

## Bios

**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.

**Sandy Ferguson** currently works as an independent forestry and bioeconomy advisor at SF Consulting Inc. Drawing on her background in senior corporate affairs, business development, and strategic roles with private, not-for-profit, and government organizations, she provides consulting services at the strategic, tactical, and interim senior management levels.

**Alex Boston**, Climate Solutions Fellow, MJ Wosk Centre for Dialogue, Simon Fraser University. Alex has two decades of experience in climate and energy policy, planning and engagement serving local and senior governments, real estate developers, utilities, university research institutes, municipal associations and non-profits.

**Tim Caldecott** is currently the Senior Director of Sustainable Construction, Carbon and Market Economics at FPIInnovations, where he has managed forest sector innovation for the past 14 years. Prior to FPI he was a management consultant in London and a project manager in Malawi for the United Nations.

**Minister Harry Bains** became British Columbia's first Minister of Labour in 2017. He is committed to bringing the issues of safety and fairness to the forefront of the labour conversation in B.C. Following a 15-year career in the labour movement, Minister Bains has taken action to support worker health and safety, fair workers' compensation and a strong economic recovery. In his first mandate as Minister of Labour, Bains took swift action to help lift people out of poverty, with a fair and predictable path towards a \$15.20 minimum wage, passing legislation to better protect temporary foreign workers, introducing mental health presumptions for first responders and other frontline workers, and appointing new leadership to WorkSafeBC.

**Doug Routley** was re-elected as the MLA for Nanaimo-North Cowichan in 2020. He served as MLA for Cowichan-Ladysmith from 2005 until the riding boundaries were re-drawn, and was re-elected in 2009, 2013 and 2017. He is the Parliamentary Secretary for Forests. Doug served as the Official Opposition critic for Citizens' Services and deputy critic for Forests and Forest Futures. He previously served as Opposition critic for skills training.

**Amy Reid** has been working in Economic Development in Quesnel since 2012. Amy sits on the board of directors for the British Columbia Economic Development Association, currently in the role of Past Chair.

**Gustavo Oliveira**, is the Director of the Innovation, Bioeconomy and Indigenous Opportunities Branch in the Office of the Chief Forester of the Ministry of Forests. Gustavo has been involved in the natural resource sector across Canada as a public servant for over a decade. Most of his work has focused on the socio-economic opportunities that resource development projects bring, especially in rural and remote communities. His work spans mining, oil and gas, and now forestry, with a focus on partnerships with Indigenous communities. Gustavo currently leads the development of British Columbia's forest bioeconomy, aiming to transition the sector from high volume to high value through research, innovation, and commercialization of novel, forest-based bioproducts.

**Emily Colombo** is a Regional Manager for the Regional Economic Operations Branch in the Jobs, Economic Development and Innovation Ministry. She has been a practitioner in economic development for the past 15 years at non-profit, local government and provincial government levels. She lives in Quesnel with her partner and two-year-old daughter. She would like to share more in this bio about what

she does in her spare time, but having a two-year old and a full-time job she doesn't remember what spare time looks like!

**Douglas Jamieson:** Douglas Jamieson is the Director of Regional Education at the College of New Caledonia (CNC), where he has the privilege to work directly with First Nation & Community leaders who are seeking post-secondary education opportunities for students in their communities. He strongly believes that good things come from strong relationships. Douglas enjoys collaborating and envisioning interesting ways to conduct education delivery in order to better serve the needs of students, industry and communities. Working with passionate education and community leaders to develop innovative ways to deliver programming across the central interior of British Columbia is a rewarding privilege. CNC is constantly seeking better ways to serve the communities in its catchment, through generous engagement. While he lives in Prince George, Douglas is responsible for the CNC campuses in Quesnel, Burns Lake, Fort St James, Vanderhoof, and Mackenzie and has become deeply invested in the future of these communities.

**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.

**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.

**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, MA** is the Forestry Initiatives Manager, City of Quesnel. She obtained a bachelor's degree in cultural anthropology and an interdisciplinary master's in natural resource management and anthropology, focusing on community forestry from the UNBC. Erin's work interests include: fostering innovation in forestry, fuel management in the community interface, behaviour change and teaching people how to live in fire-maintained ecosystems and cross-cultural collaboration between First Nations and non-First Nations in the context of land management.

**Garry Merkel, RPF** is a member of the Tahltan Nation and a professional forester whose work has advanced land stewardship, community empowerment and culturally relevant Indigenous education, governance and economic independence. For more than 40 years he has been involved in many Indigenous initiatives creating businesses, schools, land management arrangements, and working relationships with government. A University of Alberta graduate, he chaired the Aboriginal Forestry Education and Training Review, leading to a collaborative national post-secondary approach to improving Indigenous resource management education in Canada.