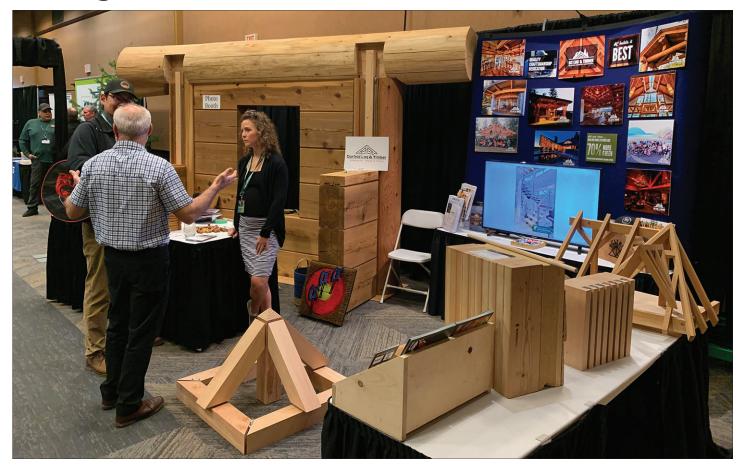
Issue 009-25



Summer 2025

SUPPORTING OUR UNIQUE BUILDERS

BC Log Builders & Timber Framers NEWSLETTER



			OK ICCIA	
In	hic	Summ	OK CCII	~

2025 FNFC Conference Review I
Who We Are 2
Joinery at its Finest2
CHBABC Workshop for BCLTBIA Members
2025 Global Buyers Mission™ (GBM) Registration Open 4
Building Dreams Can Come True 5
Why Working with a Designer Makes Sense/Cents
Log Home Inspections The Good, Bad and the Ugly!8
Foreign Workers/New Canadian Residents Guide
BCLTBIA Classified Ads and Notices 11

2025 FNFC Conference Review

Chiara Durfeld | chiara@durfeldlogandtimber.com

The BC Log & Timber Building Industry Association, along with Durfeld Log & Timber, International Timber Frames and Skeetchestn Dodeca-Homes attended the First Nations Forestry Council Conference in Penticton, BC. The event combined a trade show, youth conference, and speaker sessions featuring participants from across the province.

The conference theme, "We Are All Connected," emphasized the deep relationship between people and nature—encouraging a shift away from extraction and consumption toward stewardship and reciprocity. Take only what we need, use everything we take, and give back to the land—a powerful framework for shaping the future of forestry and our communities.

It was a great opportunity for our Association to represent the value-added manufacturing sector. From sustainable



SUPPORTING OUR UNIQUE BUILDERS

BCLTBIA Newsletter Summer 2025 - Issue 009-25

© 2025 BC Log & Timber Building Industry Association #116, 5100 Anderson Way #420 Vernon, BC VIT 0C4 Phone: 250-545-5647 (LOGS)

Catherine Hansen, Executive Director bcltbia@gmail.com

www.bclogandtimberbuilders.com

CONTRIBUTORS TO THIS ISSUE

Murray Arnott murray@designma.com

Candace Dodson candace@cdwbenefits.net

Chiara Durfeld chiara@durfeldlogandtimber.com

Kelly Marciniw Kelly.Marciniw@gmail.com

Michelle McCarthy mmccarthy@bcwood.com

Todd Struthers tchi@telus.net

SUPPORTING OUR UNIQUE BUILDERS

Our seasoned Log Builders and Timber Framers all share one thing in common: a true passion and dedication to their craft. They have recognized the benefits of integrating traditional methods with computer-cutting technology and continue to embrace new technologies moving forward.

BCLTBIA Newsletter

bcltbia@gmail.com 250-545-5647 (LOGS)
Editor: Catherine Hansen
Design Layout: Cameron Luckock

Contributions and advertising DEADLINE for next issue is September 1, 2025

BCLTBIA Newsletter welcomes advertisers.

Our Newsletters are a great way to connect the best builders and suppliers for our industry.

Newsletters mailed to members & posted online. bclogandtimberbuilders.com/resources/newsletters

Who We Are

The BC Log & Timber Building Industry Association (BC LTBIA) is a self-funded organization dedicated to improving business opportunity, craftsmanship, and profitability for British Columbia's log home and timber frame building industry.

Since British Columbia's first pioneers, tradesmen from throughout the world have built a tradition of excellence in wood craftsmanship throughout British Columbia. Our province is home not only to vast renewable forests, but also a wealth of talented Timber Framers, Handcrafted Log Builders and Machine Profile Log Manufacturers.

