski hill on Saturday, May 19, 2019 "May long weekend"

Camping on site is available.

Pot luck dinner at 6:30pm.

Games, slideshow and stories from the past are welcome.

All past and present employees are welcome to attend.

Let's enjoy!

Please contact dean.rebinsky@gov.bc.ca or Mark.D.Taylor@gov.bc.ca if you plan on attending.

Have a Story idea?

Send *The Dirt* Advisory Group your ideas!

Don't forget about the Facebook page
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/flnrnews/>

Building Capacity and Infrastructure through Innovation

Submitted by: Greg Hodson, Cascades District Recreation Technician, Recreation Sites and Trails BC



Start of the day!

From Left: Tim Bennett RSTBC, David Archibald SD58, students, Greg Hodson RSTBC

Stretching a budget can be a challenge and, when taken as such, innovative solutions can often be found. In my role as a Recreation Technician with Recreation Sites and Trails BC (RSTBC), I have the flexibility to be creative when replacing or developing new infrastructure at provincial recreation sites and trails. My previous experience as a secondary school shop teacher inspired me to re-open some doors and come up with an innovative idea for upgrading structures at our sites. Why not have high school students help us build pit toilets and other small structures for the recreation program?

After introducing myself to one of the new shop teachers at Merritt Secondary School, David Archibald and I formed an instant connection. We shared the same background, similar life stories, and even a few co-workers. When I pitched my idea to David, he was keen. For shop teachers, the limiting resource is generally the budget and the money to buy supplies can be hard to come by. When I offered to supply all the materials and asked if David and his class would be interested in building six outhouses for the Lundbohm Lake Recreation Site the answer was an unequivocal YES.

With the support of School District #58 (Nicola-Similkameen), Superintendent of Schools Steve McNiven, and Maintenance Superintendent Darrel Finnegan, an unofficial partnership was formed. Students from Mr. Archibald's grade 10 class built six universal design pit

toilets during the school year. This fall, Mr. Archibald and his class were bussed to the site by RSTBC for a fun day assembling the toilets at our recently expanded site at Lundbohm Lake. A simple lunch was provided as a thank you for the student's hard work.

The benefits of this partnership were huge for both parties. RSTBC saved the labour costs associated with constructing six pit toilets. Mr. Archibald benefited by providing his class with an opportunity to participate in a meaningful real-life building project constructed to exacting standards where the material costs were completely covered. But the benefit to the students is where the real value lies. The students gained valuable experience working with construction blue prints, scaled manufacturing techniques, universal design, and perhaps most of all, the pride of working together to contribute to the infrastructure of one of BC's recreation sites. By participating in this project, the students will hopefully want to explore more of the province's recreation sites and trails network. My hope is that they appreciate the effort it takes to build, install and maintain recreation structures in remote settings and that when they visit these sites, they respect these structures and encourage their friends to as well, and that they carry that same respect into other areas of their lives.



End of the day!

continued...

Building Capacity and Infrastructure through Innovation continued...

Next year, I hope to include the other secondary schools within the Cascades Recreation District, namely Lillooet and Princeton, into this new partnership. This initiative is not to replace current practices where recreation infrastructure work is contracted out, but rather to serve as a means of leveraging tax dollars to gain important social benefits. The goal is to upgrade more existing infrastructure with current universal design specifications and hopefully provide a valuable life experience for youth at the same time. I encourage other ministry staff to explore similar options for stretching budgets, increasing capacity, and building worthwhile partnerships.



Two shiny new outhouses at Lundbohm Lake!

Halloween at the Resource Building - Williams Lake

Submitted by: Penni Hunt, Office Assistant



Halloween spirit at the Williams Lake Resource Building.

There were a few staff who were dressed up in costume that missed the photo op—it is impossible to time it just right to get 200 staff together for one staff picture at 10:30 am.

Best Pumpkin: Austin Tate - there were about 8 pumpkins to choose from and all were fantastic.

Best Costume: (l-r) went to Dave Reedman (vampire); 2nd place-Kristine Wilker (living-dead); 3rd place-Alexis Myhre (Smokey the bear-without her fur)





16th Annual
Dan LeClerc
Memorial
FLNRORD
Provincial Hockey
Tournament
February 8-10,
2019
North

Thompson Sportsplex
Clearwater BC

Due to the overwhelming success of the event over the past years, we are continuing with the CO ED Hockey Tournament to attract as many participants from all over the province into the weekend festivities. This year the tournament is being hosted in Clearwater.

This is a preliminary notice only; additional details will follow including costs, registration sheets, transportation and accommodation details etc.

In the meantime, the ice has been booked and our enthusiastic organizing committee of 1 (anybody else want to help!!) has begun planning. Unsure about the curling so if you like to stand on the ice more so than skate on it let me know and I will do my best to make it work with a bonspiel as well.

This is a great event and our emphasis will be on FUN and camaraderie, both on and off the ice.

At this point, to assist with planning, I'd appreciate hearing from anybody interested in participating.

Individuals or partial teams are also encouraged to contact me--I may be able to hook you up with others who are in need of Hockey Players.

