



Forest Enhancement
Society of BC



BC FIRST NATIONS
**FORESTRY
COUNCIL**

September 22, 2025

Dear Directors,

Everything is connected—the land, the water, and the sky; the plants, wildlife, fish, and people; the environment, the economy, and culture.

Earlier this year in Penticton, we listened together to the protocols of the Syilx (Okanagan) people, who, since time immemorial, have cared for their land and its resources by following three deceptively simple rules:

1. Take only what you need,
2. Use what you take, and
3. Give back what you can.

As foresters, we both know that as a province we have sometimes fallen short of these objectives when it comes to forest management. Yet we have also seen incredible strides made toward sustainability and a renewed focus on centring the practice of forestry around resilience. We know—from our training and experience, and from the wisdom of those who came before us—that resilience comes from maintaining and growing connections and, where necessary, repairing them.

The work highlighted in this Special Report shows the power of connection to drive innovation, improve stewardship, and support reconciliation. It centres on the work of Indigenous people engaged in the continual care of their traditional territories, in modern ways that link stewardship to benefiting both people and the environment—not choosing between them.

The projects featured demonstrate taking only what is needed to reduce the risk of wildfire, using what is taken to create jobs and products while minimizing wood waste, and giving back through effort and investment to foster more resilient forests and communities.

There is more work to do—and we are proud to tell the stories of the people who are already doing it.

Jason Fisher



Executive Director
Forest Enhancement Society of BC

Lennard Joe



CEO
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