The log home and timber frame building industry is vital to the rural BC economy, and our goal is to not only foster appreciation for their contribution, but also promote job stability, skill development and healthy industry growth.

Joinery at its Finest

Get involved—join a committee! Together, we drive change and amplify our industry's voice.

BUILDING CODE, ENERGY AND CARBON

Chair: Kelly Marciniw – Advocating for industry and educating members on current and future building code requirements, including energy efficiency and upfront/embodied carbon emissions.

EDUCATION

Chair: Maik Gehloff – Advancing education and professional development for our members' staff and owners, including engaging with the BC Wood / Ministry of Post Secondary Education and Future Skills on the Wood Value Add Workforce Development project.

FIBRE

Chair: Sam Zirnhelt — Connecting the log and timber sector to high quality fibre through engagement with and advocacy to BCTS, community forests, wood lots and other BC sources.

PROCUREMENT AND PAYMENTS

Chair: Sigi Liebmann – Advocating for members (with their typical prefabricated / offsite built build systems) to have comparable terms when navigating government and institutional procurement and clients' financing (mortgages).

INSURANCE AND RISK

Chair: Sam Zirnhelt – Educating members on insurance, and promoting informed risk taking to help their businesses.

HEALTH AND SAFETY

Chair: Peter Sperlich – Working in conjunction with WorkSafeBC to ensure our Health and Safety Template meets the needs of our members and is current.

2025 FNFC Conference Review... continued from page 1

forest management to education and production, every part of our industry is interconnected. Many First Nations communities are looking to invest in value-added manufacturing, and we must continue to share what our sector offers: high-value products, long-term forest management strategies, and inspiring career opportunities.

Our booth showcased this beautifully: International Timber Frames presented a DLT wall panel with ceiling interface, and Durfeld featured a modular log construction example with log post and beam frame and sawn log infill panels. We also created an engaging, hands-on space with a timber frame notch demonstration and Lincoln Logs—sparking curiosity and conversation, especially with youth attendees.

Too often, careers in forestry are presented to youth as an industrial application of skills and knowledge. But our sector offers diverse, creative, and high-tech pathways. We look forward to continuing this important work—building awareness, partnerships, and the next generation of log and timber professionals.



Chiara Durfeld and Catherine Hansen share a moment in the BCLTBIA Booth at the First Nations Forestry Council Conference.



Mike Anderson



Ric Durfeld and Chiara Durfeld



Sigi Liebmann





Sharing our trade with the next generation.



BCLTBIA Members engaged.

CHBABC Workshop for BCLTBIA Members

Kelly Marciniw | Kelly.Marciniw@gmail.com

Canadian Home Builders' Association of BC (CHBABC) is a new associate member and they are looking to connect with our members that are currently or considering doing new home builds. The general contractor pathway is one way to grow your company's business by expanding beyond packages or setups.

Next month CHBABC will do an online education presentation for BCLTBIA Members, presented by Terry Kowal, Codes and Standards Policy Advisor.

As CHBABC is focused on mainstream residential construction, their educational content will feature

light wood framing. In the curated workshop they are presenting our members, much will still be applicable to heavy timber and log construction, including: the process of permitting and inspections, understanding seismic and climate zones, and navigating different codes (not just building codes!) and legislation.

Date: 10am-12:30pm PT / 11am-1:30pm MT

Time: Thursday July 10

Format: zoom 2hr presentation and up to 30 minutes

for Q&A.

RSVP: bcltbia@gmail.com

Sign up today, by emailing us at the above email.

2025 Global Buyers Mission™ (GBM) Registration Open

Michelle McCarthy | mmccarthy@bcwood.com

The Annual GBM is fast approaching, and we are happy to announce that this September 4th to 6th, we will once again invite international buyers and specifiers to meet our Canadian suppliers in Whistler, to celebrate our 22nd Anniversary!

If you have not received your invitation link, email us at gbm@bcwood.com to receive it.

3 REASONS TO REGISTER NOW:

- Space is limited
- Sponsorship is only available to registered exhibitors
- Get your spot in the New Products Showcase

We are expecting many new buyers this year. With the help of our overseas staff, along with the continued support of the federal International Trade Commissioner Service and the provincial Trade & Investment Representatives abroad, we anticipate a strong international attendance.

Contact Michelle McCarthy for more details at mmccarthy@bcwood.com.

