

British Columbia's forest genetics program: the top 10 reasons for success

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Abstract: Tree Improvement in BC has a long history industry-government-academic cooperation dating back to 1959 with the formation of the Plus Tree Board. Since 1998, conservation, tree breeding, genecology, seed production and related activities have been coordinated under the auspices of the Forest Genetics Council of British Columbia (FGC), a multi-stakeholder advisory body appointed by the Provincial Chief Forester. SelectSeed Co. Ltd, established in 1999, helps FGC achieve its goal of increasing future timber supply by producing select seed (via contracts with 5 independent companies) and selling it to government programs and forest tenure holders. Brian's presentation will outline FGC's current strategies, goals and accomplishments, and highlight several initiatives underway in response to climate change, forest health issues, and other challenges. His presentation will also feature a Top 10 list of reasons for BC's forest genetics program's success.

Bio: Brian is Program Manager, Forest Genetics Council of BC (FGC), and CEO, SelectSeed Co. Ltd., which is wholly owned by the FGC. Prior to starting his new role in Nov. 2016 (replacing Jack Woods), Brian worked for the BC Public Service for 25 years. During the previous nine years, he served as Director, Tree Improvement Branch, BC Ministry of Forests Lands and Natural Resource Operations, and Co-chair, FGC. Brian obtained his Bachelor of Science from UBC Forestry in 1987. In October of the same year, he was attacked by a black bear while conducting silviculture surveys north of Prince George. Following some 'repairs', he worked in Japan and cycled through SE Asia, Australia and New Zealand with his future wife. In 1992, they moved to Victoria to raise their family and resume his forestry career. In 2007, he earned a Masters of Arts in Environment and Management from Royal Roads University. His thesis was on policy barriers and opportunities for adapting BC's forests to climate change. He is an active member of the Association of BC Forest Professionals, Canadian Institute of Forestry, and several community groups.

Further information:

Forest Genetics Council of BC website: <http://www.fgcouncil.bc.ca>