



ROBSON NORTH THOMPSON FORESTRY COALITION

NEWSLETTER

Welcome to the first newsletter from the Robson North Thompson Forestry Coalition.

This coalition was formed to strengthen collaboration across our region, helping us make better use of locally harvested forestry fibre, support local manufacturing, and sustain the communities that depend on forestry. Today, that idea is taking shape through practical work, new connections, and a shared commitment to a more resilient local forest economy.

Over the past months, the coalition has brought together First Nations (led by Simpcw First Nation), community forests, industry, manufacturers, and local governments. Together, we are focused on improving how fibre flows through the region, strengthening value-added opportunities, and building the relationships needed to increase the values seen from harvesting timber locally.

2026 Workplan: In 2026, the coalition will be focused on the following goals:

- Improve / optimize local fibre flow and exchange between vendors and manufacturers
- Encourage Value Added Manufacturing and improved utilization
- Increase participation / effectiveness (in the coalition) from those who rely on a thriving local forest economy
- Support BCTS to establish local opportunities to enable 2025 BCTS Review findings

This newsletter is one way we'll keep that work visible and connected. In this issue, you'll find an introduction to new initiatives like Wood First Wednesday and a look at the tools and partnerships we're building — **including our new website**.

We also want this to reflect the community. In future editions, we'll highlight local manufacturers, share stories from across the sector, and provide space for ideas, opportunities, and collaboration. If you have content, photos, or stories to contribute, we'd like to hear from you.

In the months ahead, you can expect continued progress on improving fibre access and exchange, expanding connections across the region, and developing practical tools to support businesses and communities.

If you'd like more information, please feel free to reach out, through our new website contact.

Thank you for being part of this effort!

Sincerely,

Paul Rasmussen, FOR: The Robson and North Thompson Forestry Coalition

WHAT IS WOOD FIRST WEDNESDAY?

The concept is based on an existing format hosted by The Wood Innovation Group (TWIG <https://twigbc.ca/>) in various locations in Vancouver, Victoria and Squamish to bring together wood professionals on a consistent basis for conversation and connection. WFW is unique in its simplicity: no agenda, no talks, and no sponsorship. It's an informal space for people working in and around wood to build meaningful relationships and exchange knowledge.

Our locally based version will extend a broad invitation to the local wood community – from forestry tenure holders, First Nations communities & FireSmart proponents, to local forestry contractors and manufacturers, artisans and craftspeople. We envision a recurring event to network, share stories/ideas and strengthen awareness of the regional wood-based economy.

When/Where

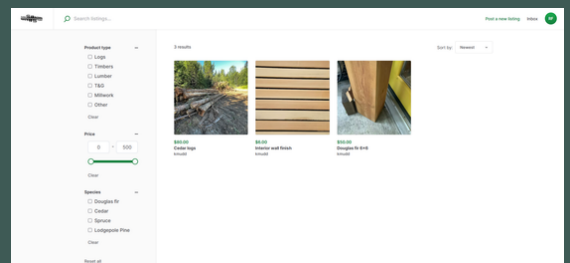
Our first WFW event is planned for May 6th in Clearwater, and it will take place at the Quality Inn Breakfast Room. From there, we hope to alternate monthly meeting locations between Clearwater and Barriere in the southern region, and if successful, expand the concept to Valemount/McBride in the fall.

ONLINE TOOLS FOR CONNECTION AND MARKETING

Could an online marketing platform help increase local wood fibre flow? And if so, what form should this take? We're exploring two potential tools and would value your input on their usefulness for our community.

Directory - A business listing service on the Coalition website, connecting local forestry professionals and resources. Similar to Boreal Springboard's sector mapping tool that shows Northwestern Ontario's forest industry landscape. Example: [Boreal Springboard](#)

Marketplace - A platform for posting specific opportunities and facilitating transactions.



Would you find these tools useful and how would you see yourself using them? Contact Kim at info@rntforestrycoalition.ca

Mission

Enable and support local processing of harvested logs within the region, fostering local capacity building, community employment, and sustainable development through cooperation and partnerships amongst our members.

Vision

Thriving economy, people, communities and environment.





INTRODUCING THE RNTFC WEBSITE

We're pleased to introduce the website for the Robson North Thompson Forestry Coalition, a dedicated digital platform for this collaborative initiative focused on optimizing fibre use, strengthening regional value-added manufacturing, building local capacity, and fostering community employment and sustainable development.



Current Functionality

The website currently serves as the coalition's online home, featuring:

- Information about the coalition's structure, with membership from Simpcw First Nation and Simpcw Resources Group, five community forests, municipal representatives, value-added manufacturers, and industry representatives
- Updates on key initiatives
- Recognition of the coalition's achievements, including the Simpcw First Nation's 2025 Collaboration Award from the First Nations Forestry Council

Future Development

The coalition is planning several enhancements to the website, including:

- Access to the recently developed directory containing fibre flow information for manufacturers, tenure holders, and supporting members
- Industry resources for others in the forestry sector
- A members-only section with contact information for various groups
- Future development of an online marketplace for value-added wood products

The coalition was initiated by the Simpcw First Nation and is funded by BCTS and the Ministry of Forests, representing a collaborative effort to strengthen regional forestry through partnership and innovation.

The website was developed in partnership with [TimberFox Business Solutions](#) to connect and share information across the forestry sector. For more information about how TimberFox Business Solutions helps organizations develop digital platforms and administrative solutions, visit [TimberFox Business Solutions on LinkedIn](#).

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VALUE-ADDED SECTOR GROWTH AND INNOVATION BRANCH

The Value-Added Sector Growth and Innovation (VASGI) Branch was formed in December 2025. Our work supports the growth of British Columbia's value-added forest sector by facilitating connections, navigating funding, providing data-driven insights, and advancing practical policy and planning solutions. We serve as a coordination and expertise hub for value-added sector growth and innovation within Ministry of Forests.

Our value-added regional specialists are here to support your business. For more information, contact [Erin Burgess](#) for the Coast Area, [Marley Chewter](#) for the southern interior (Kootenay-Boundary and Thompson-Okanagan regions), and [Aurora Lavender](#) for the north (Cariboo, Northeast, Omineca, and Skeena regions).

[Supports for Forestry Workers, Communities and Businesses](#)

BE PART OF BUILDING OUR REGIONAL FORESTRY FUTURE

Connect with us at info@rntforestrycoalition.ca or visit www.rntforestrycoalition.ca to learn how you can participate, contribute or collaborate.

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