



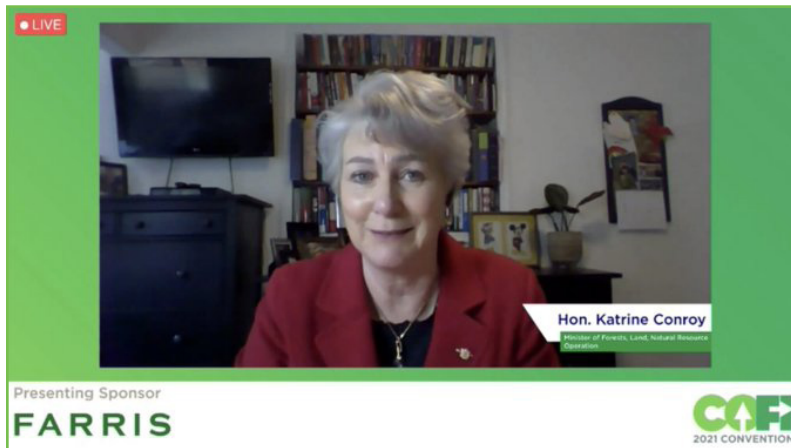
BC COUNCIL
OF FOREST
INDUSTRIES

2021 VIRTUAL CONVENTION

COFI Convention 2021 Conclusion

By Susan Yurkovich, president of the BC Council of Forest Industries

Well, we've had a jam- packed morning.



We were pleased to kick it off by welcoming **Minister Katrine Conroy** to her first COFI Convention this morning. In the few short months since her appointment, the Minister has jumped in, dug into files. We appreciate her comments this morning that the forest sector has always been a cornerstone of BC's economy and a bright light as we look forward to both employment and economic recovery.

We know there is a desire to make some changes to further increase the opportunity our sector holds. We look forward to working with

the Minister, government, nations, and others to do that important work while ensuring we continue to have a healthy, sustainable sector that can provide benefits to all British Columbians.

I am so grateful to **Ambassador Hillman** for sharing her perspectives with us. She described the "Team Canada Approach" we have taken on important files like softwood as "our superpower" in dealing with our friends in U.S. She expressed confidence that if we keep working together, we'll find the long-standing solutions that we all need to resolve these complex issues for the forest sector, and for all the communities and workers who depend on it. She also reminded us to boldly highlight the carbon benefits of our products with our customers and to take advantage that the new administration in the



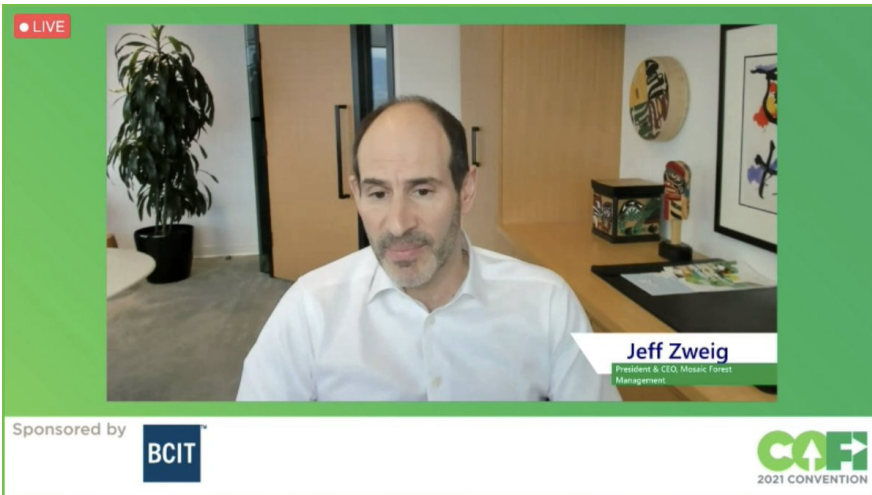
U.S. is focusing on housing and the green economy – a place where Canada is well positioned to help. Smart, strategic, experienced, and accessible. Ambassador Hillman is a huge asset to our country and to our industry. I know she will continue to make a positive difference for Canada and hopefully in time find a positive way forward on the notoriously challenging softwood lumber file – something we would all welcome.

