



Congratulations 2017 Winner - Cedric Literary Award



Some of you may know Guuduniia (Guud-N-Eye) La Boucan as a knowledgeable Senior Policy Analyst with Fish and Wildlife Branch of FLNRORD, biologist, lawyer, a Cree with a great sense of humour, an avid Ping Ponger, talented tennis player and soccer player. But how many of you know that she is a 2017 winner of the Cedric Literary Awards for her story, *Del's Truck: That's Absurd There Oughta Be a Law Against It*?

Guuduniia wrote *Del's Truck* as part of a collection of three stories and three essays on the theme of "Law and Story-Telling" for her final law school paper. *Del's Truck* recasts the landmark Indigenous law case *Delgamuukw* as a parable. The *Delgamuukw* case established that Aboriginal title in British Columbia still exists and had not been extinguished by the colonization of British Columbia.

We all know the law is a powerful tool, but its language and form can be off-putting and intimidating. In an effort to make the law more accessible, Guuduniia approached this legal decision, not as a legal analyst but as a story teller who wanted to make the case come alive for all to share in a humorous and enlightening way. Her work is an easy, fun read with an important message for readers of all ages.

The story introduces Del, a generous man whose worldly wealth is encompassed within the four wheels of his Ford truck. Del's truck, which he lovingly calls the Nanaimo Bar, is his contribution to his community. He lends it out to all who have a need, and in return he is rewarded with a sense of contentment and the joy of sharing. Poor Del finds his beloved truck on Reg Couronne's second-hand car lot and tries, in vain, to prove his truck belongs to him.

Guuduniia's literary work is being recognized as an important tool for reconciliation to help all Canadians understand how the law affects Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples. She and Lisa Bhopalsingh recently performed *Del's Truck* at a well-attended Professional Development session at the Nanaimo office of FLNRORD. *Del's Truck* is also being published in an upcoming special edition Canada's History magazine focusing on treaties in Canada. If you would like to learn more, please go to Guuduniia's website, <https://storiesandthelaw.wordpress.com/>.

Advisory Group Vision:

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

The Dirt Facebook



To join “*The Dirt*” facebook page, simply go to the link provided and ask to join the group. You must let us know where you worked/work within the ministry. <https://www.facebook.com/groups/flnrnews/>

Issues of “*The Dirt*” will be posted online quarterly. The newsletter and facebook group are for all employees and former employees and is intended to provide up-to-date information on the organization. Add your story to *The Dirt* facebook account. “Participating in social media means contributing content or comment. When doing so, we trust you to be professional, personable, and relevant.” Social media guidelines.



Submit an Article to [The Dirt](#) and receive a Notebook or Fruit Infused Water Bottle



The Dirt Contents, March 2018

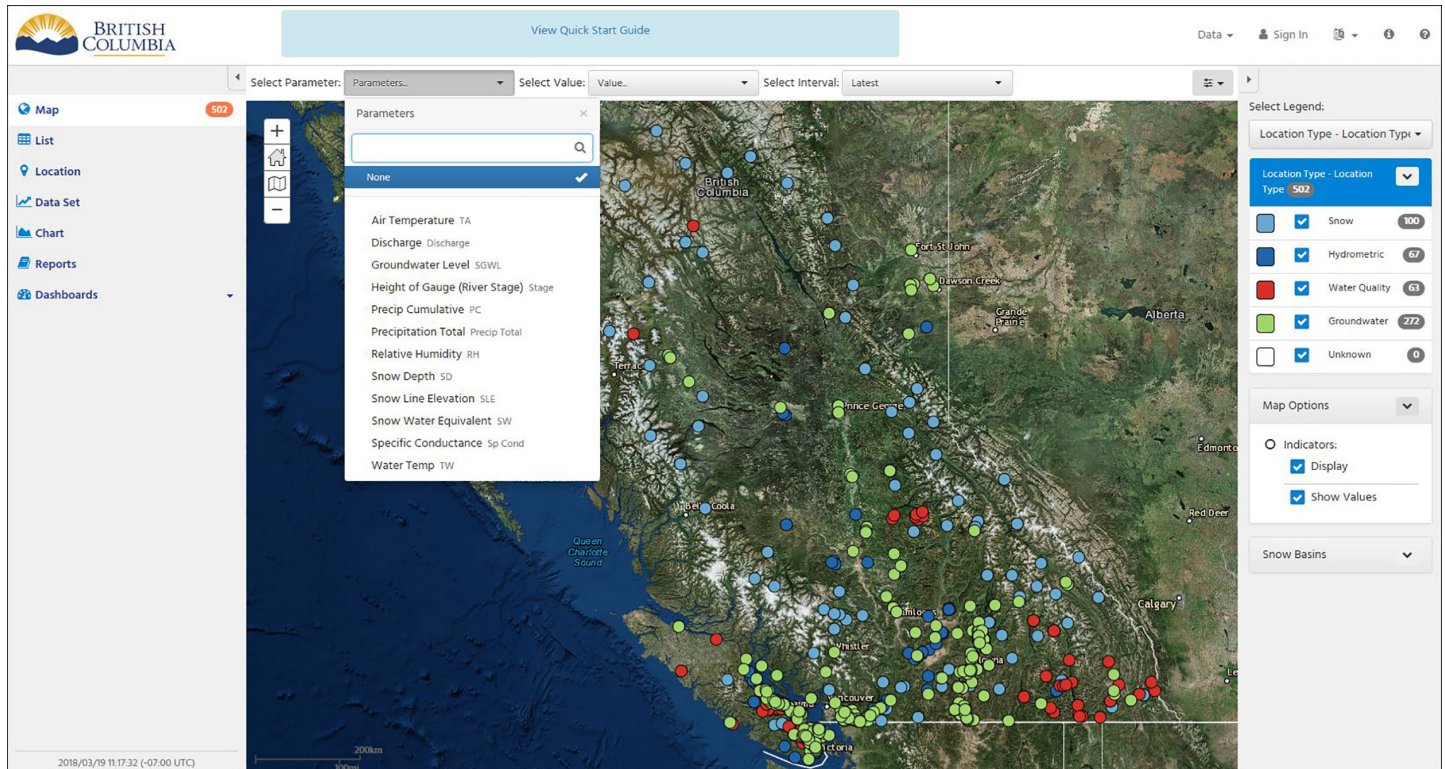
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Real-time Water Data

