



2026 BC First Nations Forestry Council's Annual

BC First Nations Forestry Conference & Youth Conference

May 12 - 14, 2026

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OUR 2026 SPONSORS

We appreciate your support!

Thank you for your support! As we approach the conference, here are our current sponsors, exhibitors, and artisans.

FOREST STEWARD ALLY



ROOTS & RELATIONS ALLY



STUDENT ALLY



EXHIBITORS

BC Community Forest Association
BC Forest Safety Council
BC Timber Sales
Canada Wildfire Technology
Canadian Tree Nursery Association-ACPF
Cariboo Carbon Solutions
Delta Forestry Group
First Nations Fisheries Council
Forest Professionals BC
Forsite Consultants
Harnois Greenhouses
Indigenous Services Selkirk College
Inland Truck & Equipment
InnovaTree Carbon Group Ltd.
Interfor Corp
Nicola Valley Institute of Technology
Okanagan Training & Development Council
Phoenix Connect/DR systems
PRI Consultants Ltd./Ecora Consultants
PRT Growing Services
RAS
Relentless Mechanical
Silviculture Innovation Program
Spidex All Terrain Excavating Inc.
Standwell Forest Investments
Stillwater consulting Ltd
TEAAM Aeromedical Society
The Truck Loggers Association
UBC
USNR
Waratah Forestry Canada
West Fraser
Western Forest Products Inc.

ARTISANS

Fern and Flower
Giggy's Beads Boutique
Michael Hill Designs
The Ivory Kraken Company
AKS Artistic Design

Welcome to the annual BC First Nations Forestry Conference!

Forests have always been a source of strength, knowledge, and opportunity for First Nations communities. As the forest sector continues to evolve, so does the role of First Nations leadership in shaping its future - from stewardship on the land to innovation, economic development, and global partnerships. Rooted in culture, community, and responsibility to future generations, First Nations are leading the way forward.

This event brings together First Nations, industry, and government to explore this year's theme: Forest Nations Rising – From Strong Roots to Global Horizons. Together, we will share knowledge, strengthen relationships, and advance practical action that supports resilient communities, sustainable forestry, and Nation-led growth across the sector and beyond.

BC First Nations Forestry Council's Annual Forestry Conference - May 12-14

Youth Conference - May 14

KF Centre for Excellence - 5800 Lapointe Dr, Kelowna, BC V1V 1S1

MEALS

Throughout the conference, meals (breakfast and lunch) and snacks will be provided for all attendees, artisans, and exhibitors.

May 13 & 14 Buffet Breakfast & Lunch

Breakfast will be served from 8:00 am to 9:00 am, with lunch being served on May 13 from 12:15 pm to 1:15 pm and on May 14 from 11:45 am to 12:45 pm at the KF Flight Centre for Excellence

May 13 BBQ Social Event

4:00pm - 7:00 pm join us for an evening of grillables, workshops, and interactive activities, an opportunity to connect, unwind, and build relationships ahead of the next day of the conference.