To get more background on the GBM, you can watch a short video on our website.

Questions? Call me anytime at 604-290-6875 or email gbm@bcwood.com. We look forward to you joining us in Whistler!



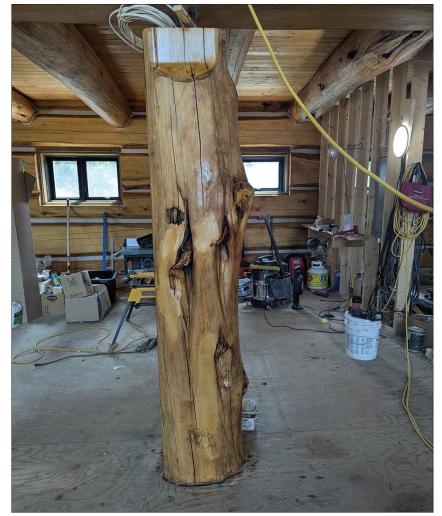
Building Dreams Can Come True

Following up with Peter and Margaret Sperlich's personal build...... We caught up with Peter and Margaret Sperlich to see how they are doing with their build. Check out the progress since their first photo release in our issue 007-24, Hats off to these two for fulfilling a dream, so many of us have!













BCLTBIA NEWSLETTER welcomes advertisers. Please contact the BCLTBIA Office for deadlines.

Why Working with a Designer Makes Sense/Cents

Murray Arnott | murray@designma.com

A central question I ask myself as a designer who works daily with log and timber frame builders is: how can I serve the builder to the best of my ability?

Designing a log and timber home is not simply about drawing walls or bents, ridges and purlins and their supporting columns; it is a blend of art and science. Designing and building an exceptional home from beautiful and finely crafted massive wood is about balancing form and function. The form of log and timber homes is the very soul of the builder. It is equally important to master the function of a home—the day-to-day nuances in how a family lives now and into the future. Good design requires an in-depth understanding of both the technical elements of log and timber building and wood itself as a material. It also requires an understanding of a family's short- and long-term needs, human psychology and how people perceive and use space.

Effective designers won't necessarily repeat cookie cutter plans—every person and every family is different. Even though clients may start out wanting to duplicate something they've seen in the past; by staying curious with probing questions, they realize their specific needs are not fully met by the plan they have initially brought. That is why the favourite part of my work is getting to know my clients and their building site intimately. The whys behind the client's preferences start to reveal what the design needs to accomplish to truly reflect their family's needs. At the same time, a designer needs to be responsive to all elements of a finished home beyond the log shell or timber frame to honour the client's budget.

There are two common scenarios: either a log or timber frame builder working with an outside designer, or the client of a log and timber frame builder working with an outside designer. In both cases, to be successful they should be collaborative from start to finish and wholly focused on getting the best value for the client. While there are clearly log and timber builders who do good design, I suggest that builders should focus on what they do

best, the art and craft of log and timber building and let designers do what they do best. Yes, there is a cost to an outside designer. There is also a cost to the builder spending the hours required for a thorough design process instead of being able to focus on the building process. Ultimately, the extra cost of outside expert design is a fraction of the value of a well-designed home.

Every builder has horror stories of working with a designer who did not understand log and timber building. So, yes, make sure your designer has this understanding. This is where partnership and close collaboration can help the designer understand the limitations and potential you have as a log and timber builder. It can also help you understand the complex living needs of the client while working to your strength, as a builder. Such collaboration will yield a design that makes sense to build, a home that is beautiful to behold, balances rhythm and form, yet one that fully satisfies the unique lifestyle and family makeup of the client. We have all seen multi-milliondollar log and timber homes whose form is so ill-conceived. Sometimes it is just the sense of scale. (A big one for me is awkward dormers crowding the valleys of primary gable ends.)

When the client is working directly with an outside designer, it is just as critical that the process be collaborative. The designer needs to work closely with the builder to understand the specifics of the wood that will be used in the home and the typical building systems and joinery the builder employs. Working with thirty or forty different log and timber builders and hundreds of clients for over forty years has been proof that a close collaboration from start to finish is the best way to ensure the success of the project. As the design starts to vary from the floor plan sketches or Pinterest photos the client has brought in, it is important that the implications of the evolving design need to be discussed. For example, how does it affect the cost and timing. As the design evolves from concept to design development, it is necessary to make sure structural systems are rational and integral to the total design. If the builder specializes in hammer beam trusses or

character logs for example, are there ways they can enhance the design. How can the structural system define the living spaces in ways that support how the client intends to furnish and live in their home. How can the detailing of wood elements, such as stairs, move from simply pedestrian function to works of character and beauty.