Submitted by: MJ Jojic, Water Data Specialist, Environmental Management, Reporting and Economics

Knowledge Management Branch, Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy



The Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development collects a lot of scientific information related to snow, groundwater and hydrology. The Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy is responsible for housing the data in a corporate database, and making the data publicly available. This is managed through MOU's between the two ministries. Much of this data is collected continuously through data loggers and historically, this data has been difficult to share due to its large size. In December 2017, we launched a new web-based tool that makes data

viewing and download easier. The [Real-time Water Data](#) tool is an easy to use window into water related data throughout the province. This tool allows for Natural Resource Decision Makers to access water related information required to make decisions on the land base including infrastructure design, water-use licencing and permitting, forest management decisions, flood and drought prediction, ecosystem management and more. Anyone wanting to share water related data can contact AQUARIUS@gov.bc.ca to arrange for data upload.

Bralorne-Takla Remediation Closure Ceremony – Follow up

Submitted by: Joanna Runnells, M.Env.Sc., P.Geo., EP, Sr. Program Geoscientist, Crown Contaminated Sites Program

To follow up on the *Dirt* December 2017 edition's article, the Bralorne-Takla Mercury Mine: Remediation and Reclamation video has now been posted and is available here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wveuq-fl1-c4&feature=youtu.be>.

It tells the story of how the province worked in partnership with the Takla Lake First Nation to develop and complete a mutually acceptable approach to remediate this historic mine. Remediation of the site removed a significant quantity of mercury from the environment, protected future site users, and helped the Takla Lake First Nation to heal from the legacy of this mine.

The video includes clips for the closure ceremony and potlatch that some FLNRORD staff were fortunate enough to attend.

Solitary lookout man—a summer of experiences

Submitted by: John Andrews, retired

And so it was that at the end of April 1962, some 56 years ago, I found myself perched high above the ground on a treeless site in Hope Lookout (49.423889, -121.4475) high up, across the river from the community of Hope, BC. I was three months past my twentieth birthday. The previous day I had travelled on the Greyhound from Vancouver and spent the previous evening at the Hope Ranger Station (Ranger R. W. McDaniel) learning about sighting and reporting fires, radio protocol, emergencies and all those matters that could be absorbed in a matter of a few hours. In the morning, together with my pack, food for a week, and a sense of adventure, the Assistant Ranger drove me up the goat trail to the lookout in his blue four-wheel drive Landrover.

Sadly, the lookout tower is no longer in evidence; it was designed much like the photos that can be seen of the also non-existent Desous lookout near Williams Lake. Built in 1953 it was supported by four large corner timbers with cross bracing, attached to four steel hawsers anchored in the rock below. Perched on top was a living unit surrounded by a railed catwalk. Entry was by a single non-screened door. Windows, which did not open, were on all four sides; two small open/close screened ventilation panels were located on each side (useless in very hot weather). None of the appurtenances inside rose above the lower lip of the windows. In one corner was a wood stove to be used for cooking, in another a steel spring bed with head and foot rail suitable for someone under six feet (being 6-4" I took the foot rail off and supported the end of the bed on logs to allow my feet to stick over the end), a cabinet for books/papers and on the last side, radios. One radio was FM for reporting weather taken from the previous evening and the current morning (min/max, sling psychrometer reading for humidity and hazard sticks), and the other radio was for direct line communication with the ranger station (XLY77) from the lookout (XMJ93). In the centre of the space was an island upon which rested a rangefinder with an eyepiece allowing for recording of degrees horizontal and degrees vertical for determination of the position of any fire spotted in the field of vision. At the base of the tower was a rain collection barrel.

