



# NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## **Salmon Arm's John Drew, founder of Forsite Consultants, Honoured With Distinguished Forest Professional Award**

**Vancouver**—John Drew, RPF, the founder of Forsite Consultants, was presented with the Distinguished Forest Professional award by the Association of BC Forest Professionals (ABCFP) at its annual forestry conference in Nanaimo last week.

The Distinguished Forest Professional award recognizes forest professionals for outstanding contribution to the forestry profession and for furthering the principles of the Association of BC Forest Professionals.

“The nominations for John spoke at length of his unwavering entrepreneurial drive, built upon a foundation of integrity, innovation, and passion for forest management,” said ABCFP president Trevor Swan, RPF. “This recognition of John by his peers for extended excellence over the course of a career is both humbling and meaningful to forest professionals responsible for caring for one of BC’s most treasured resources.”

Drew co-founded forestry consulting firm Forsite in 1987, which today employs more than 100 people across the country. Through a dedicated commitment to strategic planning and forging a future, Drew has responded to shifting needs of the industry which has supported ongoing stability and growth. He has embraced innovation and has had a keen eye for opportunities to better serve his client base and create value. He’s dedicated to learning about and incorporating new technologies and the businesses that bring it forward as he strives to provide value in forest management and the forest sector.

Further contributions to forest management and the forest sector can be seen through Drew’s commitment to value added efforts, evidenced in his small-scale milling business, Woodco. Woodco began as a log sort yard in 2003 when Drew saw an opportunity to salvage partially burnt timber that around Barriere that other companies didn’t want to utilize. The business has evolved and grown and now, in a time when the forest industry is contracting and large mills are shutting down, Woodco sees opportunities for growth and is expanding its operations.

Drew also served on ABCFP council in 2004 and 2005, supporting the betterment of forestry practices.

Drew was one of five professional foresters with honoured with the Distinguished Forest Professional award in recognition of their outstanding contribution to the profession and furthering the association’s principles. Other winners are: Dave Bedford, RPF, founder of DWB Consulting Services; Diane Nicholls, RPF, BC’s chief forester; Cheryl Power, RPF, assistant manager and resident forester of the Malcolm Knapp research forest in Maple Ridge; and Kathryn Willis, RPF, consulting forester with Strategic Natural Resource Consultants in Campbell River.

*The **Association of BC Forest Professionals** is responsible for registering and regulating BC's 5,500 professional foresters and forest technologists.*

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