VENUE

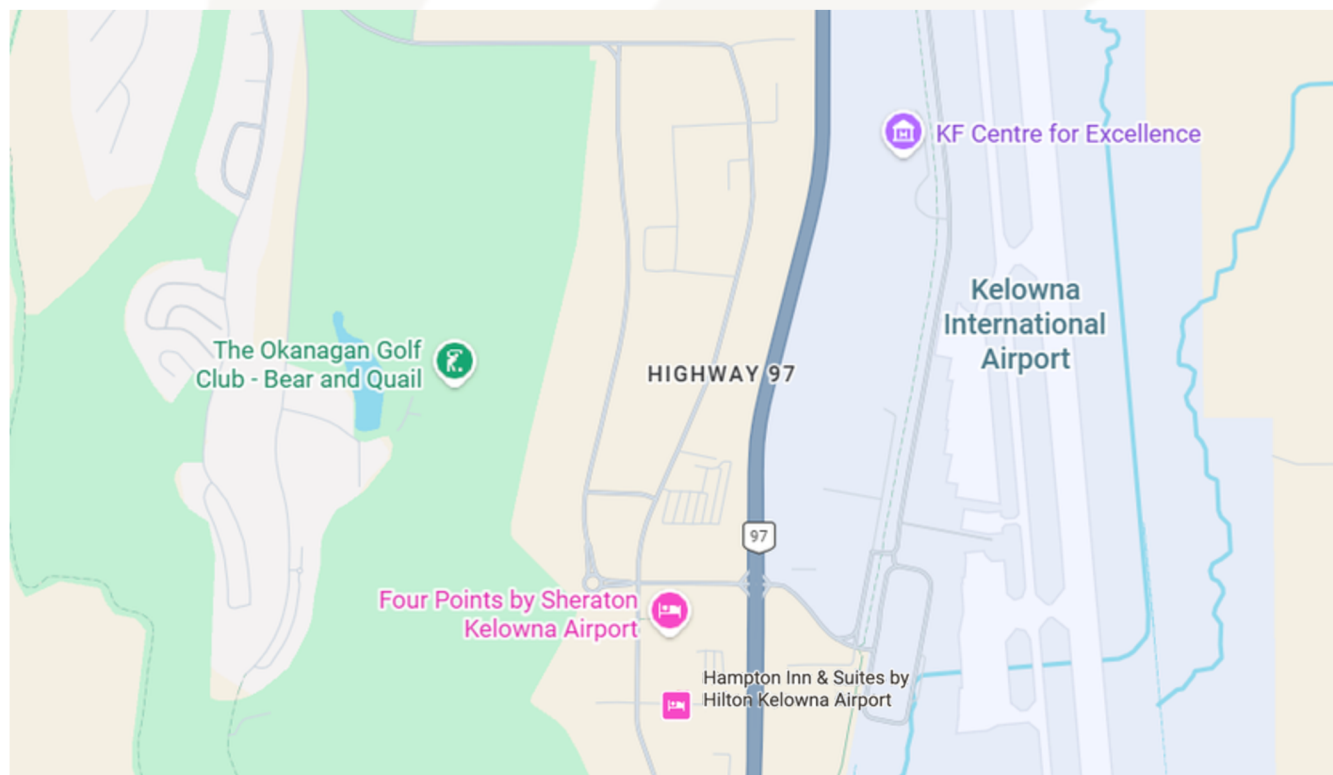
Upon arrival to the venue please go directly to the registration desk by the main entrance to obtain your name tag and lanyard.

If you would like to view the venue visit: kfcentre.ca

**BC First Nations
FORESTRY
CONFERENCE**



LOCATION INFORMATION



PARKING There is VERY LIMITED parking available at the KF Centre for Excellence. If you do require parking onsite please make your way to 196 Convair Pl, and follow the signage for parking instructions.

SHUTTLE SERVICE is provided from the airport hotels, Four Points Hotel and Hampton Inn & Suites, to the conference venue and social activities.

May 12

VIP WINE MAKER'S DINNER | 50th Parallel Estate Winery

Pick up: Four Points Hotel - 5:00 PM | **Drop off:** Four Points Hotel - 9:00 PM

May 13

COLD PLUNGE | Wood Lake, Beasley Park

Pick up: Four Points Hotel - 7:00 AM | **Drop off:** Four Points Hotel - 7:40 AM

CONFERENCE | KF Flight Centre for Excellence (**Rotating Shuttles**)

Pick up: Airport Hotels - 7:30 - 8:30 AM | **Drop off:** 6:00 - 8:00 PM

May 14

CONFERENCE | KF Flight Centre for Excellence (**Rotating Shuttles**)

Pick up: Airport Hotels - 7:30 - 8:30 AM | **Drop off:** 2:30 - 3:00 PM

GOLF | The Okanagan Golf Club (**Rotating Shuttles**)

