



## Local company receives award from BC Forest Safety Council

**Nanaimo, B.C.** – A Williams Lake logging company has received an award from the BC Forest Safety Council, in recognition of their notable contribution to forest industry safety within their operations in 2011.

Westline Harvesting Ltd. was presented the Safety M.V.P. of the Year award at the Vancouver Island Safety Conference, October 1<sup>st</sup> in Nanaimo. The award, co-presented to Westline Operations Manager David Whitwell by the Honourable Steve Thomson, Minister of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations, Donna Wilson, vice-president of Industry Services and Sustainability, WorkSafeBC and Safety Council CEO Peter Lineen, was created to acknowledge safety improvements at work through persistent efforts to seek changes by a company that has demonstrated leadership in integrating health & safety into their business practices.

The selection criteria for the Safety M.V.P. Award (awarded to individuals *or* groups) include:

- 2010 / 2011 contribution to workplace safety where they work and / or for broader industry
- Safety improvements with marked results
- New safety initiatives introduced that boosted safety at work

Westline Harvesting Ltd. is the newer of two innovative and progressive stump-to-dump timber harvesting companies owned by longtime Williams Lake residents, Arnold and Imke Bremner. Westline and sister company Clusko Logging Enterprises Ltd. are family-run businesses with Arnold and Imke's 3 sons each fulfilling an active role in the operations.

Larry Price, RFT, Woodlands Manager, Harvesting Operations at Tolko Industries, said Westline demonstrates safety as a living culture. "It is evident that their safety-first approach is a habit rather than a forced behavior," Price said. "Through a proactive approach and clear focus on safe behavior, Westline has achieved a Recordable Incident Rate of "0" for 2011. Westline contributes to the betterment of all by sharing their carefully crafted safety program and policies with other companies. Westline is enterprising and innovative, which is proven by their participation in external safety programs, striving for improvement of their own safety program", Price added.

Westline has maintained continuous operations with Tolko Industries Ltd. in Williams Lake, BC since 1988. They are a fully mechanized stump-to-dump operation, harvesting approximately 325,000 m<sup>3</sup> per year of predominantly Mountain Pine Beetle-attacked timber west of Williams Lake. Westline operates in predominantly pine forests for their main client, Tolko Industries Ltd.

(Their sister company, Clusko Logging Enterprises Ltd. harvests approximately 650,000 m<sup>3</sup> per year for Canadian Forest Products Ltd. in the Prince George and Mackenzie area.)



Westline has participated in the BC Timber Sales Program, marketing and harvesting Category 1 Timber Sales. They have had strong relationships with value-added wood producers: Parallel Wood Products Ltd. and Pinnacle Pellet Inc., providing both with timber harvesting and marketing services for their Category 2 Timber Sales, and Forest License wood.

Westline and Clusko form one of the largest logging contractors in the interior of BC, and have the financial size and strength to survive several previous market downturns.

Their operations have been SAFE certified by the BC Forest Safety Council since 2007. Westline Harvesting is known for their clean, low maintenance operations and fleet of bright red pick-ups and logging trucks. Westline employs over 60 people in peak season, with over 18 pieces of heavy equipment.

*The BC Forest Safety Council is a not-for-profit society dedicated to promoting forest health and safety. It was founded and is supported by all major forestry organizations in British Columbia and works with forestry employers, workers, contractors and the provincial government and agencies to implement changes necessary to eliminate fatalities and serious injuries in the forest sector.*

**For more information:**

Gary Banys  
Program Coordinator  
BC Forest Safety Council  
420 Albert Street  
Nanaimo, BC V9R 2V7  
250-739-5162 (direct)  
[banys@bcforestsafe.org](mailto:banys@bcforestsafe.org)



### **2011 Safety MVP Award presented to Westline Harvesting**

Donna Wilson, vice-president of Industry Services and Sustainability, WorkSafeBC (left), Hon. Steve Thomson, Minister of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations (second from right), and Council CEO Peter Lineen (far right) present the 2011 Safety MVP award to Dave Whitwell, Operations Manager (second from left) of Westline Harvesting Ltd. at the Oct. 1 Vancouver Island Safety Conference.