

Forestry Careers

The forestry sector has many exciting and rewarding career opportunities. Business, government and other organizations look for forestry professionals to work in a range of positions. Furthermore, the forestry sector is evolving to include and make use of many different technologies, including Geographic Information Systems (GIS), Biotechnology and Forest Simulation Software.

Registered Professional Foresters (R.P.F)

There are different types of R.P.F's

- Government Foresters who work at the federal, provincial, or municipal level, work with government organizations at all levels and with First Nations Communities.
- Industrial Foresters who work in the forest industry (e.g., pulp and paper, sawmills, timber companies), work on forest management plans for land licensed to companies, as well as they often participate in industry associations which advise the government on forestry legislation and policy.
- Consulting Foresters who work for private landowners, companies in the private sector and government, often provide forestry advice on a wide range of activities. They may run timber sales, do forest audits and compliance audits and prepare tree planting prescriptions.
- Academic Foresters who are involved in research and teaching, may work at Colleges and Universities. These foresters are primarily involved in research, education and providing new information to the forestry community and the general public.

Types of Work R.P.F's do

R.P.F's engage in many different types of jobs and tasks including:

- planning and conducting forest inventories
- measuring and evaluating standing timber
- evaluating insect outbreaks
- preparing forest management plans
- working in urban parks
- managing prescribed fires
- regenerating forests
- laying out road systems

Furthermore, many foresters move on to become top executives in public agencies, conservation organizations, and private corporations - both within and outside the forestry sector. Others become consultants offering specific forestry services and skills that they develop as they gain experience and knowledge.

How to become a R.P.F

In order to practice professional forestry, you must be a member of a Professional Forester Association. To become a member and acquire accreditation as a Registered Professional Forester, applicants must have a minimum of a Bachelor of Science of Forestry (B.Sc.F) from a University recognized by the Canadian Forestry Accreditation Board. Additional qualifications include eighteen months of work experience as a professional forester and the support of two Registered Professional Foresters. Currently, seven provincial forester associations exist in Canada.

Prospective foresters should have a strong commitment to both the protection of the natural environment and the responsible management of our natural resources. In addition, they should have a healthy respect for the different ways people value forests and the demands placed upon forest resources.

Forestry technologists and technicians

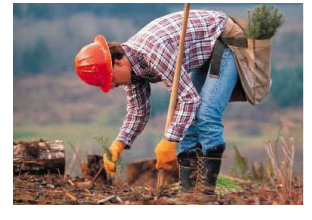
- perform technical and supervisory functions in support of forestry research, management, harvesting, conservation, and protection. Also may conduct forest inventories, use mapping techniques, co-ordinate timber scaling and disease control, monitor activities of logging companies and enforce regulations

Types of Work

- Conduct, supervise and participate in forest inventory cruises • Surveys • Perform technical functions in the preparation of forest management and harvest plans • Use mapping techniques and computerized information systems • Complete field measurements following accepted operational and scientific procedures •

How to become a Forestry Technologists or Technicians

- Completion of a 3-year program for forestry technologists, or a 2-year program for forestry technicians, is usually required.
- Can complete a certification in forest technology, includes a period of supervised work experience, usually up to two years, and a professional practice examination.



Forest or Logging Workers

- Are hands-on employees who work on first-line maintenance and protection of forests.

Types of Work

- Do Tree planting and reforestation • Prescribed burning and fire fighting • Timber cutting and logging • Silviculture • Timber stand improvement • Boundary line maintenance • Park and trail maintenance •

How to become a Forest or Logging Worker

- Previously, little formal education has been required for most forest and logging workers.
- New government mandated work safety guidelines now requires a skilled and regulated workforce.
- There are many college programs which offer students the option of becoming certified in a variety of forestry related skills, combined with hands on experience in machine operation

Colleges and Universities which offer Forestry courses and hands-on training are located across Canada and include: Algonquin College, Confederation College, Laval University, Lakehead University, Sault College, Sir Sanford Fleming College, University of Alberta, UBC, University of Moncton, University of New Brunswick and University of Toronto

**There are many other exciting forestry related careers in:
Arboriculture, Ecosystems Management, Environmental Engineering, Forest Modelling, and Ecosystem Restoration and natural resources management**

For more information about Forestry Careers contact the Ontario Forestry Association about our Forestry Careers Awareness Package.