Pick up: Four Points Hotel - 3:00 - 4:00 PM | **Drop off:** Four Points Hotel - 8:00 - 9:00 PM

FIRST NATIONS ONLY CAUCUS

Tuesday, May 12

BC First Nations
FORESTRY
CONFERENCE



8:00am - 9:00am	BREAKFAST & NETWORKING
9:00am - 11:30am	Morning Caucus Discussions
12:00pm - 1:00pm	LUNCH BREAK
1:00pm - 4:00pm	Afternoon Caucus Discussions
5:30pm	VIP DINNER <u>Ticketed Event</u> . Shuttle service departs Four Points Lobby @5:00pm

Please note that the Caucus is **strictly reserved for First Nations and First Nations representatives**. This dedicated space is intended to support open dialogue, shared experiences, and Nation-to-Nation conversations in a respectful and trusted environment. Attendance will be monitored at the door. Individuals who are not registered will not be permitted entry.

Exhibitors

Tuesday May 12 | 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM | KF Flight Centre for Excellence

The Exhibitor & Artisan Information Package is now available and includes important details regarding setup times, booth requirements, venue logistics, accommodations, transportation, meals, and exhibitor services for the 2026 BC First Nations Forestry Conference. Please review the package carefully prior to arrival to ensure a smooth and successful conference experience.



[Full Exhibitor Package](#)

VIP Wine Maker's Dinner

Tuesday May 12 | 5:30 PM | 50th Parallel Winery



17101 Terrace View Rd, Lake Country, BC

Join us for an unforgettable evening of relationship-building, storytelling, and connection at the VIP Winemaker's Dinner. The event will feature a curated dinner, local wines, and a live performance by Hayley Wallis of the Kitasoo Xai'xais Nation.

Please note that this is a ticketed event with no capacity for additional guests or on-site registrations. To view your ticket, download the Pheedloop app.



[PheedloopGo! App](#)

DAY ONE Wednesday, May 13

8:00am - 9:00am	BREAKFAST		
9:00am - 9:30am CONFERENCE OPENING	Join us for a traditional welcome and CEO address exploring “Forest Nations Rising - From Strong Roots to Global Horizons,”	TRADITIONAL WELCOME & CULTURAL OPENING: Councillor Dave Marchand , Okanagan Indian Band Krystal Withakay , Westbank First Nation Greg Hopf , Moccasin Trails Lennard Joe , CEO, BC FN Forestry Council	
9:30am - 9:50am KEYNOTE	First Nations Keynote	SPEAKER: Regional Chief Terry Teegee , BC Assembly of First Nations	
9:50am - 10:10am KEYNOTE	Ministry of Forests update	SPEAKER: Honourable Ravi Parmar Minister of Forests of British Columbia	
10:10am - 10:40am	BREAK		
10:45am - 11:30pm SESSION	The Hemlock Paradox: Explore the niche opportunities and multiple values of forests that may be hidden in plain sight. High volume, low value.	SPEAKERS: Shannon Janzen Owner, Hypha Consulting	Hugh Scolah Owner, Ginkgo Land Stewardship
11:30am - 12:15pm FIRESIDE CHAT	This fireside chat focuses on forest sector transformation, First Nations leadership, stewardship, and how land can shape a stronger future for forestry in BC.	SPEAKERS: Garry Merkel nadi’ denezā Tahltan RPF Director, Centre for Indigenous Land Stewardship at UBC	Lennard Joe CEO, BC First Nations Forestry Council
12:15pm - 1:15pm	LUNCH & FIRST NATIONS AWARDS OF EXCELLENCE		
1:15pm - 1:45pm BUSINESS CONNECT STAGE + EXPO	Introduction to the BusinessConnect Stage & Expo: Dynamic conversations and real-world stories will spotlight innovative projects, partnerships, and practical opportunities shaping the future of Nation-led forestry, business, and collaboration across the sector.	MASTER OF CERMONIES: Harlan Schilling BC First Nations Centre of Excellence & Daylu Dena Council	SPEAKER: Jordan Coble Westbank First Nation Councillor
1:45pm - 2:25pm SESSION	Building Resilience in First Nations Forestry: Explore the impacts of the forestry downturn on First Nations communities and highlights practical strategies for Economic Development Corporations to build resilience and navigate economic uncertainty.	MODERATOR: Lennard Joe CEO, BC First Nations Forestry Council	SPEAKERS: Michael Bonshore Managing Director, FNBDA Khoi Mai Senior Manager, Indigenous Markets Lead, PwC Canada
2:25pm - 3:15pm SESSION	Partnerships, Modernization & Certification	SPEAKERS: Tsi-del del, Tolko, SFI, Gorman, Mosaic	
3:15pm - 3:30pm SESSION	First Nations Ecological Restoration Strategy	SPEAKER: Robert Phillip First Nations Summit	SPEAKER: Kevin Scott RESOLVE Canada
3:30pm - 3:50pm SESSION	Economic Growth, Stewardship & Wildfire Resilience	SPEAKERS: Wildfire Resilience Consortium of Canada (WRCC), Mercer International	
4:00pm - 7:00pm	BBQ SOCIAL & EXPO NETWORKING EVENT		

