



44th Annual General Meeting
Forest Nursery Association of B.C.
Thriving in Uncertainty



Treasure Cove Resort

2005 Highway 97S

Prince George, B.C.

866-245-1698

September 22nd - 24th, 2026

Tuesday September 22nd, 2026

Pre-conference tour & tournament

2:30 - 4:00 Tour: David Douglas Botanical Garden/UNBC/Storability Testing Lab – transportation provided

1:30 - 3:30 Golf tournament at Aspen Grove: \$27.00 per person
Golf cart: \$22.00 each (2 people share 1 cart for \$11.00 each)

12:00 - 6:00 **Supplier Set up**

6:00 - 8:00 **Registration and Commercial Exhibits**

6:30 - 10:00 **Ice Breaker/Registration/ Supplier Exhibits**
Appetizers/Cash Bar

Come and break the ice

Things to do in Prince George:

PRT-Red Rock Nursery – Tour

Make arrangements with Hsaio Chiu (250) 963-9199 or email: hsaio.chiu@prt.com

PRT Quesnel Nursery - Tour

Make arrangements with Mike Belicic (250) 457-3012 or email: mike.belicic@prt.com

Ancient Forest - [Ancient Forest/Chun T'oh Whudujut Park | BC Parks](#)

Forest for the World: [Forests for the World | City of Prince George](#)

Railway/Forestry Museum - [Home - Central BC Railway & Forestry Museum](#)

For more check out Tourism Prince George: [Explore | Tourism Prince George](#)

Wednesday September 23rd, 2026

7:00 - 8:00 **Continental Breakfast, Registration and Commercial Exhibits**

8:00 - 8:20 **Welcome and Opening Remarks**
Elder Lenora White, Lheidli T'enneh First Nation
Simon Yu, Mayor, Prince George
Christina Lavoie, President, FNABC

8:20 – 9:00 **Kona Van Diest – BCTS - Use of JRP (Zoom)**

9:00 - 9:30 **Siriol Paquet - Sylvan Vale Nursery**– Native Plant Production and Alternative Species beyond Conventional Forestry Selection

9:30 - 10:00 **Les Baker - Lheidli T'enneh First Nation** – Native plants and traditional land stewardship

10:00 - 10:30 **Coffee Break and Commercial Exhibits**

10:30 - 11:00 **Mike Tasker - WorkSafe BC** – So You Have a Combustible Dust, What's Next?

11:00 - 11:30 **D'anais Jacques – AgSafe** - Growing Safety: Addressing Today's Safety Challenges in Forest Seedling Nurseries

11:30 - 12:00 **Art Moeller– BCTS** -History of Forest Seedling Nurseries -World and BC Perspective

12:00 - 1:00 **Lunch Break and Commercial Exhibits**

1:00 – 1:30 **Hardy Griesbauer – BCTS** - Guinnessometrics: a framework to test new tree species for reforestation in central British Columbia

1:30 – 2:00 **Leigh Fox – Mikro-Tek Inc.** – Mycorrhizal fungi, commercial forestry, and forest restoration

2:30 - 3:00 **Coffee Break and Commercial Exhibits**

3:00 - 3:30 **Rob Schuetz – Industrial Forestry Services** - BC Forest Industry Outlook: Global Markets and Provincial Pressures

3:30 - 4:00 **Doug Hevenor – Canadian Tree Nursery Association** - Where Are We Now?

4:00 - 5:00 **FNABC Business Meeting** - everyone welcome to attend

6:00 - 10:00 **BANQUET** : Chief Forester's Award; Green Timbers Award; Entertainment

Thursday September 24th, 2026

7:00 - 8:00 **Continental Breakfast, Registration and Commercial Exhibits**

8:00 - 8:05 **Introduction/ House Keeping – Christina Lavoie – FNABC President**

8:05 - 8:40 **Rebecca Larsson – Sveaskog Sweden** - Insight for disease management-dynamics of seedborne, airborne and foliar fungal communities in Swedish forest nurseries

8:40 - 9:10 **Laura Feeny – Health Canada** - Health Canada's Pesticide Compliance Program: Who We Are, What We Do & What's New

9:10 - 9:40 **Mario Lanthier– CropHealth Advising & Research** - Update on pesticide safety practices

9:40 - 10:00 **Supplier Forum**

10:00 - 10:30 **Coffee Break and Commercial Exhibits**

10:30 – 11:00 **Dave Kolotelo - MOF Tree Seed Centre – Seedy Updates Focusing on Seedlot Variability**

11:00 - 11:30 **Vanessa Foord - BC Ministry of Forests** - Drought Analysis Update

