

Canadian Institute of Forestry Presents James M. Kitz Award to Jeffrey Renton of Edmonton, AB and Kerry McLaven of Innisfil, ON

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Mattawa, ON – Wednesday, September 16, 2020 – The Canadian Institute of Forestry/Institut forestier du Canada (CIF-IFC) is pleased to announce Jeffrey Renton of Edmonton, AB and the CIF-IFC Rocky Mountain Section and Kerry McLaven of Innisfil, ON as the 2020 recipients of the James M. Kitz Award. The Awards were presented at the 2020 CIF-IFC Annual National Awards Ceremony held virtually on September 15, 2020.

This Award is named the James M. Kitz Award, after a person who was a member of the Institute and the Alberta Registered Professional Foresters Association. Jim made several outstanding contributions to forestry early in his career, but suffered a sudden and untimely death at age 36. “This Award recognizes the contributions made by Jim, both professionally and personally,” noted Mark Pearson, Executive Director, CIF-IFC, “it is awarded to those who exemplify Jim’s approach to all aspects of life while making an outstanding contribution to forestry early in their career. This year’s recipients Jeffrey Renton and Kerry McLaven are very deserving of this Award.”

Jeffrey (Jeff) Renton is currently a Reclamation Coordinator with Tree Time Services, responsible for planning and implementation of reclamation tree planting projects across Alberta. He is also responsible for company wide business development, as well as seed collection and sourcing for reclamation seedling production. Jeff holds an M.Sc. in Biological Sciences from the University of Manitoba (2010) and has several years of environmental/forestry surveying and restoration experience from various consulting companies and NGO’s. Through managing two separate non-profits in the Prairies he specialized in public extension in forested and agricultural land management primarily in private lands. Jeff has been an active member of the CIF-IFC for over a decade, and primarily focused on planning and implementing forestry based professional development events regionally and nationally.

Kerry McLaven is the Chief Executive Officer for the Forest Gene Conservation Association, a small not-for-profit based in Ontario which promotes the conservation, restoration, and sustainable use of the genetic base of the forest. Before that Kerry worked as the Director of Operations for Forests Ontario for 8 years helping to develop seed collection and management capacity, creating programs and being a catalyst for continuous improvement within the organization. Prior to that, Kerry graduated with a Masters in Forest Conservation from University of Toronto, completing an internship with FPIInnovations in Hinton and Jasper Alberta. Kerry also maintains an Honours Bachelor of Science from Wilfrid Laurier University. Over the course of many summers, Kerry has spent her time tree planting and working in Ontario’s provincial parks.

Formed in 1908, the CIF-IFC is the national voice of forest practitioners and many others with an interest in forestry and forests. The Institute’s 19 sections provide national leadership in forestry, promote competency among forestry professionals, and foster public awareness of Canadian and international forestry issues.

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