DAY TWO **Thursday, May 14**

8:00am - 9:00am	BREAKFAST		
9:00am - 9:20am CONFERENCE OPENING	Lennard Joe will open Day Two by recentering attendees in the conference theme, reminding us why we have gathered: to strengthen relationships and advance Nation-led forestry.	SPEAKER: Lennard Joe CEO, BC First Nations Forestry Council	
9:20am - 10:00am KEYNOTE	Building Forest Wealth Through Ownership: Explore how First Nations ownership and investment are creating new opportunities for Nations to build long-term wealth and forestry initiatives.	SPEAKER: Don Roberts President & CEO, Nawitka Capital Advisors	
10:00am - 10:30am	BREAK		
10:30am - 11:15am FIRST NATIONS CASE STUDY	Managing the Land Through Action: Our Partnership Story	SPEAKERS: Frank Joe Forestry Advisor, Kyle Runzer Forestry Manager Yucwmenlúcwu Splatsin Development Corp. (SDC)	Trish Balcaen CEO, Balcaen Consolidated Ltd CEO, Coldstream Ranch Ltd
11:15am - 11:45am SESSION	Pathways for Managing Cultural Heritage Resources	SPEAKER: Nick Reynolds Manager Special Projects, Forest Practices Board	
11:45am - 12:05pm	LUNCH SERVICE		
12:05pm - 12:45pm LUNCH PANEL	From Local Roots to Global Markets: Strengthening relationships and global networks can help First Nations wood producers diversify markets, expand opportunities, and bring culturally grounded products to the wider world.	SPEAKERS: Frank Hui President, Coast Fraser Lindsay Tighe Chief, Shackan Indian Band	Gary Wilson CEO, Tiičma Management Services
12:45pm - 1:00pm	RELOCATE TO EXPO + BusinessConnect Stage		
1:00pm - 1:30pm CASE STUDY	Burning Bright - Developing a Local First Nations Fire Crew: Explore the development of a local First Nations Type 3 fire crew	SPEAKERS: Klay Tindall GM Forestry Operations, Lil'wat Forestry Ventures	Jordon Gabriel Community Relations and Forestry Manager, Lil'wat Forestry Ventures
1:30pm - 2:00pm SESSION	Roots to Revenue - Economic Opportunities in Standing Forests: How standing forests can create revenue through carbon, biodiversity, water, and ecosystem restoration.	SPEAKERS: Daniel O'Brien Principal, O'Brien Sustainability Services Inc.	Dan Slavik Manager, Nature United
2:00pm - 2:30pm PANEL	The Next Generation - A Call to Action: Indigenous youth share their experiences and perspectives on the opportunities and changes needed to support the next generation in the sector.	MODERATOR: Hyla McQuaid IFSP Scholarship Students	SPEAKERS: Ilyana Christian, Hyla McQuaid, Molly Akerman IFSP Scholarship Students
2:30pm - 2:50pm	CONFERENCE CLOSING + SILENT AUCTION		
3:30pm	GOLF TOURNAMENT CULTURAL LAND TOUR Shuttle provided from Four Points		

