Líl̓wat Forestry Ventures

NEWSLETTER

FALL 2026



FEATURE STORY

This spring and fall, Líl̓wat Forestry Ventures (LFV), N'Quatqua and the B.C. Wildfire Service worked together to carry out cultural burns in the Lower Haylmore and Lower Blackwater areas. The carefully managed burns are part of bringing beneficial fire back onto the landscape, supporting forest health, reducing accumulated fuels, and continuing a long history of using fire as a tool to care for the land.

"Fire has an important role on this landscape," shared Chris Thevarge, Forestry Technician with LFV. "By working together and carrying out these burns carefully and intentionally, we can reduce the buildup of forest fuels on the land while supporting healthier, more resilient forests for the future. Cultural burning is a practice that we're using to help and care for the land."

The work brings together Indigenous knowledge, local experience, and contemporary fire management practices to support long-term stewardship of the territory.

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Líl̓wat Business Group Office | **lilwatbusiness.ca**
info@lilwatbusiness.ca • +1 (604) 894-6145 • +1 (604) 894-1518
Physical Address: 407 IR 10 Road, Líl̓wat Nation, Mount Currie, BC
Mailing Address: Box 605 Mount Currie, BC V0N 2K0

Líl̓wat Forestry Ventures

Líl̓wat Nation





RECENT NEWS

This summer, LFV demonstrated Indigenous leadership in forestry, wildfire response, and land stewardship. Alongside forest management thinning, cultural burning, and stewardship projects, LFV personnel supported wildfire operations within Líl̓wat Territory and elsewhere in British Columbia.

LFV's wildfire capacity includes Type II crews, Type III crews, Indigenous Initial Response personnel, Indigenous wildfire liaison personnel, and forestry technicians. Approximately 40 LFV wildfire personnel were dispatched or engaged across Líl̓wat Traditional Territory.

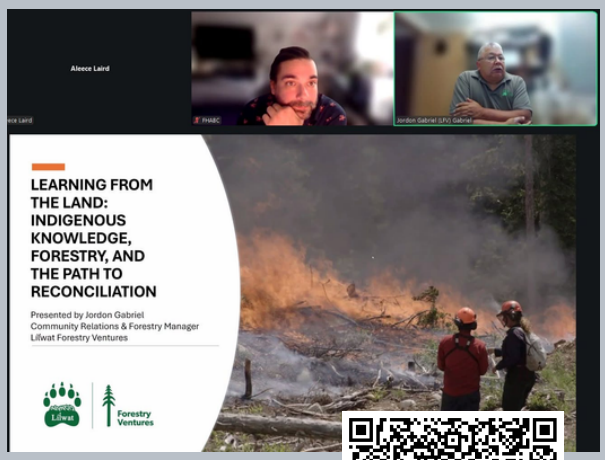
During the Signal Hill and Twin Two wildfires, LFV worked with BC Wildfire Service and the Líl̓wat Nation's Title and Rights team to identify and protect cultural values near the fires and proposed guard locations. Work included hands on firefighting, field reviews, and liaison support.

The Indigenous fire liaison agreement provided a formal path for local knowledge, cultural value identification, community coordination, and support to wildfire operations. During the summer, the agreement was expanded to include additional LFV personnel and GIS mapping services for Signal Hill and Twin Two.

On September 15, Jordon Gabriel, Community Relations & Forestry Manager with Líl̓wat Forestry Ventures, joined the Forest History Association of BC as a guest speaker for its autumn webinar series, in recognition of National Day for Truth and Reconciliation.

The presentation, Learning from the Land: Indigenous Knowledge, Forestry and the Path to Reconciliation, explored Jordon's personal and professional journey and how Líl̓wat knowledge and contemporary forestry practices are being brought together through cultural burning, wildfire risk reduction, fuels management, community forestry, and collaborative stewardship.

Jordon also explored the connections between forest health, community safety, cultural continuity, employment, and responsibility to future generations.



Scan to watch the webinar recording

Old Growth Stewardship

LFV and Líl̓wat Nation continued sharing the results of the Indigenous-led Old Growth Project. Field crews surveyed 181 plots during the 2024 and 2025 field seasons, combining ecological measurements with cultural information to support land-use planning, wildfire-resilience treatments, thinning, cultural burning, habitat protection, and future LiDAR work.

Fuels Management- Alta Lake Road & Highway 99 Whistler

LFV continues to work with the Resort Municipality of Whistler to help lower the significant fire risk the forests are contributing to the Resort through thinning and chipping activities.

Burning Slash Piles - Woodlot 0049 Block 24x in the Owl Ridge area

Pile burning is an important part of responsible forest management, helping reduce accumulated forest fuels and the potential for future wildfires while supporting the ongoing management of the area for wildlife habitat and other forest values.

NEW STORY



Working on the Edge: Líl̓wat's Climbing Crew on Steep Terrain and Power Lines

Scan for full story

For LFV, the group known as the 'Climbing Crew' is often called in when no one else can reach the job, particularly in steep, hard-to-access terrain or areas where equipment cannot operate safely.

The crew (pictured left to right: Deonte Wallace Wells, Reub Bikadi, Kevin Wallace, Drake Wells, Kalvin Joe, and Greywolf Joe) consists of a certified utility arborist, three apprentice utility arborists, and two groundmen. Crew members work together, and with registered forest professionals, to improve tree health and appearance, keeping trees away from power lines and electrical equipment to prevent power outages and eliminate other potential hazards.

KUDOS



For over 30 years, Jordon Gabriel has dedicated his career to forestry, wildfire management, and caring for the land. Now, his contributions and leadership are being recognized with the 2026 British Columbia Institute of Technology (BCIT) Distinguished Alumni Award, which will be presented at the BCIT Vision Awards on October 29th.

Congratulations, Jordon!

Read "Managing for everything: Jordon Gabriel's vision for the future of forestry" on the BCIT Website:

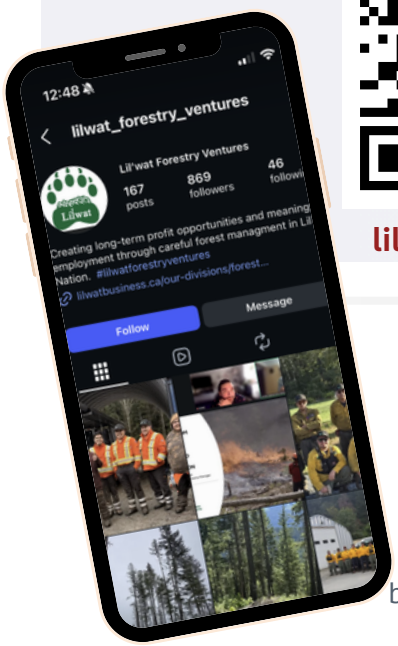


Klay Tindall was interviewed by Andrew Snook of Canadian Forest Industries (CFI), highlighting the growth of Líl̓wat Forestry Ventures into a diverse forestry operation, emphasizing its commitment to local employment, wildfire risk reduction, community engagement, and sustainable forest management that incorporates Líl̓wat cultural values.

Read "Diverse offerings: A chat with Líl̓wat Forestry Ventures" on the CFI Website:



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