Times were very different. As I recollect, I was paid \$250 per month, out of which I had to buy my own food that was delivered once a week by the Assistant Ranger. Water was brought in a milk churn. There were no computers, no GPS, no amenities, and no work standards. There was no refrigeration, no power, no propane, no relief for a weekend—you were there from the end of April until the end of the first week of September.

It was a summer of experiences. Surviving a dangerous storm when two windows blew out as a result of the winds buffeting the tower back and forth as the hawsers tightened and slackened by the moment. Terrifying. You had to be creative—make yourself a shower out of a bucket with nail holes in the bottom and dip the bucket in the rainwater barrel, learn to live alone and stay sane, (I saw one other person other than the Assistant Ranger in excess of four months); stay strong when you are lying on the floor with heat prostration gasping for air in the excessive heat of the summer as the sun circled the tower for sixteen hours a day and trying to feed yourself when food spoiled in a day or so, but I wouldn't change a minute of this time in my life experience!

It came to an end after the first week of September when I closed and locked the door of the tower, put the pack on my back, hiked out, reported to the Ranger Station, and stepped onto the Greyhound.

I am most grateful and thankful to the BCFS. The following year, I was the youngest foreman in the Vancouver Fire District becoming the foreman of the Nanaimo Fire Suppression Crew based in Cassidy (Ranger W. D. Howard), and the following year become the foreman of the Pemberton Fire Suppression Crew based out at Owl Creek (Ranger Don. E. Gill). Great jobs for a university student \$450 a month. The three years of summer employment profoundly helped this young man from a single-parent family make it through university.

BC Moose Winter Tick Surveillance Program

Submitted by: Michelle Larstone, Community Engagement Specialist, Skeena Region



Moose Winter Tick

BC WILDLIFE HEALTH PROGRAM—WINTER TICK SURVEILLANCE



5 CATEGORIES FOR AMOUNT OF HAIR LOSS—have you seen this?



2. MILD

1. NO LOSS
to hair coat

2. MILD
5% - 20% loss or damage to hair coat (neck and shoulders)

3. MODERATE
20% - 40% loss or damage to hair coat

4. SEVERE
40% - 80% loss or damage to hair coat

5. GHOST MOOSE
>80% loss or damage to hair coat



4. SEVERE



3. MODERATE



5. GHOST MOOSE

Survey period January 1 to April 30, 2018. For more information, please look to www.gov.bc.ca/wildlifehealth/mooseticksurvey

If you're in the field this winter and spring, keep an eye out for moose and submit a survey.

The BC Wildlife Health Program is asking wildlife professionals, wildlife enthusiasts and the general public to help with observations of hair loss caused by “winter ticks” on moose throughout the province.

Winter ticks are a significant parasite for moose populations and can contribute to moose decline. It is an important health factor to monitor, particularly with climate change and alterations to habitat.

Winter tick infestations can be observed on moose from January through to April. Irritation from ticks cause moose to scratch and groom themselves excessively, resulting in hair loss. The extent of the hair loss is a rough indicator of how many ticks are present and can be observed easily from a distance.

The findings of the surveillance program will contribute to the Provincial Moose Research Program, which was initiated in 2013 to investigate factors influencing moose

populations in BC. The Moose Winter Tick Surveillance Program occurs on an annual basis. This is the fourth year of the program; last year, 330 moose surveys were submitted from across the province.

The program is interested in all moose observations, regardless of whether they appear infested with ticks or not. For those of you that work closely with First Nations communities, this initiative represents a great opportunity to collaborate on an important wildlife-health monitoring initiative in the north.

For more information, or to receive a survey, please contact Mike Bridger, Wildlife Biologist, or this year's program coordinator, Courtney Jones:

Phone: 250-787-3283

Email: FLNRMooseTickSurvey@gov.bc.ca

Website: www.gov.bc.ca/wildlifehealth/mooseticksurvey

P.S. NEW: There's an app for that! Visit the App store or Google Play and search for Survey123 by ERSI. Then contact Courtney or Mike for set-up instructions.

Why are Tidal Marshes Disappearing from Sturgeon Bank?

Submitted by Rob Wipond and Brent Gurd

Marsh Losses on Sturgeon Bank



Looking South



Looking North

The Fraser River estuary is recognized as a site of international importance for wintering and migratory birds in the Ramsar Convention, the Western Hemisphere Shorebird Reserve Network and Canada's Important Bird Area program. It also provides habitat for millions of migrating Pacific salmon and other fish. That's why, when significant ecosystem changes were spotted in the Sturgeon Bank Wildlife Management Area (one of five Fraser estuary Wildlife Management Areas in the Conservation Lands Program), staff at FLNRORD's South Coast office became concerned.

Environment and Climate Change Canada scientist Sean Boyd studied Sturgeon Bank in 1989, and when he returned in 2011, he found that the marsh had receded up to 500 metres in some places. Approximately 200 hectares of important marsh habitat had been replaced by mudflat. "I was shocked," says Boyd. "It was such a dramatic change." In 2015, FLNRORD's South Coast office began a three-year research project at Sturgeon Bank involving academics, government scientists and consultants, with support from the Habitat Conservation Trust Foundation, the National Wetland Conservation Fund and the Vancouver Fraser Port Authority.