Fee arrangements that are based on a fixed cost-per-square-foot have never made sense to me. There can be massive differences in complexity between two homes of the same floor area. Square foot-based arrangements are more likely to yield a drafting-focused service, akin to rote translation of a novel from one language to another—good design is akin to writing the novel in the first place. To be accurate and fair, fees should be reflective of the complexity of the home and the number of hours required to complete a thorough design process.

Using a designer doesn't necessarily mean a home will cost more in the end. In fact, with efficient planning, well-conceived design, and accurate construction documents, a home will likely cost

less. The savings could be more than the design fee itself, yet with a better home as a result. In the end architectural design fees are only a few percentage points of the total cost of a project, a fraction of the typical cost of the timber frame or log shell. Moreover, it may take only an extra percentage point or two to turn a decent design into an exceptional or even award-winning design. As we all know, clients can blow their budgets by a lot more than a percentage point or two through a wide range of other decisions during the construction process (or changes during the construction process).

The value of a successful collaboration between a builder and a designer is in the results. It is a grateful client waking up every morning in their home, not only appreciating the beautiful log or timber they are surrounded by, but also knowing the house was designed specifically and perfectly for them.

Murray Arnott has been designing and consulting on log and timber structures for forty years.

Your Masterpiece Deserves the Best Wood Protection

Naturally Perfect® Wood Protection for Logs & Timbers.

Logs and timbers not only require protection from sun and rain, the sheer size of the wood demands a coating that "breathes" freely to prevent moisture from getting trapped and rotting from within.

Sansin's penetrating, water-borne stains are specially designed to protect the natural beauty of your logs and timbers.

Call 1-877-SANSIN-1 or find your nearest Sansin distributor at www.sansin.com/dealer-locator



Naturally Perfect®



Log Home Inspections The Good, Bad and the Ugly!

Todd Struthers | tchi@telus.net

I was 10 when my dad bought a Husqvarna 133 for the farm. Although I had no helmet, no eye or ear protection or fallers pants, you could not keep me away from that thing. Forts, firewood and some of the worst tree falling you've ever seen. I was only 10 years old but I was hooked.

Fast forward to high school where I did construction on the farm and worked for a family friend building homes. After high school I got a job working for a log home company. A match made in heaven, chainsaws and construction!

In 1991 I went to work for Artisan Log Homes. A well-established family owned and operated successful company out of Mission BC. I started as a laborer on the construction side doing reassembly, foundation work and finishing. I morphed quickly over to the yard finally getting back on the chainsaws, then to becoming a sawyer and eventually the Foreman. I spent over a decade of time working alongside some amazing individuals where I learned the full scope of the Log Home Industry from home design to full turnkey completion.

In 2002 I successfully challenged the Red Seal for Log Home Construction. I left the Log Home Industry to pursue other opportunities and in 2010 I became an Accredited Home Inspector with the Home Inspectors Association of BC (HIABC). Within the HIABC I am one of only a few home inspectors insured to inspect log homes and find it a great honor to share my knowledge and experience with buyers of log homes.

The HIABC Insurance Plan defines log homes as ... "A log home is a residential structure primarily built from whole logs, stacked horizontally, and interlocked at the corners to form the main structural component of the exterior and/or interior walls. It can also include a hybrid construction where logs are used in conjunction with traditional framing."

Whole logs stacked horizontally with interlocking corners, yup that's log home 101! The Standards of Practice set by HIABC state that I must inspect the following:

- RoofingExterior
- Structure

- Electrical
- Plumbing
- Cooling

- Heating
- Interior
- Insulation

I must describe the components in the home, note my limitations and give recommendations based on my findings. Every recommendation requires the identified deficiency, implication and action needed with a timeline.

The log homes I have the fortune to inspect are not new, they have ranged from 5 – 100 years old. The newer ones have amazing features, architecture and leading-edge engineering from all aspects. The older ones sometimes are found with odd collections of structure and techniques used and typically have multiple failing aspects.

Buyers of log homes need to be educated. Some are buying because of the romanticism of the logs, or they spent time in one by the lake as a child. They think the logs are rustic, beautiful and simplistic and a stray from conventional construction. Our job is to clarify the differences in the two and to point out and deficiencies or shortcomings. Log homes are not your average home, and most of the buyers don't understand the differences from both the negative and positive aspects.