I want to express my thanks again to **BC Regional Chief Terry Teegee** who joined us today from Prince George to discuss a path forward for reconciliation. Chief Teegee is helping to lead important work in our province and his presentation provided great context for this work. He reminded us that in advancing DRIPA, it is important for all of us to know that it's not about a veto but about creating the space for dialogue, input and to collaborate on decision-making - to build a positive path forward. We all look forward to continuing that work.



Thanks to **Shannon Janzen** for moderating a great discussion with **Chief Councillor Robert Dennis, Brian Butler** and **Don Demens**. Brian Butler made the important point that a key component of any partnership relationship is mutual respect, and the USW, Western and Huu-ay-aht First Nations have shown mutual respect from the beginning as they advanced this work. I know we all need to heed Brian's advice to encourage other unions, along with industry, to work with First Nations partners to see what can be done, and to get those conversations started. Don Demens was super clear that part of building that relationship requires a lot of listening and learning about each other – it's so important for finding a way forward. And a good reminder for all the relationships we have in our business and in our life. And Chief Dennis, I want to really thank him for being with us today, for his leadership in his community, for pushing us to be better. There are many take-aways from your remarks but for me it was underscoring that while putting reconciliation into action is about partnership on stewardship and sustainable forest management. But it's also about getting people working in well-paying, sustainable jobs.





Following the break, Greater Vancouver Board of Trade CEO Bridgitte Anderson moderated a great discussion with the CEOs of Canfor, West Fraser, and Mosaic Forest Management. That discussion covered the whole waterfront on the industry but would just underscore a couple of points. I totally agree with **Jeff Zweig** who said it's an exciting time to be in the forest sector with contributions that BC products are making in the fight against climate change.



Ray Ferris underscored that the forest industry of today is not the industry of 30 years ago. It's about hiring app developers, data analysts, and technology professionals. Today's industry is about advancing initiatives related to environmental, social, and governance values ... and continuing to work on diversity throughout the sector and we see that work in our member companies.



And **Don Kayne** concluded by saying the future for the sector is absolutely bright as we look to provide our products to the world that attract the next generation of forest workers and create a positive benefit for the planet.



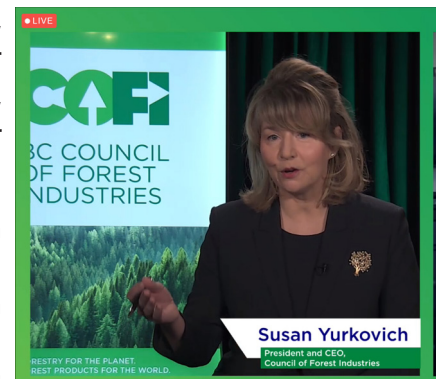
Following a long-standing tradition, we were pleased to welcome back **Premier John Horgan** to deliver the closing keynote. I couldn't agree more with the Premier's comments that we need to make sure that the forest industry thrives so that British Columbians can thrive. I think you heard his desire to work with all kinds of partners ... with communities, with First Nations, with industry to ensure that we have an industry that is diverse, that is competitive and that is sustainable.

I believe that will improve certainty in the industry, but we have to make sure that benefits everybody, including First Nations as full partners. And I believe all of that work can be done ... and has to be done ... working together in partnership.

We share the Premier's excitement about the opportunities ahead. There are challenges to be sure. But if we all put our shoulder to the wheel, we can look forward to a modernized forest sector that's going to continue to provide benefits to British Columbians for many, many generations to come, including the students who are joining us today.

In closing, I want to again express my thanks first of all to all of our speakers, and to our sponsors for supporting the virtual format this year. To our presenting sponsor, Farris, this morning's panel, and keynote sponsors: CN, PwC, Canadian Wood Council, BCIT and KPMG. And Jet Label and Canfor for supporting SLIDO and our student participants, respectively.

Finally, we will be very excited to welcome you all back to an in-person convention next year in Vancouver ... at the Parq Marriott from April 27-29, 2022. Please mark your calendars and make plans to re-connect with friends and colleagues at an exhibitor's booth or over a beer. I know we will all look forward to that. That concludes our convention program. Thank you again for your participation and enjoy the rest of your day.



Thank you!

Save the Date for next year:

2022 COFI Convention
April 27-29, 2022
JW Marriott Parq Vancouver