Eric Balke became involved as part of his Master's studies, and has since become FLNRORD's South Coast Conservation Land Management Program

coordinator. The lower Fraser has innumerable human influences, says Balke; consequently, many hypotheses have been explored.

Are dredging and jetties diverting Fraser River sediment and lowering marsh elevation? Or is river diversion increasing marsh salinity and thereby killing vegetation? Could nutrients from agriculture and urbanization be fuelling algal blooms that suffocate marshes? Climate change is a likely factor, but Balke says it's not the only one. "It doesn't look like sea-level rise alone has caused the recession. The leading edge of the marsh on nearby Westham Island is at a lower elevation, but it's remained stable."

After eliminating these and other plausible causes, the researchers turned their attention to geese. Snow Goose numbers at Sturgeon Bank have more than doubled since 1978 to 100,000, over-wintering alongside a smaller but year-round Canada Goose population. Both species eat the energy-rich roots of marsh plants, leaving behind de-vegetated craters. The researchers now suspect the geese are eating faster than the vegetation can regrow—a not-uncommon occurrence when a species' population growth outstrips its main food source. As a test, the project team has recently erected fences in parts of Sturgeon Bank to exclude geese.

continued...

Tidal Marshes Disappearing from Sturgeon Bank continued...

Many questions remain; however, especially because other BC coastal marshes are changing as well, but in different ways. To increase our understanding, FLNRORD, through the longstanding West Coast Conservation Land Management Program, has begun collaborating with First Nations and non-profit groups on monitoring projects in ten other estuaries, all with the goal of better understanding and mitigating threats to conservation values.



Craters created by geese



Sampling sediment in Sturgeon Bank



Sturgeon Bank at sunset

If you are a former employee and want to keep up with the latest Dirt, please contact Sheila Tucnik and she will add you to the retiree's email distribution list. Provide email, home phone and home mailing address. You can contact Sheila directly at Sheila.Tucnik@gov.bc.ca. Don't forget our [Facebook](#) page!

BCTS Supervisory Excellence Summit

Submitted by: Jesse Blewett, Coordinator of Business Excellence, BC Timber Sales



On February 27, 2018, BCTS supervisors from all over the province braved the cold and the snow of the great white north and gathered for 2 days in Prince George for the first ever BCTS Supervisory Excellence Summit (SES). The event was organized by the People Practices Working Group to address Work Environment Survey (WES) feedback regarding supervisory level engagement opportunities. The objectives of the SES were: 1) to create knowledge transfer opportunities for supervisors; 2) to equip supervisors with tools, training and information to improve their supervisory experience; and 3) to build connections among supervisors with varying degrees of experience. With an ambitious agenda and over 100 delegates in attendance, the event had the potential to profoundly impact the experience of supervisors and their employees for years to come or to be an absolute disaster.

Day one unfolded exactly as planned thanks to the masterful MCing of BCTS Planning Officer Ian Smith. The Summit opened with a rousing welcome from BCTS Executive Director Mike Falkiner followed by TOPFN Assistant Deputy Minister Chris Stagg, who highlighted the importance of spending time exercising and growing one's supervisory skill set. For the morning and early afternoon, attendees divided into breakout sessions on a diversity of topics, including hiring, building effective teams, change leaders, coaching for business results, succession planning and the BCTS Development Opportunities Program. The breakouts preceded a World Cafe session where supervisors collaborated to answer some of the biggest questions they face in their roles. Daytime activities closed with the Directors and

Executive Team in the hot seat during a talk show panel exploring their supervisory experiences.

Associate Deputy Minister Jason Fisher joined the Summit's evening banquet and gave attendees a warm, personal keynote address on his leadership journey and advice he has collected along the way.

Day two launched with an exploration of FLNRORD's new Lead Framework, which engaged supervisors in setting goals on how to bring the framework to life in their regions. The plenary sessions that followed provided supervisors with an understanding of labour relations for supervisors, supervisory skills for engagement, and performance motivation. Mid-day, however, the summit switched gears and supervisors were booted from their seats and sent racing from room to room for four themed speed learning sessions on remote supervision, BCTS communications, the BCTS Supervisory Development Program and workload management organizational strategies. The summit closed with supervisors discussing how to put their new knowledge into practice.

At the end of a jam-packed summit, you might expect people to begin to mentally check-out, perhaps gaze off into space or even yawn. But as day two began to wind down, the main conference hall remained filled with an inspired energy and actively participating attendees engaged with presenters and their fellow community of practice members. It seemed everyone had discovered some new-found knowledge or skills and was ready and eager to put them to use.

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BCTS Supervisory Excellence Summit continued...

