

Community Forest Podiums

B.C. Community Forest Association

The podiums of the Vancouver 2010 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games
18 wood types. 23 podiums. Hundreds of stories.

The Podiums

Fourteen of the 23 podiums are built from wood donated by community forests. They are in use at almost every 2010 Olympic and Paralympic Games venue. The donated wood was harvested and milled near the communities of Bella Coola, Cheslatta Carrier Nation, Clearwater, Fort St. James, Houston, Ktunaxa Nation, Likely and Xat'sull First Nation, McBride, Mission, Powell River, Prince George, Revelstoke, Sechelt and the Westbank First Nation.

Community Forests

Community forests are a type of forest licence that allows communities to manage publicly owned provincial land to reflect local timber, water, recreation, wildlife and cultural values. There are more than 50 community forests operating or in the planning stages in British Columbia and the vast majority are in small communities, some with a few hundred residents. Community forests support employment and skills-development, deliver environmental stewardship, and promote partnerships amongst First Nations, towns and villages. Financial returns flow back to the community and are used to enhance recreation and tourism opportunities and facilities like parks, libraries and town halls.

Robin Hood, BCCFA President, involved with the community forest movement since 1998.

"Community forests are the "farmers market" of the forest industry. People looking for locally grown, responsibly harvested wood can come to us with specific orders, and know that they are supporting the local community."

British Columbia Community Forest Association

The British Columbia Community Forest Association (BCCFA) is a network of community-based organizations engaged in the development or management of community forests. Members represent towns, villages and First Nations that are committed to culturally, ecologically and economically sustainable forestry, and offer value-added companies a personal relationship with a secure, long-term wood supply. Members strive to create more value and jobs from each metre of wood, resulting in a stronger, more diverse local economy.



Jennifer Gunter, BCCFA Executive Director, has been studying and working in community forestry for 15 years and lives on a small yet productive farm in the mountains of South Eastern British Columbia.

"Community forestry celebrates the spirit of teamwork, community and stewardship. We are extremely proud of the B.C. community forests that are providing the Olympics with natural, beautiful wood for the podium project."

Susan Mulkey, BCCFA Manager, Communication and Extension. Susan was a founding director of the BCCFA and has worked for the organization since 2004. Susan also supplies local weddings, birthdays and the Kaslo Jazz Festival with huge bouquets from her garden.

"Communities are stepping up and shaping their own destinies through the management of local land and resources. The forests are managed in a very personal way."

Community Forest Film

The film features a short introduction to community forests in British Columbia and the profiles of six very different community forests, highlighting economic diversification, forest management, and benefits to the local community. The film can be viewed at www.bccfa.ca/community-forest-products.html. HDTV clips for rebroadcast are available from www.gov.bc.ca/for

Podium Production

British Columbia's Ministry of Forests and Range sourced the wood and co-ordinated podium production. The rough lumber was converted to panels at Metro Vancouver's Bayview Millworks, a high-end wood product manufacturer and distributor, and cut into complex shapes using sophisticated computer controlled machinery at the University of British Columbia's state-of-the-art Centre for Advanced Wood Processing. They were assembled at Canadian hardware retail leader RONA's Vancouver 2010 Fabrication Shop, a community-based training centre that teaches carpentry skills to new Canadians and at-risk youth.

British Columbia's Forest Sector

The wood podiums highlight the importance of forestry in British Columbia. The province is a global leader in sustainable forest management and the world's largest exporter of softwood lumber, paper and bio-energy products that help mitigate climate change and provide innovative solutions to green building and energy needs.

Contacts

Robin Hood, BCCFA President
250 790 2458
www.bccfa.ca

Jennifer Gunter, BCCFA Executive Director
250 353-2034

Susan Mulkey, BCCFA Manager,
Communication and Extension
250 353-2866

Ministry of Forests and Range
Province of British Columbia
250 387-8482

PABFOR.MediaRequests@gov.bc.ca

All 23 podium profiles, high definition video, and more information about British Columbia's forest sector are available at www.gov.bc.ca/for and www.naturallywood.com

