

NEWS RELEASE



1030-1188 West Georgia Street
Vancouver, BC V6E 4A2

Tel: 604.687.8027 Fax: 604.687.3264

E-mail: info@abcfp.ca

Web Site: www.abcfp.ca
Web Site: www.abcfp.ca

Fort St. John wins Forest Capital of BC 2009 title.

Vancouver, BC (December 16, 2008) – The Association of BC Forest Professionals (ABCFP) is proud to announce that we have awarded Fort St. John, The Energetic City, with ABCFP's Forest Capital of BC 2009 title.

"The Forest Capital of BC program is a great way for British Columbians to celebrate the economic, cultural, natural and historic contributions of forests to community life. BC's forests influence almost every aspect of life in this province. Our forests fuel the provincial economy, provide us with spectacular recreation areas and support the incredible natural diversity all around us," said Al Balogh, ABCFP President.

As the most important centre for enterprise in the northeast region of British Columbia, Fort St. John caters to the forestry sector. The forestry industry alone directly employs more than 700 people in this town of 18,000 and contributes over \$98 million per year to the local economy.

"This honor recognizes and celebrates the valuable role our forests play in the economic and environmental health of our community and we are thrilled to be named the 2009 Forest of BC" claimed new Mayor of Fort St. John Bruce Lantz.

Surrounded by a 4.5 million hectare forest, Fort St. John has embraced its responsibility as a guardian of the forest sector by developing the Fish Creek Community Forest and reforestation initiatives that have resulted in more than 50 million trees planted in the last 20 years.

Fort St. John has planned a variety of seasonal events to celebrate their Forest Capital status. This program includes a spring tree seedling distribution, opening ceremonies, and a summer forestry themed Family Fun in the Sun week.

The Association of BC Forest Professionals, established in 1947, is the largest professional forestry association in Canada with approximately 5,300 members. The association registers and regulates professional foresters and forest technologists under authority of the provincial Foresters Act.

For more information:

Amanda Brittain, ABC
Director of Communications
Association of BC Forest Professionals
Cell: 778.233.1169
Direct: 604.331.2321
E-mail: abrittain@abcfp.ca

For more information:

Lorna Crouse
Community Development Coordinator
City of Fort St. John
Direct: 250.787.5791
E-mail: lcrouse@fortstjohn.ca