11:30 – 11:50 **Suppliers Passport Prizes**

11:50 - 12:00 **Conference wrap-up and special announcements**

12:00 – 5:00 **Field Trip (Lunch on Buses):**

JD Little Forest Centre Nursery (Canfor)& Industrial Forestry Service (IFS) Nursery

Return to Prestige Treasure Cove Resort by 5:00pm

FNABC 2026 Presenters

Wednesday September 23rd, 2026

Kona Van Diest – BCTS - Use of JRP (Zoom)

Biography: Kona is a Seedling Specialist with the Government of British Columbia, where she manages seed inventories for British Columbia Timber Sales (BCTS) and oversees seedling production contracts for both the Forest Investment Program and BCTS. She also provides technical support to BCTS foresters throughout the coast region. With more than three decades of experience in silviculture, Kona has worked extensively in forest regeneration, including conducting surveys, implementing planting programs, and supporting a wide range of reforestation initiatives. She is an active member of the Forest Genetics Council and serves on the BCTS Silviculture Working Group, contributing her expertise to the advancement of sustainable forest management practices in British Columbia.

Siriol Paquet - Sylvan Vale Nursery– Native Plant Production and Alternative Species beyond Conventional Forestry Selection

Biography: Siriol has been with Sylvan Vale Nursery since its establishment in 1980. One of her many roles includes ensuring the successful execution of growing contracts from start to finish. Siriol has extensive experience working with clients from diverse backgrounds and understands the requirements for successfully projects. She oversees a 20,000 sq. ft. growing space, including 46 greenhouses, and manages the production of over 7 million plants annually.

Siriol holds a diploma in Production Horticulture from Old College and continuously expands her knowledge by attending online webinars and relevant conferences. Over the years, she has presented various seedling topics to organizations like the Vancouver Island Woodlot Association, the White Bark Pine Ecosystem Foundation, and the Coastal Silviculture Committee. She has been a director of the BCCA Association, Agro-Forestry Advisory Committee, and the BW Aphid Committee. She is currently a director of the FNABC and CTNA task team.

Les Baker - Lheidli T'enneh First Nation – Native plants and traditional land stewardship

Biography: Les is a prominent Lheidli T'enneh First Nation Elder and Land Guardian who lives on the Shelley Southside reserve near Prince George, British Columbia. He brings decades of experience to environmental preservation, traditional land stewardship, and community service. After a 35-year career in the sawmill industry in Vanderhoof, he retired in 2021 as a saw filer and turned his full attention to safeguarding traditional territories.

Mike Tasker - WorkSafe BC – So You Have a Combustible Dust, What's Next?

Biography: Mike works as Supervisor, High Hazard Operations, Risk Management and Compliance. with WorkSafeBC. Mike has been an Officer of the Board for over 27 years and is a Canadian Registered Safety Professional. Mike is the supervisor of WorkSafeBC's Process Safety Team which examines potential for catastrophic events in complex manufacturing facilities and has worked extensively with issues related to combustible dust since 2012. Mike sits on the development committee for the combustible dust regulation coming into effect in January 2027

D'anais Jacques – AgSafe - Growing Safety: Addressing Today's Safety Challenges in Forest Seedling Nurseries

Biography: "D'anais is the AgSafeBC Safety Consultant for the Cariboo, North Chilcotin, and Pacific Northwest regions and an External Auditor with the BC Forest Safety Council. Before joining AgSafeBC, she managed safety programs for a forest seedling nursery and had various roles including Cold Storage Coordinator, providing her with firsthand knowledge of nursery operations. Drawing on experience across agriculture, forestry, mining, oil and gas, and construction, she is passionate about helping employers build strong safety cultures through practical, collaborative approaches."

Art Moeller– BCTS -History of Forest Seedling Nurseries -World and BC Perspective

Biography: Art graduated from the Forestry Technical program at Sault College, Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario and received an Associate Diploma in Agriculture, Specialization in Horticulture at the University of Guelph. He has been involved with Forest Seedling Nurseries since 1988, approx. 33 years overall. He started as a grower in Kirkland Lake, Ontario at a government nursery and was Cold Storage Manager, assisted in shipping, research and filling private orders.

In 1997, Art joined Extension Services at the MOF Green Timbers Nursery as one of 2 growers who grew crops for research with: our in-house specialists, provincial tree specialists, and professors from UBC, Simon Fraser and UVic. In 2002, Art joined Seedling Services(then Nursery Services) in Surrey, and 2009 transferred to Vernon. His roles are to inspect crops for the Ministry, and perform Storability Testing, RGC testing and Cold Storage Monitoring and Thaw Inspections.

Hardy Griesbauer – BCTS - Guinessometrics: a framework to test new tree species for reforestation in central British Columbia

Biography: Hardy has worked as a Research Silvicultural Ecologist with the Ministry of Forests since 2018. He is based in Prince George and conducts silviculture research across northern British Columbia on topics including assisted migration of tree species, partial harvest silviculture systems and forest vulnerability to drought.

