

Bios for the 2025 Future of Forestry Think Tank

Presenters

Josh Pressey, RPF is currently the Regional Executive Director for the Cariboo Region at the Ministry of Forests. He was the District Manager for the Quesnel Natural Resources District for 6 years from 2015 and the Nadina Natural Resources District for 5 years from 2010. He has a Forest Technology diploma from Sir Sandford Flemming College in Lindsay, Ontario.

Geneve Jasper, RPF PAg is currently the acting strategic land manager for the Quesnel natural resource district at the Ministry of Forests. She has worked in forest planning for 8 years between the Ministry of Forests and industry. She was the regional agrologist for the Cariboo region for 9 years. She has a Bachelor of Science degree in Natural resource conservation from the University of British Columbia in Vancouver, BC.

Chief Leah Stump is the elected Chief of Nazko First Nation, a role she has held for over five years. Born and raised in Nazko, she is deeply committed to her community and passionate about Indigenous leadership, representation, and lifelong learning. Leah holds a Bachelor of Education and previously taught in School District 28 before moving into leadership. She is also involved in regional boards and organizations, and will begin a Master's in Indigenous Business Leadership in the fall.

Chief Clifford Lebrun is the Chief of the Lhtako Dene Nation here in Quesnel, Chief Lebrun has been Chief on and off 14 of the last 18 years and the community has been flourishing under his leadership with the building of several new homes, a Family Centre, Long House, Heath Centre and most recently a powwow arbor. Chief Lebrun is a former logger and truck driver and understands how important a working forest is to all of us.

Chief Troy Baptiste is the elected Chief of ?Esdilagh First Nation and is serving his second term.

Nick Pickles is General Manager of the Three Rivers Community Forest and leads the timber development team at Consus Management. Based in Williams Lake, he brings over a decade of forestry experience delivering cross-sector projects. He and his team work closely with communities, First Nations, and industry partners to develop and implement harvest strategies, fuel management, rehabilitation, infrastructure projects, and land-based planning across multi-tenure landscapes—balancing cultural, ecological, recreational, and economic values.

Dr. Marian Marinescu is a forestry professional who for the past two decades supported the research and development of several forest biomass projects across Canada and the USA. Marian currently works with Ecostrat Canada as a Senior Project Director to develop Biofuel Opportunity Development Zones.

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Dr. Matyas Kosa is the Bioproducts Lead at West Fraser Mills Ltd., working under the Director of Quality and Technology Services supporting all West Fraser mills on new product and process R&D and implementation. Currently, focusing on innovations in the fields of low-emission resins, waxes and biocomposites in the highly competitive market of engineered wood panels, while also supporting residuals valorization through technoeconomic assessment of various biorefinery concepts.

Stephanie Huska is a professional Agrologist with a Master of Arts in Conflict Analysis and Management. The majority of her recent work has been in engagement and facilitation, focusing on strategic planning. Her current work is focused on the development of the Cariboo Wood Innovation Training Hub.

Dr. Dominik Roeser is an Associate Professor in Forest Operations at the University of British Columbia. He is Program Director for Forest Resources Management and Forest Operations, supporting the next generation of foresters. He leads a research lab at UBC focused on developing sustainable solutions for the forest sector, including supply chain design, forest technology implementation, stakeholder engagement, and biomass procurement.

Rod Badcock is the founder of BioApplied, a consulting firm focused on renewable resources and a partner in the High Performance Logging initiative. He also serves as Executive Director of the Greenspring Bioinnovation Hub, a not-for-profit organization supporting the growth of Nova Scotia's bioeconomy. Rod began his career in operational forestry roles with Alberta Pacific Forest Industries and Bowater Mersey Paper Company, specializing in forest management. He holds a Bachelor of Science in Forest Engineering from the University of New Brunswick and an MBA from Saint Mary's University. An advocate for innovation, Rod has played a key role in launching several ventures that advance product and process development in Canada's bioeconomy.

