

“Making Positive Change In the Local Forest Economy”

Workshop Presenter and Panel Member Biographies

Chris Ortner, Bridges II

Chris Ortner is a Mediator, Forester, and Economic Development Specialist living in Kamloops.

Chris was born and graduated from high school in Coquitlam, BC. After attending BCIT, and UBC (Forestry), Chris moved to Sechelt with his wife Barb, where they started their family (3 sons). Chris managed a forestry company and small sawmill, and volunteered for Community Futures Business Development.

Work opportunities brought Chris and Barb to Kamloops in 1991, a place they knew well from many visits over the years. Chris worked as Woodlands Manager for Adams Lake Lumber, where he was responsible for all lands and timber tributary to the mill. In 1995, Chris changed jobs, and became a senior manager with the Provincial Government, responsible for land related investments in the Southern Interior, and Research investments throughout BC.

In 2000, Chris completed a Masters program at Royal Roads University, and began his current career in Economic Development and Mediation through his own firm, Cirque Resources.

Hugh Watt, True North Forestry Consulting

Hugh Watt is a Forestry consultant, woodlot owner, market logger and general manager of Nakusp and Area Community Forest Inc. (NACFOR). He is a late blooming husband and father of three young kids and lives just down the road in Nakusp. He enjoys working with wood and rock and has finished his home with a variety of local materials.

Brent Petrick

Worked in the Kootenay Region Forestry Sector for 20+ yrs.

Involved in the planning, development and operational aspects of timber harvesting.

Family owned woodlot and management of private forest lands for the last 15 years.

Marvin Lloyd Funk, FP Innovations

Marvin Funk has been working in the forest and wood products sectors for 55 years starting out in logging, then moving to maintenance and for the last 50 years in management.

Marvin started many new Green-field operations that used his expertise in organization, process and systems development. These included flow plan designs and the development of Task-specific machinery for the value added sector.

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He has a certificates in lumber grading and other related disciplines that led to some significant recognitions of achievement in the industry.

His extensive experience took him to international destinations, Romania, Russia, Australia and Ireland to assist companies in developing their own businesses.

More recently he has been working with FP Innovations in delivering technical advisory services to BC First nations groups that Wish to turn their own forest resources into viable businesses and generate jobs and self-sustainability.

He strongly advocates that small companies should steer more to specialty proprietary products and away from commodity items such as 2x4's and 6's.

Dan Wiebe, Box Lake Lumber

Dan Wiebe was born and raised in Nakusp. Dan started his work career in his father's shake mill as a cuberman and millwright.

In 1993 Dan dismantled Ymir Forest Products mill and re-built it in Nakusp as Box Lake Lumber Products. Dan worked in the mill as a millwright in the construction phase and continued as sawyer and lumber grader in the later years.

The sawmill burned down in 1998 leaving 15 people unemployed. In 1999 Dan took over from his father to start a new venture as a cedar post and rail mill. The concept was to take low grade cedar logs, which were being burnt on the landings and processing them into split rail fencing.

Box Lake currently employs 40 people on two shifts, manufacturing cedar split rail fencing, gates, arbours, bark mulch, wood chips, shingles and shake blocks. Last year they added a fully automated bagging facility, complete with a robotic stacker.

Most of the mill's product is currently shipped to the US but they are expanding their Canadian markets and also ship worldwide via containers to Denmark, Germany, Japan and Sweden.

Dan and his wife Sandi have enjoyed raising their two children in the wonderful community of Nakusp.

Dave Madden, Madden Timber

Born and raised in Nakusp, Dave started Madden Timber Construction Inc in 2006. Seeing steady growth, Madden Timber employs between 3 and 6 carpenters annually, building finished

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timber products from full houses to timber stairs and custom doors. As a member of the Timber Framers Guild, and Carpenters Fellowship, Dave has worked on traditional timberframe projects in the US and Europe. Madden Timber sources local logs and uses around 80000 board feet of timbers annually; A wood-waste boiler is used to heat their 4000 sq ft joinery shop.

Linda Tynan, Village of Nakusp CAO

Linda Tynan is the Chief Administrative Officer for the Village of Nakusp. She has held this position since January 2011. Linda holds a Bachelor of Business Administration and is a Certified General Accountant. Prior to working in Nakusp, Linda was the Director of Corporate Services and Chief Financial Officer at the City of Nelson. She is very involved in local government development in BC sitting on the Board of Directors for Government Finance Officers of BC and CivicInfo with a particular interest in local government in rural communities. In her spare time, Linda leads an active life outdoors enjoying ski touring, windsurfing and cycling.

Scott Olsen, Olympic Industries

Scott Olsen is young yet, only 25 years old!. He was born in Northern Alberta, where the closest town to the farm was 20 miles away, a French community of 1600 people.

After graduating high school at 16 years old, Scott went to play Junior A hockey and encountered a career ending injury, so went to the University of Alberta in Edmonton, where he started with Engineering, and then transferred over to Business.

Scott then worked in a few different fields, including the flooring industry where he was the marketing Representative covering a territory from Winnipeg to Vancouver. He loved the west so much he decided to make BC his home 2 years ago and has been with Olympic Industries in Vancouver ever since, marketing lumber to the world.

Scott is a boxer, a fisherman and a lumber trader! These are his passions.....not necessarily in that order.

Scott is always looking for new opportunities to expand the business within Olympic, which is the reason why he is here in Nakusp today.

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David Dubois, Project Coordinator, Wood Waste to Rural Heat Project of Community Future East Kootenay

David Dubois brings a diverse background of skills including technical, finance, and marketing. He has a number of years of experience developing a biomass heating sector in British Columbia working as the project coordinator for the Wood Waste to Rural Heat project (previously the Green Heat Initiative) of Community Futures East Kootenay. In that role he conducted nearly 20 technical feasibility analyses and economic analyses of biomass heating and district energy systems for a variety of First Nations, local governments, schools, health care facilities and businesses. The systems ranged from single buildings to the entire heat demand for a 300 person remote First Nation Community.

He is currently working with UBC and the Community Energy Association researching how biomass from Wildfire Mitigation can be used as fuel system for district heating. He organized, led and presented in over half a dozen bioenergy conferences and sessions including presentations at the 2012 Chemical Engineering conference, 2011 and 2012 Canadian Bioenergy Association Conference, 2012 Federation of Canadian Municipalities Webinar (Lillooet Case Study) 2013 BC Sustainable Energy Association Webinar (Biomass Heating: This Ain't Your Grandpa's Woodstove)

He has also worked as an advisor and consultant on a variety of aspects of projects including initial project identification, evaluation and finally deployment and authored a number of documents related to biomass heating including a Case study of the Lillooet Bioenergy project. Prior to work in the biomass heating sector he worked in the commercial finance industry as an auditor evaluating credit risk and collateral condition for GE Commercial Distribution Finance. He also worked doing research designing biomass filtration devices for use in the agriculture, pulp and paper, and oil and gas sector.

He attended the University of Alberta in Edmonton and received a degree in Chemical Engineering.

Greg Neelin, Selkirk College

Manager for Contract Training and Community Education, Selkirk College, Castlegar.