Leigh Fox – Mikro-Tek Inc. – Mycorrhizal fungi, commercial forestry, and forest restoration: The Mikro-Tek inoculation technology and a 60 million tree pilot project delivered through forest seedling nurseries across Canada

Biography: Leigh is a forestry professional from BC, an impact investor, and finance specialist that has worked with Indigenous communities around the world for the past 25 years. Leigh is currently supporting the Mikro-Tek IRAP project to inoculate and plant 53 million trees across the country as a technology commercialization project. Mikro-Tek is also piloting solutions and strategies for post-fire restoration and industrial mitigation using mycorrhizal fungi. Leigh will lead this effort, and Mikro-Tek, going forward in partnership with Indigenous Nations across the country that are sharing knowledge and asserting jurisdiction over above-ground and sub-surface ecosystem health and productivity.

Rob Schuetz – Industrial Forestry Services - BC Forest Industry Outlook: Global Markets and Provincial Pressures

Biography: Rob is President and Managing Director of Industrial Forestry Service Ltd. (IFS), a privately held, multidisciplinary forest consulting firm and forest seedling producer based in Prince George, British Columbia. Established in 1952, IFS employs more than 100 people.

Rob joined IFS in 1988 after earning a BSc. in Forestry from the University of Toronto. He became President in 2010 and is a RPF with the Association of BC Forest Professionals. During his 38 years with IFS, Rob has held roles spanning forest engineering, remote sensing, timber supply analysis, seedling production, business management and general forestry consulting. Rob has completed more than 200 timber supply analyses and over 70 bioenergy and fibre-supply due diligence assessments across Canada. He advises industry, governments, First Nations and investors on forest-resource strategy, valuation and investment decisions.

Doug Hevenor – Canadian Tree Nursery Association - Where Are We Now?

Biography: Doug is the Executive Director of the Canadian Tree Nursery Association. His experience spans conservation management, forestry restoration, seedling production, wetlands development and project consulting with extensive experience in plant propagation. Doug studied Leadership at Royal Roads University, Victoria, BC after studying Horticulture at the University of Guelph and the Niagara Parks Commission School of Horticulture in Ontario.

Thursday September 24th, 2026

Rebecca Larsson – Sveaskog Sweden - Insight for disease management-dynamics of seedborne, airborne and foliar fungal communities in Swedish forest nurseries

Biography: Rebecca is located in Sweden and has a Master of Forestry. She started as an industrial PhD student at Sveaskog and did my PhD studies within the field of forest pathology and specifically studied fungal communities in forest nurseries with the aim of improving disease management methods. Her current position at Sveaskog Sweden is as a Cultivation Specialist. She works on project management and research development regarding the cultivation of seedlings (e.g., IPM, growing media, cultivation of “new” tree species, cultivation management methods).

Laura Feeny – Health Canada - Health Canada’s Pesticide Compliance Program: Who We Are, What We Do & What’s New

Biography: Laura has spent the past 20 years working at the intersection of agriculture and science, including the last 14 years as a Regional Pesticide Officer with Health Canada. Before joining Health Canada, she conducted research with Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada and the Okanagan Sterile Insect Release Program, studying pheromone-based mating disruption in apple orchards. Laura holds an honours degree in microbiology from the University of British Columbia.

Mario Lanthier– CropHealth Advising & Research - Update on pesticide safety practices

Biography: Mario's company provides services related to pest management and plant health to various sectors of horticulture in British Columbia. Mario was part of the committee in the early 1990s that drafted regulations on pesticide use for WorkSafeBC. This year, he is reviewing published research to update the publication "Standard Practices for Pesticide Applicators". This presentation will examine topics that will be of interest to the audience.

Dave Kolotelo - MOF Tree Seed Centre – Seed Topics TBD

Biography: Dave has been working at the provincial Tree Seed Centre for the past 34 years conducting research and extension, assisting with tree seed problem solving, operational efficiency improvements and successfully avoiding management. Interested in tree seed science and technology and advocacy into investments in research, education and infrastructure to maintain and enhance these essential seed technology services at the global level. He enjoys gardening, travelling, photography, hiking and beach volleyball.

Vanessa Foord - BC Ministry of Forests - Drought Analysis Update

Biography: Vanessa is a Research Climatologist at the B.C. Ministry of Forests. She has over 20 years of experience monitoring and analyzing the climates of northern B.C. and most of her research aims to understand how climate change relates to forest disturbances. She is a Professional Agrologist, has a Master of Science degree in Earth Science and a Bachelor of Science degree in Environmental Science. She lives in Prince George with her husband, two teenagers, and a dog and enjoys exploring the province.

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