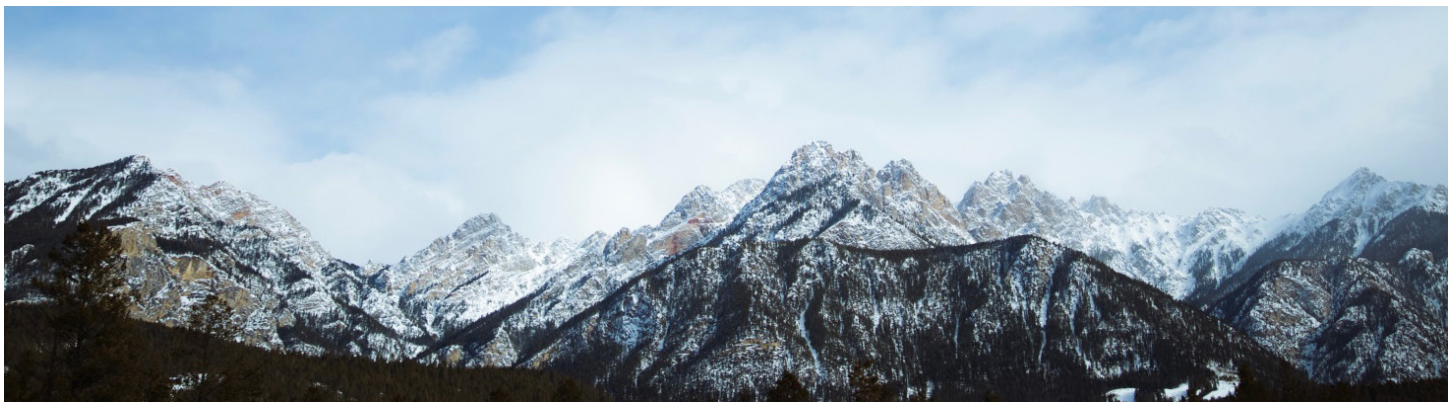
Even the most meticulously planned event runs the risk of being either a calamity or a success. The Summit's overwhelming success could not have happened without the active participation of all attendees. It also would not have happened without the feedback BCTS received in the Work Environment Survey. The delivery team would

like to thank everyone who provided feedback, attended and gave it their all, as well as the presenters, facilitators and assistants, whose skillful delivery of topics engaged staff on many levels. All of you truly are the greatest resource we possess.

Bringing Mobility to the Range

PARTNERING TO BUILD AN OPEN SOURCE APP

Submitted by: Pamela Richards, Communications & Engagement Specialist, NRTS



“Our digital vision focuses on user experience where the citizen and employee expectations of convenience, flexibility and service can be met. Mobility allows the work we do to take place at the best possible location for the task.”

-- OCIO [Mobility Strategy](#)

For years now, the Range Branch has been working to digitize its business. Part of its vision has been a mobile app that staff and the public can use offline to collect data. This capability would help them improve the public's experience with government and give staff more time and better tools to manage B.C.'s rangeland. Progress has been made, but achieving these goals has been difficult. Enter the OCIO - Office of the Chief Information Officer—and their pioneering work to develop government open source software and Agile development capabilities.

Mobile Pathfinder is one of OCIO's emerging technology initiatives. Their goal was to work with early adopters to demonstrate the best processes and open source tools to build mobile apps. In looking for an early adopter partner, Mobile Pathfinder needed a team willing to work in an entrepreneurial environment with people using new-to-government tech and development methods. Enter Range and its team looking to use this working style and leverage the open source tools that Mobile Pathfinder can provide. And so was born the pilot project to develop a solution for Range.

“Rather than a traditional research-driven discovery process, we're taking a learn-by-doing approach: Addressing a real business problem with leading-edge technology in a hands-on way. This means we develop a solution that the business can use right away.”

-- [Todd Wilson](#), Director of Enterprise DevOps

“I knew we had to be patient and that this patience would be rewarded with future opportunities,” shared [Perry Grilz](#), Director of Range. “This partnership is a great experience for our team. It's also an opportunity to make contributions beyond our own line of business.”

continued...

Bringing Mobility to the Range continued...

Bringing this pilot to life was actually a partnership of five teams: [Range Branch](#), [Mobile Pathfinder](#), [Natural Resource Transformation Secretariat \(NRTS\)](#), [BCDevExchange](#) and [Continuous Service Improvement \(CSI\) Lab](#). Each participant will benefit in different ways but everyone is united in working to improve digital services to the level expected by today's workers and constituents.

“Partnerships like this allow us to work across traditionally siloed areas to collectively enhance how we work with the public. The result: We deliver. And we deliver what users are actually asking for, what they need.”

-- [Rumon Carter](#), Executive Director Innovation and Integration

Learn More

Good timing, Mobile Pathfinder's new open-source capabilities and Agile development methods supported by all parties have made it now possible to build Range's mobile app. Read about these key factors [here](#).

For more information on the pilot and a list of benefits that the Range Branch is looking to achieve, from better resource stewardship to improved client support, visit [NRPP's Project Hub](#).