Most of the above inspectable items are different in a log home versus your conventional stick frame build. Buyers need to be walked through these differences so they don't assume they are deficiencies. Some of the common questions I get include:

- Why are the logs cracked?
- Why are there gaps in the notches and laterals?
- I see the log is twisting...will it fail?
- The stairs seem out of level.... why?

As a lover of these homes, it is an honor to represent decades of builders and their techniques and to explain to the buyer what and why they are seeing what they are seeing. As an inspector I do not pass or fail a home, give it a grade or advise whether or not they should buy. I identify the deficiencies, inform the buyers of the impact of those deficiencies and recommend a timeline on when they should be addressed, that's it, that's all!

Issues that arise in my findings tend to be age relevant. Older homes, those built between 1900-1990, have first-generation issues such as poor foundations, undersized heavily tapered wood, rudimentary fit and finish and exposure issues. Newer homes, those built 1990-present, have less structural issues but tend to have more secondary mechanical issues: e.g. electrical, plumbing, heating.

However, there are some common issues found in the old and new that garner concern;

- · Log deterioration or rot.
- · Lack of exterior or failing finishes (paint or stain)
- Open notches and laterals.
- Lack of maintenance or adjustment of point loads (screw jacks).
- Poor transitions from log features to conventional trim or carpentry.
- Lack of exterior protection from the elements.

When inspecting log homes it becomes quite apparent which homes had coordinated trades working together to build a cohesive and fully functional home, and which ones were completed by whomever the homeowner could get. These homes, while still completely functional, seem to have more secondary issues. These secondary issues arise with the integration of all the necessary aspects needed for the home, such as electrical, plumbing, roofing, finishes and so on. A lack of basic knowledge and understanding of how or why logs shrink, and the necessary settlement allowances is key information when integrating these aspects. The trades working on integrating these aspects are not always privy to the log home industry "tricks" and as a result, the installation of these aspects result in deficiencies in the home. I've also noticed deficiencies occur with older homes when homeowners are replacing features such as heating, cabinetry, doors and /or windows. Without the carnal knowledge, strategies and techniques held by log home builders, these upgrades or replacements are often sub-par.

Log homes are not for everyone. They are both simple and complicated. They are not like any other conventional home. They behave and respond differently to heating and cooling, seasonal differences and to their geographical locations. Log homes are unique and have global representation going back hundreds of years. While the industry appears to be slowly parting ways with the "traditional" log home practices, new techniques are incorporating so many wonderful initiatives and building sciences best practices. I have watched this Industry for 35 years. While I am proud of every home, I was able to build or assist with, I am amazed at the log homes being made today. These homes take old world charm and marry them with so many modern-day technologies that one would think that is the way it's always been. New, old, dirty, clean, ugly or

beautiful they all hold a place in my heart, and I love the stories they tell.













Foreign Workers/New Canadian Residents Guide

Candace Dodson | candace@cdwbenefits.net Steps when hiring a foreign worker

- Worker applies for MSP as soon as possible after arriving in Canada
- Worker or employer purchases interim Primary Medical Coverage for the foreign worker that bridges waiting period until MSP is approved
- 3. Employer contacts CDW Benefits or their benefits broker for assistance with enrolling the foreign worker into the employee benefits plan

The different coverages needed:

- Primary medical coverage
- Interim primary medical coverage
- Supplementary medical & health coverage

Most benefit providers require an employee to have Primary Medical Coverage (MSP) in order to be eligible for coverage on the benefit plan. CDW Benefits will assist you with coordinating the enrollment of your new employee onto the benefit plan.

The different coverage explained:

Primary Medical Coverage: the Medical Services
 Plan of BC (MSP) is a public primary medical plan
 that covers physician and hospital services. It is the
 base layer of medical coverage, however there is a
 *3-month waiting period from the date of residency.

- Interim Primary Medical Coverage: CDW Benefits can provide interim primary medical coverage to cover the worker during the 3-month waiting period for MSP. Provides physician and hospital coverage. Individuals should apply immediately, as the coverage cannot be back dated.
- Supplementary Medical and Health coverage: your employee benefit plan is an add-on to Primary Medical Coverage and provides additional coverage for services such as prescription medications, practitioner services (such as physiotherapy/ chiropractor), medical equipment and supplies, dental benefits and more.
- * Waiting period for MSP new residents required to complete a wait period consisting of the balance of the month in which BC residence is established, plus 2 months. We recommend these workers apply for MSP immediately after arriving in BC.
 - If a family is moving to BC, and applicant and spouse arrive separately, each person has their own wait period based on their own arrival dates.