The ice has been booked for the first **12** teams paid and registered. I have had a number of inquiries and potential for new teams this year so excited to have new faces and familiar faces attend this year's event! If you have any questions please don't hesitate to contact Jessica Gunn at Jessica.Gunn@gov.bc.ca or (250) 587-6765

Sweet Georgia Maeve

Christine Cameron, is the creator behind Sweet Georgia Maeve. She makes stylish and cozy knit toques for the whole family. Christine started knitting in high school and for many years was an on-again off-again knitting enthusiast. That was until last year when Christine was on maternity leave with her second daughter, Georgia. As a newborn, Georgia encountered some unexpected health issues and Christine picked up her knitting needles once more. Once Georgia was in the clear and the hazy newborn days were over, Christine realized that she had knit enough hats to start a small business, and so Sweet Georgia Maeve began!

<https://www.instagram.com/sweet.georgia.maeve/>



2nd Generation Ministry Member?

Are you a 2nd generation ministry member, or maybe a 3rd?

If you are, or know of someone who is, we would like to feature your story in *The Dirt*.

Please submit your suggested story to

FLNRNews@gov.bc.ca.



Ensure you have the latest transformation buzz and subscribe to the NRTS newsletter by sending an email to nrpp@gov.bc.ca.

You can view previous NRTS newsletters [here](#).



No. 64

VICTORIA, B. C., JULY, 1947.

0858

Interested in reading past newsletters?

You can find archived ministry newsletters dating all the way back to 1922 at:

https://www.for.gov.bc.ca/ftp/HEX/external/!publish/Web/News_Letters/

We hope you enjoy reading about the past!

The Dirt Photographers!

Time to get out and snap some photos! *The Dirt* Advisory Group increasingly requires good quality digital photos for the quarterly newsletter. We acknowledge that there are skilled photographers among ministry staff and would like to showcase your photos in each quarterly edition.

Categories

Photos can consist of:

- Workplace images – individuals or groups/teams in office and field settings; health, wellness and social activities;
- Community involvement;
- Wildlife; or
- Scenic.

Submission Details

- Deadline for submissions is changed with each edition and will be noted on the previous edition.
- Images can be submitted to: FLNRNews@gov.bc.ca
- The contest is open to all ministry employees and retirees.
- Interested staff can make submissions to as many editions (season/category) as they want, but there is a limit of 5 images per category.
- We are looking for recent photos; please limit your entries to shots taken within the past 2 years.

Prize Inventory

Don't forget to try your hand at writing a limerick or poem. Send [The Dirt](#) Advisory Group your ideas!

Prizes and Judging

- There will be an overall “Best” image in each category;
- Judging will be done by the Advisory Group;
- Images will be judged on composition, clarity, exposure, creativity, relevance to the ministry and category fit;
- The winner of the “Best” image in each category will be sent a prize for their photo (see Prizes available);
- Individuals can win only one prize; and
- All winners will be announced with their photo in the edition of the newsletter.

Technical Specifications/Requirements

The following specifications and requirements have been established to ensure that images can be used in a variety of applications.

1. All images must have relevance to the ministry and be submitted in digital format.
2. All images must be in full colour or black and white.
3. Photo dimensions (image size) should be at 300 dpi and preferably in a JPG format and sent to FLNRNews@gov.bc.ca.
4. Images can be digitally enhanced (i.e., colour/exposure adjusted composite photos are okay), but not digitally altered (i.e. NO “Photo-Shop” images must portray subjects and/ or material in photo as they were captured).
5. When submitting images, some descriptive information is to be included – category or image and location.
6. All images submitted, whether or not selected as a winning image, may be published in future issues of the newsletter or potential other sources (The [Dirt Facebook](#) account)

For further information, contact:

FLNRNews@gov.bc.ca

DEADLINE IS MARCH 15, 2019.

September/December Edition Photo Contest Winners

Wildlife Category - possible winter den for a bear, and it was big enough one could climb inside. Zither Creek Upper Sukunka—

Peace-Liard

Photo taken by: Johnson Ginger, RFT, Engineering Specialist - BCTS



Wildlife Category - Black bear decided to lay down on some outdated, discarded canning from my cool room on my property near Enderby, B.C.

Photo taken by: Dale Fennell, Forest Protection Branch (retired) Vernon Fire Zone





Workplace Category - Robert Kennedy (working for Council of the Haida Nation) measuring a monumental cedar in Rennell Sound, Haida Gwaii

Photo taken by: Aline Lachapelle, RPF, P.Ag., Forest Health Specialist, Cariboo-Chilcotin Natural Resource District

Workplace Category - Cowichan Lake Research Station at Mesachie Lake

Photo taken by: Laura Cummins, Branch Coordinator, Climate Change and Integrated Planning Branch



Photographers, please contact the [Advisory Group](#) to claim your prize or contact [Sonia Donison](#) directly.

