



## NEWS RELEASE

### BCFA proud to showcase Women in Forestry

CAMPBELL RIVER, B.C., October 2, 2020 – The BC Forestry Alliance is proud to showcase *Women in Forestry* through all our social media channels this week.

The Women in Forestry showcase pays tribute to the key but often under-appreciated role that women from all backgrounds and walks of life have played in forming the modern forestry sector.

Link: <https://www.bcforestryalliance.ca/women-in-forestry>

“Women have always played an important part in the history of logging,” says BCFA board member Nancy Ponting. “But especially as a modern, high-tech sector, almost every facet of the work from site safety to forestry science reflects more career opportunities for young people and especially women in the field.”

The BC Forestry Alliance’s mission is to protect the working forest through an official designation. This will protect jobs, families, and forestry towns by raising public awareness and providing more stability.

Ponting says that high forestry wages allow women increased security in an increasingly uncertain economy.

Forestry women are growing concerned about official statistics showing that:

- B.C. logging jobs fell every year for the past four years.<sup>1</sup>
- During the peak of covid in B.C., women were more likely than men to lose their jobs.<sup>2</sup>

In the present provincial election campaign, Ponting says forest communities “want to hear from candidates that women should be able to earn decent wages in the forest industry. We want to hear their plans for putting women – and men too – back to work in the woods.”

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<sup>2</sup> [https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/data/statistics/employment-labour-market/lfs\\_data\\_tables.pdf](https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/data/statistics/employment-labour-market/lfs_data_tables.pdf)

Forestry is now the largest natural resource sector employer on Vancouver Island and the Coast, supporting more than 21,000 local jobs and \$1.4B in direct incomes, according to the most recent audit.<sup>3</sup>

Ponting says the “modern forestry sector is completely different from that in the past and that the opportunities for young women in today’s industry are endless.”

For more information check out <https://www.bcforestryalliance.ca>

FOR INTERVIEWS PLEASE CONTACT:

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I am the proud  
second  
generation of  
my family to  
work in the  
forest industry



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NANCY PONTING, CAMPBELL RIVER

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<sup>3</sup> PriceWaterhouseCoopers. (2019). British Columbia’s Forest Industry and the Regional Economies. Produced for the Council of Forestry Industries. [https://www.cofi.org/wpcontent/uploads/FINAL-COFI-Regional-Economic-Impact-Study\\_Final\\_March2019-2.pdf](https://www.cofi.org/wpcontent/uploads/FINAL-COFI-Regional-Economic-Impact-Study_Final_March2019-2.pdf)