Dear CIF-IFC Member,

As you may be aware, the next national CIF-IFC AGM and Conference is being held in Grande Prairie, Alberta, September 18-20, 2018. Planning for this event is well underway, and we expect this will provide a marvelous opportunity for Rocky Mountain Section Council to host fellow CIF-IFC members and non-members from across the country and abroad.

One of the more recent developments to occur at the national CIF-IFC AGM is the Forests without Borders/Forets sans Frontières (FwB-FsF) Silent Auction fundraiser, which is held throughout the meeting and conference. Traditionally, these silent auctions have been organized by the host CIF-IFC Section and the local FwB-FsF caucus, and in several instances, the auction was the single largest annual fundraising activity held for the charity. In this context, we are writing today to seek your support for the auction, and have some fun in the process!

At this time, all members are kindly invited to help lead the way by participating in supporting this very worthwhile cause by donating items for the 2018 FwB-FsF Silent Auction. Items such as, forestry artifacts, framed pictures, paintings, pieces of art, pottery, forestry books, recreational items, clothing, hosted activities, local forest products, restaurant or hotel vouchers, consulting services, holiday packages, etc. have been well received. Pretty much anything goes, and all funds raised go to a great cause. If you don't have anything personal to donate, you can still help! Your contacts and insights regarding prospective donors such as retailers, businesses or corporations that may contribute to the cause would be appreciated. Please forward your suggestions to the undersigned. Similarly, if you are interested in helping to administer and promote the Silent Auction during the meeting, we would certainly love to hear from you.
FwB-FsF (https://www.fwb-fsf.org/) was established by the CIF-IFC as an independent Canadian registered charity. All funds raised through the Silent Auction will help support the on-the-ground work of the charity in countries like Nepal, Cameroon, Madagascar, Ghana, and Uganda, among others. FwB-FsF works independently or with existing non-government organizations (e.g. Rotary International) to deliver the skills, knowledge and tools that enable poverty-stricken communities around the world to address their challenges and to realize the many benefits obtained from the forest. In these communities, the scarcity of resources such as fuel, shelter and water result in a cascade of problems that undermine human security and health. Many of these problems can be resolved or improved through proper forest management. Forests without Borders grew out of a desire by Canadian CIF/IFC members to use their skills and knowledge to help people reduce poverty and restore ecosystems, or increase people’s understanding of sustainable development of forest resources.

Your generous donation will help support and expand these important projects, and aid in the development of new projects. If you would like to donate an item, please contact the undersigned for more details or simply mail your item directly to Pat Wearmouth, (wearmo@telus.net), (587) 298-8500, P.O. Box 1142, Beaverlodge, AB. TOH 0C0. Pat will be happy to start receiving items, after April 1st.

Thank you in advance for your assistance!

Sincerely,

Dan Wilkinson, 2018 HAMPCO Chair,
Chair, Rocky Mountain Section
DWilkinson@albertaforestproducts.ca

Teresa Stokes
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