Get in Touch

Natural Resource Transformation
Secretariat
Sid Tobias
250 893-6218

Range Branch
Jodie Kekula
250 861-7627

OCIO Mobile Pathfinder
Loren Mullane
250 516-2633

BCDevExchange
Todd Wilson
250 217-5639

Conehead Manager Retires

Submitted by: Dave Kolotelo, RPF, Cone and Seed Improvement Officer, BC Provincial Tree Seed Centre, Forest Improvement & Research Management Branch

Heather Rooke managed the provincial Tree Seed Centre (TSC) for over 20 years of her 44 year BCFS career and retired on January 31, 2018. The term “conehead” was used internally as a description of someone who was dedicated and passionate about the advancement of cone and seed science and technology. Heather displayed these attributes and the other public service values as she led the TSC through good times and challenges. She will be fondly remembered for her dedication and support of the TSC staff. Heather was ahead of her time in the initiation of succession strategies, development of people and positions and evaluation of our facilities condition in preparation for our next set of challenges.

Heather graduated from Selkirk College and joined the Forest Service in Likely, BC in 1974. Starting salary was \$3.08/hr and moving expenses were paid if you completed a full season. In 1976, Heather moved to Duncan and her conehead career really began at the Tree Seed Centre. She was the last person on staff who made the big move in 1986 from the rather ‘rough’ facility in Duncan to the brand new facility specifically designed to deliver the provinces cone and seed services. Heather served as the Operations Supervisor prior to being Manager and her wealth of practical, applied biological knowledge in combination with quickly developing management skills served the TSC well for over four decades. We wish Heather the very best in her well-deserved retirement.

The new Tree Seed Centre Manager is Michael Postma and we look forward to great contributions from him.



Karlie's last DIRT story

Working with the BC Wildfire Service for the past twelve years has been an amazing experience. It has been a career filled with unique opportunities and experiences not many people ever get the chance to undergo.

The summers were always fast-paced and high stress. When most people were fleeing areas from fire I sometimes had the opportunity to go into the turmoil. It's these times I will remember with fondness. The times when I felt I was helping the public—even if it was only talking to them over the phone, at a community meeting or on the street.

There are not a lot of opportunities in life that show you the vulnerability of strangers and give you the chance to help. It's the public's voice I will remember most.

BCWS has its fair share of stress and fatigue, and during these hard times I witnessed and eventually learned the true meaning of resilience. In times of crisis, the people

in this organization have the ability to rise above their personal problems (fatigue, stress, illness and family commitments to name a few), and focus on what needs to get done. It's this aspect that always amazed me from day one. (Imagine missing your child's first birthday, your brother's wedding or your grandfather's funeral.) There are so many sacrifices that individuals silently endure—all in the name of service.

Beyond BCWS, contributing to *The Dirt* over the years informed me of the extraordinary diversity of FLNRORD. The Ministry (and of course the people that make it up) cover an amazing portfolio.

I have always been proud to tell others that I worked for FLNRORD, and in a sense, it has shaped part of my identity. I will remember this, and take with me: compassion, diversity and resiliency into my new position and continue—with pride—to represent where I came from: FLNRORD.



Take care of yourselves,
-Karlie Shaughnessy

Interested in reading past newsletters? You can find archived ministry newsletters dating from 1922-1999 at: <https://gww.nrs.gov.bc.ca/flnrord/news/community/forestry-newsletters>

Soon to house everything after 1999—stay tuned!



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](#).

Welcome Rachel Witt New Advisory Group Member

Rachel Witt was raised in Salmon Arm, BC, but lived in Halifax, Nova Scotia, from 2013 until a recent move to Victoria. Given her passion for public speaking and education, after high school, Rachel was inspired to attend a unique degree program at Mount Saint Vincent University. She graduated with a Bachelor of Science Communication Degree with Distinction in May 2017. This program helped Rachel develop many skills including crisis communication, advanced public relations, statistics, editing and ethics.

During the course of her degree, she spent the past three summers at the Kamloops Fire Centre through BC Wildfire Service, first

as a Dispatcher and later as a Fire Information Officer. Since January, Rachel has taken on Compliance and Enforcement Branch's Communications as the Internal Communications Coordinator. She is dedicated to working with colleagues, partners and stakeholders to improve the efficient and accurate flow of information. Rachel believes that volunteer work is essential to giving back to her community. She actively volunteers for women's shelters, Team Diabetes and ran two programs at the Dartmouth Mental Health and Addictions Centre. As well, she was the Chairperson for the 2016 Atlantic Chemistry Conference, a student-run conference uniting chemistry students from five

eastern provinces to facilitate and showcase research.

In her spare time, Rachel enjoys live music, black coffee, camping and hiking. She looks forward to joining *The Dirt* as an Advisory Group member and representing the Compliance and Enforcement Branch.



Welcome Michelle Larstone New Advisory Group Member



Michelle came to the BC public service in 2017 after eight years working in the constituency office of the Stikine MLA, and has spent the last year as the Executive Assistant to ADM Kevin Kriese. Her latest position is as a Community Engagement Specialist in the Skeena Region. She has also worked in communications and development roles for not-for-profit organizations in Smithers and Victoria. She holds a degree in Criminology and a certificate in Restorative Justice. Michelle is excited to be part of *The Dirt* Advisory Group and representing the northern part of the ministry.