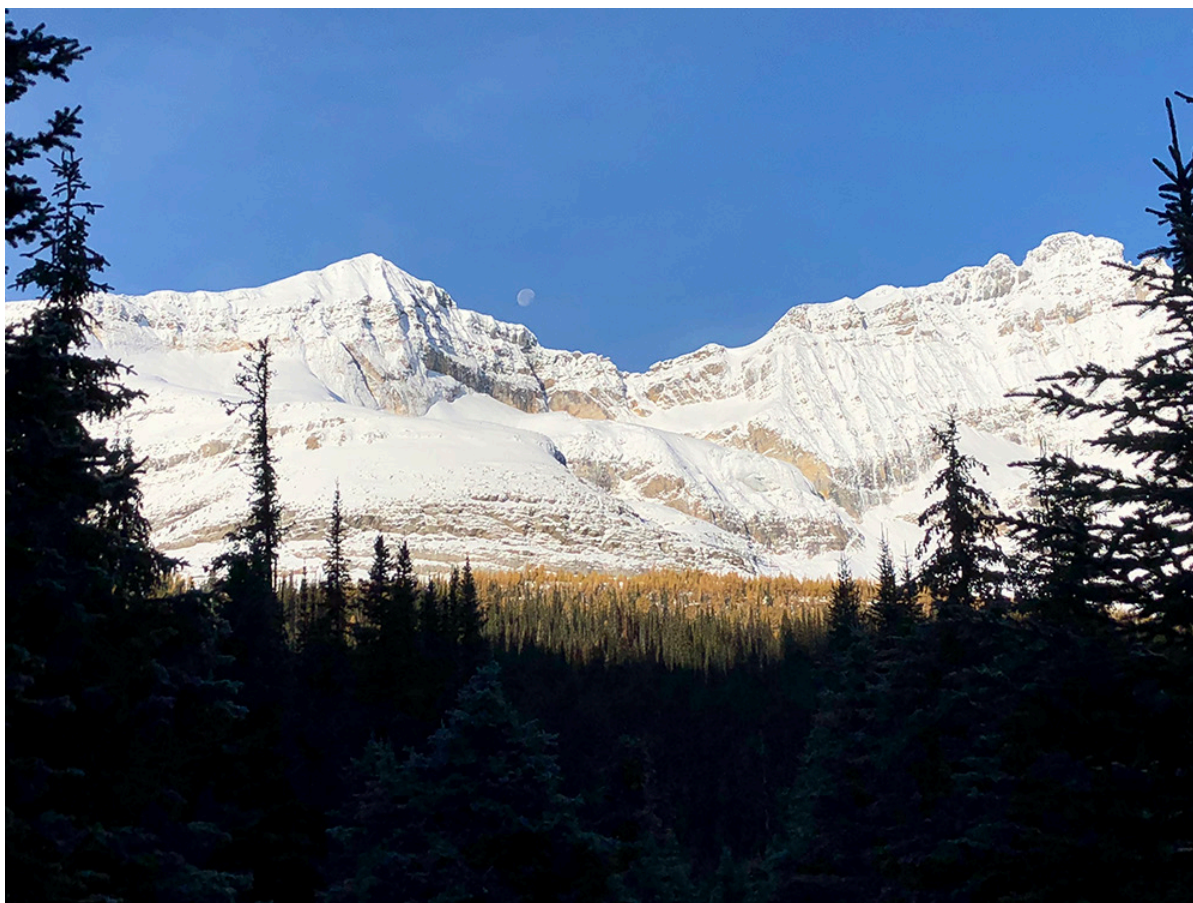
Scenic Category - taken during a FREP Riparian assessment down the Douglas Channel in Kitimat BC.

Photo taken by: Courtney Kenny, RFT, Authorizations Technologist, Coast Mountains Resource District



Scenic Category - Yoho National Park, Odaray mountain

Photo taken by: Caren Dymond, PhD, Forest Carbon and Climate Change



Have a photo for the next “Photo Contest?” Review the contest guidelines and send your photo’s to [The Dirt Advisory Group!](#)

BERG'S EYE VIEW

by Shane Berg



On behalf of The *Dirt* Advisory Group, I would like to thank Sheila Tucnik, Senior Contract Procurement Specialist for participating as a *Dirt* Advisory Group member and cartoonist. It was a pleasure to have Sheila as part of the group; her contributions and presence will be missed!

I would like to welcome Shane Berg and "Berg's Eye View" back to the *Dirt* Advisory Group as our cartoonist—you will recognize his work from past newsletters.

Thank you Shane!

The Dirt is a quarterly newsletter for all employees and former employees.

Sonia Donison is providing management, coordination and production for the newsletter. Questions or comments about the newsletter should be directed to Sonia at 778 974-5834 or via [email](#).

Call for Stories/Ideas

The success of the newsletter depends upon the active engagement of staff throughout the organization. One way for people to support the newsletter is to share your ideas, news, stories, successes, experiences with revitalization and learning, celebrations and photos for use in future editions of the newsletter. People are asked to check with Sonia at 250 356-9638 or via [email](#) about their idea or ideas for an article prior to writing the story. Stories are to be submitted no later than 2 weeks prior to each quarterly edition (March, June, September, December). Article deadlines for the next edition is March 15, 2019.



[SUBMISSION GUIDELINES](#)