

GOABC

I attended the Guide Outfitters of BC, 60th Anniversary Conference in Kelowna, on March 27 and 28, 2026. This was the best conference I have ever attended, bar none! Done with excellence with a great amount of effort, engaging topics, good planning, great food and service.

On Friday it was Politicians Day. I sat with 5 MLA's at one point, including Lorne Doerkson and Sheldon Claire. The lively presentations began with Dan Brooks who spoke on his software program for Guide Outfitters.

Next was a Takla video and discussion on First Nation Guide mentorship. After that was Mark Hall presenting on "Project Grizzly Balance". The moratorium on Grizzly hunting since 2017, was discussed.

Roy Rea from UNBC Forestry Field school presented the programs he teaches there in P.G., a component of the Forestry program. We also had a Conservation Officer from Service and Parks speaking.

The Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation spoke and lastly the Minister of Water, Lands and Resources and her team spoke with many questions from the audience throughout the presentation.

In the evening was the Banquet with the theme "Denim and Diamonds" which was a nice mixer and fun. The following night was the Gala and Silent Auction, honoring 60 years as an organization. There was bidding on various hunts which was also online. There was an honoring to past award winners and various fun activities as well.

I was pleased to see and visit with the Yohetta Outfitters team, now owned by Xeni but in my Area K. There were a group of them including their Economic Dev. Officer. I did visit the Lodge and previous owners in my last term. Lori Ackerman whom you may know from being Mayor of Fort St. John, also was there, with Profet River First Nation. They also have a Guide Outfitters. Lori had some good questions and concerns.

All in all, it was worth it!

I would certainly recommend for Tolan to go next year.

Sincerely,

Betty A.