Please see MSP website for full details: Medical Services Plan - Province of British Columbia
To apply: Apply for MSP - Province of British Columbia
This article was created for the BCLTBIA members by CDW Benefits.

CDW Benefits is one of the leading Independent Life & Health Advisors specializing in Group Benefits for Employers. CDW Benefits has over 30+ years of being in the Employee benefits industry. If you would like a free review of your current benefits plan, or if you would like to investigate adding benefits for your team, please contact:

CDW Benefits

Candace Dodson, Employee Benefits Advisor

email: Candace@CDWbenefits.net or

Phone: 250-299-2768 www.CDWbenefits.net

BCLTBIA Classified Ads and Notices

Employment Opportunity – Mass Timber Fabricator

International Timberframes is a long established Timberframing and Mass Timber company based in Golden, BC. We are committed to building with natural solid wood. It's our mission to show that wood is the most natural and healthy product to build with and to take whole-hearted steps to conserve our planet by doing everything as sustainably as we possibly can. We design, manufacture, engineer and build timberframe and 100% wood DLT mass timber. We have an excellent reputation amongst peers and clients, offering ideas, inspiration and individual solutions.

About the position

As our company continues to grow, we need to recruit a Mass Timber Fabricator.

The purpose of this role is to undertake Mass Timber and Timberframing tasks as part of the team, both on the shop floor and job sites, to exceptional standards.

Location

This full-time position is based at our shop in Golden, BC. Travel as required in BC and Alberta to client job sites for onsite installation assistance.

Benefits

We offer a competitive rate of pay, a 4-day week, a flexible working schedule, comprehensive medical and dental benefits plan after 3 months with us and fully funded training opportunities.

Key Duties and Responsibilities:

Preparing and sorting material for the DLT mass timber production

- Accurate interpretation of shop drawings
- Layout, cutting, sanding, staining, and packaging of wood/materials therefore experienced in working with hand tools eg saws, drills, chisels,
- Loading wood/materials/tools for transportation
- Installation / raising under direction of appointed Project leader
- Clean up of shop and job-sites at the end of each day and week
- Shop / tool and machine maintenance as required
- Optional/as required: Running a DLT press

Requirements

- We would love to hear from you if you can offer us the following skills and experience:
- Minimum I year experience with producing/ installing mass timber, timber framing or log building (or 2 years related experience in carpentry or cabinetry)
- Familiarity with carpentry tools, timber frame joinery and structural systems
- Need to be physically strong to move heavy timbers and able to work confidently at heights on ladders, scaffolding, and beams
- Ability to work alone on assigned tasks and together as part of a cohesive team
- Demonstrated commitment to exceptional standards of work
- A full clean driving license

Compensation

Salary commensurate with experience and references. 24\$-34\$ Please send a cover letter and resume expressing your interest, including salary expectations, to employment@itimberf.com

BCLTBIA Membership Benefit

Next learning opportunity for BCLTBIA members is a presentation on Building in BC by the Canadian Home Builders' Association of BC (CHBABC).

The CHBABC is the leading advocate of the residential construction industry across the province, including the Certified Net Zero Builder and Master Builder designations. They are also an education provider offering a variety of courses, certificate programs and CPD events catering to the builder community.

Refer to Kelly's article on page 4: CHBABC Workshop for BCLTBIA Members Kelly Marciniw | Kelly.Marciniw@gmail.com

Help Wanted

Moose Mountain Log Homes Inc. is looking for 2 scribe fit log home builders to join us in Cochrane, Alberta. Consider Alberta has the lowest taxes and cost of living, you will get ahead faster in Alberta. Must be Canadian citizen or landed imigrant. For more details contact us at info@moosemountain.com or 403-932-3992.



SUPPORTING OUR UNIQUE BUILDERS







mgehloff@gehloff-consulting.com









BC builds it BEST

Our seasoned Log Builders and Timber Framers all share one thing in common: a true passion and dedication to their craft.

They have recognized the benefits of integrating traditional methods with computer-cutting technology and continue to embrace new technologies moving forward.

ADVERTISE HERE

Contact the Office for Additional Information bcltbia@gmail.com 250-545-5647 (LOGS)

DEADLINE FOR NEWSLETTFR

Contributions and advertising for next issue is SEPTEMBER 1, 2025