Welcome New Advisory Group Member – Christi Howes

Christi Howes has joined *The Dirt* Advisory Group and looks forward to representing BC Timber Sales (BCTS). Christi is the Communications and Engagement Specialist for BCTS Headquarters and is located in Victoria. She has been a writer, editor and communications specialist for over 20 years. She moved from the private sector to government six years ago, after several years in publishing as a senior acquisitions editor. Over



the past six years, Christi has built and implemented communication/change management strategies for the Public Service Agency, BC Pension Corporation and the Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development.

Dan Leclerc Memorial Hockey Tournament

Submitted by: BJ Moore, Engineering Officer, Cascades Natural Resource District



The Cascades District hosted the Dan Leclerc Memorial Hockey Tournament and it was a rousing success. We had ten teams take part in this year's tournament which is the most the tournament has seen for many years. From Williams Lake, Cranbrook, Port McNeill and everywhere in-between. There were teams from several district offices and various Wildfire offices. It was the Kamloops Fire Centre that took the top honours over the Caribou Fire Centre in the final.

It was great to see that many teams out, and everything ran smoothly from the planning of the event to the final game. We hope to continue with the success for next year's tournament and possibly have even more teams participate. When the organizing committee settles on next year's tournament location, there will be another email putting a call out for teams to enter.

Thanks to all the players who made the trip to Merritt and who made the tournament a success. I look forward to seeing you again next year.

Have a Story idea?

Send *The Dirt* Advisory Group your ideas!

Don't forget about the Facebook page

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/flnrnews/>

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.

NOTICE

47th ANNUAL

ALEXIS CREEK BC FOREST SERVICE

TRAPSHOOT

**COME AND JOIN US FOR THE LONGEST RUNNING FOREST
SERVICE EVENT!**



It'll be a BLAST!



When: May 26th 2018

Where: Alexis Creek Rifle Range

Why: To carry on a great Forest Service tradition!

How: in Teams of 5 or individually

Events:

- ◆ T-Shirt design contest – You could be famous – entries by **May 4th**-contact Brian Rosengren for more details (250) 394-4710
 - ◆ Dinner Saturday evening
 - Beans, Salads and fixins' provided - Bring your own meat
 - Cost included for shooters
 - \$5.00ea for additional adults \$3.00 for kids
 - ◆ Breakfast - Saturday (by donation, proceeds to A.C. Rod & Gun Club Range), Concession available - Saturday
 - ◆ Practice rounds until 10:30am Saturday (or completion)
 - ◆ Main Event > 25 shots, 15 trap – 10 skeet, best team score
 - ◆ Annie Oakley - \$5.00ea/round 1st round proceeds to Kevin Frittenburg Memorial Fund; 2nd round 50/50
 - ◆ .22 Shoots – Ladies: \$5.00 Kids: Free
 - ◆ **T-Shirts: Included with entry (extras \$20.00 ea) ◆**
 - ◆ **Cost: \$34.00/Shooter \$170.00/Team BEFORE May 24th (Team registration form must be completed no money in advance required)**
 - **Cost Increases to \$39.00/Shooter \$195.00/Team after May 25th, 2017****
 - ◆ **Entry includes one box of shells/entry. Additional shells \$10.00/box, \$5.00 for practice round if you have your own shells.◆**
 - ◆ **Free Camping available on site Friday and Saturday ◆**
 - >>>> Visiting team door prize donations welcome <<<<**
- For information contact: Brian Rosengren (250) 394-4710,
Harold Stolar (250) 398-4400 or Jason Kerley (250) 398-4689

[47th ANNUAL BC FLNRD TRAP SHOOT ENTRY FORM](#)

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.

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

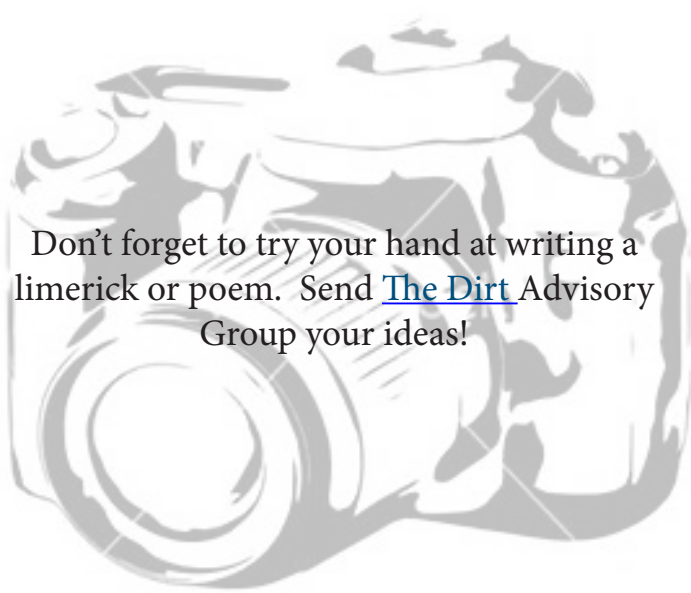
The following specifications and requirements have been established to ensure that images can be used in a variety of applications.

