



A POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTION

3700 Willingdon Avenue  
Burnaby, British Columbia  
Canada V5G 3H2

January 26, 2004

The Manning Innovation Awards  
421 - 7 Avenue S.W.  
Calgary, Alberta  
Canada T2P 4K9

RE: Vancouver Gear Works Ltd. Ultra-Tech Universal Arbor

To The Manning Innovation Awards Selection Committee:

I am Chief Instructor of Saw Trades for western Canada at the British Columbia Institute of Technology, one of Canada's leading polytechnic institutions. My thirty-five years experience in saw filing, both as saw-filer and as chief instructor, have provided me with the opportunity to evaluate many arbor designs, however Vancouver Gear Work' Ultra-Tech Universal Arbor stands out as a superior system.

In today's increasingly competitive marketplace, due to a shrinking log supply and environmental pressures, sawmills are finding that they must strive to become more efficient producers of precision cut lumber by increasing feed speeds, increasing recovery, and becoming more value-added and quality conscious. One area in which great technological advancements have been made is in splined arbors.

Vancouver Gear Works' extensive investment into design and on-site testing is evident in their final product. The success of the Ultra-Tech Universal Arbor is proven in the form of higher fibre recovery, longer mandrel and sleeve life, fewer unscheduled saw changes, lower power consumption, lower sawdust production and lower noise levels. This new system is proving to be a huge success and is increasing profits in the incredibly competitive Canadian sawmill industry.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Dennis Reid". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Dennis Reid,  
Chief Instructor  
Saw Trades