



NEWS RELEASE

602 – 1488 Fourth Ave.
Prince George, BC
V2L 4Y2
250-562-3215

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Association Provides Funding to Improve Treeplanter Safety Performance

Victoria, BC --- Weyerhaeuser Canadian Forestlands today received a cheque for \$20,000 from the Forest Industry Safety Association. Presented by Jim Chorney, FISA general manager, at the Western Silviculture Contractors' Association's Annual Conference at the Laurel Point Inn, the funding was received by Weyerhaeuser's safety manager, Gary Kennedy.

"As an association, our goal is to employ pro-active initiatives to improve safety performance throughout the industry," said Chorney. "This funding is provided specifically to fund a program to assist treeplanters prepare for their seasonal work, as well as keep them healthy throughout the planting months."

Also on hand for the presentation was Dr. Delia Roberts, a Selkirk College faculty member and researcher who has done significant study in the area of treeplanter safety. Weyerhaeuser, with the assistance and expertise of Dr. Roberts, will develop and deliver a silviculture worker health, nutrition and fitness training program, which addresses health issues identified through research.

According to Dr. Roberts' study, improving diet, nutrition and fitness among planters will lead to a reduced number of injuries. Simple measures, such as improving fitness levels a few weeks prior to the start of the season, can make a huge difference in performance levels, improving work output as well as reducing the number of injuries.

The funding provided by FISA will allow Dr. Roberts to publish and distribute training materials based on her program, which will include a treeplanter pre-season training video and CD ROM; training booklets; a website; dietary manuals for silviculture crew food managers and supervisors, and the publication of a pocket-size nutritional resource for planters.

Funded by the forest industry, partially through the Workers Compensation Board, FISA is a province-wide organization dedicated to reducing accidents and improving safety for workers employed in the British Columbia forest industry.

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For Further Information Contact:

Jim Chorney, General Manager, FISA
250-562-3215