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 JUNE 15, 2018.



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

March Edition Photo Contest Winners!

Scenic Category - rainbow over grasslands/rangelands that was taken in the Barnhartvale area near Kamloops.

Photo taken by: Carla Hartling, Water Stewardship Officer, Thompson Rivers
Natural Resource District



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

Workplace Category - Taken during a meet and greet with one of the local drilling companies—they were drilling a domestic well on a nice acreage in Cowichan Valley, Vancouver Island.

Photo taken by: Ben Robinson, MSc, A.Ag., Groundwater Protection Officer



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

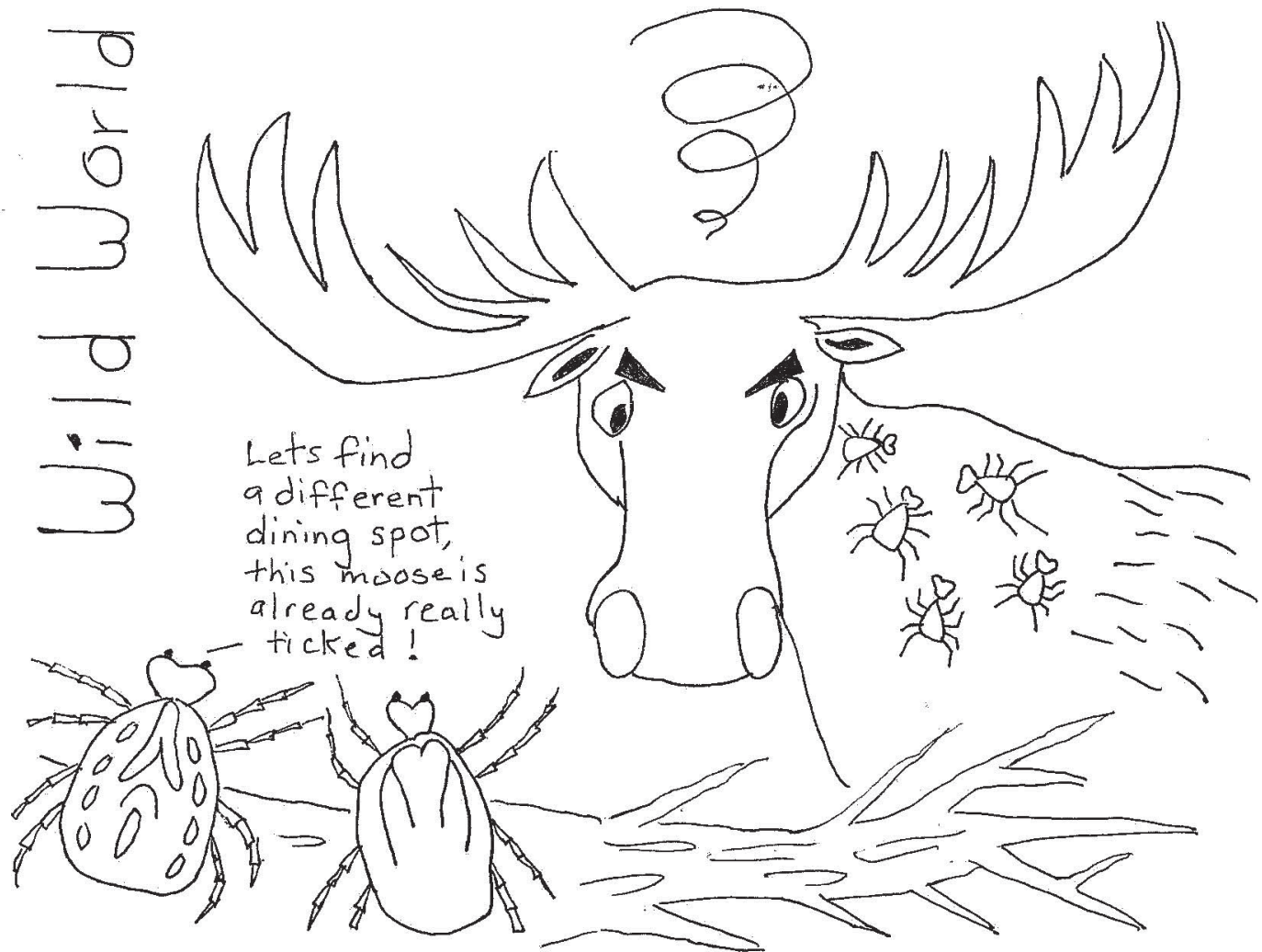
Wildlife Category - White tail antler - Westwold

Photo taken by: Dan Krywonos, Natural Resource Officer, Okanagan Shuswap Field Unit (Vernon/Salmon Arm), Thompson Okanagan Region, Compliance and Enforcement Branch



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





Sheila Tucnik

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 250 356-9638 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 June 15, 2018.



[SUBMISSION GUIDELINES](#)