Peter Robichaud is currently a project coordinator with the Canadian Woodlands Forum. He is a graduate of the University of New Brunswick's Forest Management Program and a Registered Professional Forester in Nova Scotia. He began his career in the early 1980s with a forestry consulting firm, later joining the Canadian Forest Service in 1983. Over the next 13 years, he contributed to a range of initiatives including private woodlot management & workforce development. In 1996, Peter transitioned to the Canadian Woodlands Forum (formerly under the Canadian Pulp and Paper Association), collaborating with stakeholders across the fiber supply chain. From 2001-2023, he served as Executive Director of the Canadian Woodlands Forum, where he led membership services, promoted knowledge exchange, and in partnership with BioApplied, delivered contractor training through the High Performance Logging program.

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Owen Miller is the Chief Executive Officer, Director & Co-Founder of Deadwood Innovations. For more information please visit <https://deadwoodinnovations.ca/about-us/>

Maik Gehloff is a Senior Lab Instructor in the Master of Engineering in Integrated Wood Design program at UNBC and is also the founder and owner of Gehloff Consulting Inc. He began his education by earning a Dipl.-Ing. (FH) degree in Wood Science and Technology, specializing in timber engineering from the University of Applied Sciences in Eberswalde, Germany. He continued his studies once in Canada through earning a MASc. in Timber Engineering from the University of British Columbia (UBC) in Vancouver. Maik is also a member of the Timber Framers Guild of North America as well as the Timber Frame Engineering Council.

Zak Miko is a Registered Professional Forester (RPF) in British Columbia with a strong background in forestry engineering and planning. With a lifelong passion for the forest and a deep commitment to sustainability and innovation, Zak has dedicated his career to promoting responsible management within the natural resource sector. Zak works at Foresight Canada as the manager of Forest Bioeconomy. Zak leads various projects in the bioeconomy sector and also runs the bioNEXT acceleration program which helps small start up ventures scale up their businesses.

Jason Fisher is the Executive Director of Forest Enhancement Society of BC. Jason Fisher's training as an RPF (UNBC, 1999) and lawyer (UBC, 2005) has led him into a diverse and exciting career. Most of his professional, volunteer, and recreation pursuits have involved forests, forest products, and people; and he intends to keep it that way. Jason is a partner at MNP LLP, a leading Canadian advisory firm, where he works with clients engaged in sustainable forest management and use. He volunteers with the BC Cancer Foundation, serves on the board of the Fraser Basin Council, and is a lecturer at UNBC where he teaches Forest Policy and Management. He also served as an ABCFP Councillor-at-Large from 2020 to 2023. Jason is a long-time resident of Prince George, located within the unceded traditional territory of the Lhiedli T'enneh, where he lives joyfully with his spouse, two kids, and two cats.

Organizing Team

Mike Simpson, MA, RPF is a natural resource management professional and facilitator with a demonstrated history of enabling collaboration on complex issues across multiple jurisdictions. Mike has worked in BC for forestry consulting firms doing all aspects of forest development, planning and silviculture (1994 to 2006), as a facilitator at Fraser Basin Council (2006 to 2022), and is now a self-employed consultant doing a mix of facilitation and forest management for Indigenous, corporate, government and non-profit organizations. He lives in Kamloops with his wife and two children.

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Bob Simpson has a diverse background in the forest sector: from tree planting to working in a plywood plant to being a Corporate Manager for a BC forest products company. He entered politics in 2005 and was the Official Opposition's Forest Critic from 2005-2009. He was Mayor of Quesnel from 2014-2022 and initiated the Future of Forestry Think Tank process. He now works with First Nations and local governments in the areas of economic development and government relations.

Erin Robinson is the Forestry Initiatives Manager for the City of Quesnel (2018-present), focusing on wildfire risk reduction, community forestry and innovation in the forest sector. Erin obtained a BA in cultural anthropology and a MA in natural resource management and anthropology, focusing on the cross-cultural collaboration of community forestry, from UNBC. Away from the office, you will find Erin adventuring with her 2 sons or spending time on her family's farm in Alberta.