EXPO | BusinessConnect Stage

Wednesday, May 13 | 1:15pm - 7:00pm & Thursday, May 14 | 9:00am - 3:00pm



This year, the EXPO transforms the conference floor into a **dynamic space** featuring indoor and outdoor exhibitors, artisan vendors, hands-on activities, heavy equipment displays, and the new **BusinessConnect Stage**. Rooted in the theme, **Forest Nations Rising**, the stage will feature short presentations sharing real-world projects, partnerships, and opportunities shaping the future of Nation-led forestry. Connect with First Nations, industry leaders, organizations, and **Youth Conference** attendees all in one vibrant shared space. View Exhibitors and Artisans on page three.

YOUTH CONFERENCE

Thursday, May 14 | 9am - 3pm



First Nations youth from across the province will take part in an exciting, hands-on day exploring careers in forestry through interactive activities and live demonstrations. From flying drones and operating heavy equipment to practicing firefighting techniques and connecting with forestry professionals, participants will gain real-world exposure to the sector while taking part in training provided by the Forestry Council's WorkforceConnect program, the Outland Youth Employment Program (OYEP) and initiatives connected to SFI and Project Learning Tree Canada.

AGENDA

9:00am - 11:30am
Career Exploration

Students will visit the interactive stations in the Expo and engage with the interactive booths to explore career development opportunities.

11:45am - 12:30pm

Youth Lunch at the Expo Stage for the 'From Curiosity to Careers' presentation

12:30pm - 2:45pm
EXPO & STAGE

Students return to the EXPO booths or choose to watch the 'Next Generation - A Call to Action' presentation on the stage from 2:15 - 2:45

BBQ Social

Wednesday, May 13 | 4:00 - 7:00 PM | KF Flight Centre for Excellence



Join us for an exciting evening of connection, culture, and celebration at the Opening Night BBQ, held throughout the EXPO floor and outdoor spaces. Enjoy great food, music, Indigenous artisan workshops, interactive games, and prizes while connecting with attendees from across the forest sector.

All EXPO booths will remain open throughout the evening, creating a lively and welcoming atmosphere for networking, collaboration, and fun.

Golf Tournament

Thursday, May 14 | 4:00 - 8:00 PM | Okanagan Golf Club: Bear Course



Wrap up the conference with an evening of connection, laughter, and time on the land at the beautiful Bear Course at the Okanagan Golf Club. Beginning with a cocktail hour, attendees will enjoy 9 holes of golf, with fun course games, challenges, prizes, and networking opportunities throughout the evening.

Following the tournament, guests will gather for a sit-down dinner to reconnect, reflect on the conference, and celebrate new relationships.

Cultural Land Tour

Thursday, May 14 | 4:00 - 6:00 PM

Join us outdoors to learn about the history and cultural heritage and gain a better understanding of the deep historical roots, cultural significance, and ongoing challenges faced by the Okanagan people.



[TICKETS](#)

THE FRESH START COLD PLUNGE



Feeling bold? Join us for an early morning cold plunge on **May 13th!**

Start the conference wide awake with a refreshing dip in Wood Lake - fitting name to reminding us of our connection to the land and our forests.

We'll gather in the Four Points lobby before the start of the conference and travel together for a truly unique "icebreaker," leaving enough time for you to get ready for the day.

CONNECT

Download the Pheedloop app to Network and share contact details with fellow attendees.



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FOREST NATIONS RISING

FROM STRONG ROOTS TO GLOBAL HORIZONS

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