Researchers

University of
British Columbia

Dane Pedersen (she/her) is a PhD candidate in the Faculty of Forestry at the University of British Columbia. Her research explores the forest governance and policy in British Columbia. Dane's work examines the Forest Landscape Planning (FLP) process both at the provincial and local Quesnel pilot level and is in part conducted in collaboration with Nazko First Nation.
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University of
British Columbia

Dr. Chris Mulverhill is a postdoctoral researcher in the UBC Faculty of Forestry. In general, his research uses advanced geospatial tools and techniques to improve forest management and enhance ecological understanding. As a member of the Silva21 project across Canada, his work aims to develop and implement a framework for continuously updating forest inventories, applied in the Quesnel TSA and in other study sites across the country. **Chris.mulverhill@ubc.ca**

University of
British Columbia

Sarah Smith-Tripp is a PhD candidate and interdisciplinary researcher interested in moving from geospatial data analysis towards a career in policy focusing on natural resource management. She has trained as a geoscientist with specialization in statistical modeling and geospatial applications. My PhD research focused on post-fire forest recovery across British Columbia using a combination of lidar data from drone data as well as satellite data. **Sarah.smithtripp@ubc.ca**

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University of
British Columbia

Liam Irwin is a PhD student in the UBC Faculty of Forestry seeking to develop a monitoring framework which integrates remotely sensed data like LIDAR to assess the state of silviculture and our regenerating forests. Liam hopes to integrate science and data to address the needs of Canadian forest management. In his free time, you'll probably find Liam fly fishing, skiing, or taking photos of wildlife. Liamakirwin@gmail.com

University of
Northern British
Columbia

In 2023 Dr. Kristen Kieta finished her PhD focusing primarily on the impact of wildfire on the Nechako River and investigating methods in the field of sediment fingerprinting. Prior to graduate school, Dr. Kieta worked for the US Geological Survey in Minnesota on a range of projects related to water quality. Dr. Kieta's interests lie in the water quality and quantity issues associated with large scale disturbances including wildfire, forestry, and agriculture, and the impacts of restoration and conservation techniques after these disturbances. Kristen.kieta@unbc.ca

University of
Alberta, TRIA-FoR

Dr. Colleen Fortier is a Project Manager for the TRIA-FoR Project, a multi-disciplinary and multi-institutional research project studying factors influencing mountain pine beetle spread and forest resilience using genomics tools. Dr. Fortier previously completed her PhD in 2022 at the University of Alberta researching conifer tree defenses to pathogens and insects, including mountain pine beetle and spruce budworm. In her current and past research, Dr. Fortier is interested in learning how we can better communicate and link active research with communities, and use these discussions to inform both research objectives and forest management decisions. ColleenFortier@cunet.carleton.ca

University of
Alberta, TRIA-FoR

Dr. Antonia Musso completed her BSc and MPM at Simon Fraser University, where her studies ranged across insects, birds, and mammals. Dr. Musso pursued her PhD at the University of Alberta, focusing on insects and forest ecosystems, her first and truest loves. Since 2016, her research has centred on the ecology of mountain pine beetle (MPB) in its expanded range. She is currently a postdoctoral fellow with the TRIA-FoR Project, where

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she studies factors that influence MPB spread risk and contributes to interdisciplinary projects on MPB and forest resilience. In addition to research, Dr. Musso is passionate about science communication and has consulted on nature documentaries with the BBC and PBS.

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Carleton
University, TRIA-
FoR

Emma Neale is a fourth year PhD candidate in the School of Public Policy and Administration (SPPA) at Carleton University, with a background in economics. Her research involves multi-disciplinary projects to combine economic, social and technical knowledge to enhance policy decisions. The research Emma is involved in focuses on using stakeholder preferences and priorities to develop alternative forest management scenarios based on community engagement.

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Carleton
University, TRIA-
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Dr. Obed Asamoah completed his PhD in Forest Science at the University of Eastern Finland, where his research explored the sustainable utilisation of forest resources. Dr. Asamoah's work integrated field research, data modelling, and species-specific ecological assessments. Currently, Dr. Asamoah serves as a Postdoctoral Fellow at Carleton University, where he engages in multidisciplinary research on sustainable forest management. His work involves conducting economic and ecological trade-off analyses, stakeholder consultations, and fieldwork across Western Canada. ObedAsamoah3@cunet.carleton.ca