Looking for a Great Career?

Have you ever canoeed or hiked through a national or provincial park and been impressed by its beauty and diversity? Have you ever thought about the importance of forests to our existence? Forests provide the oxygen we breathe, remove carbon dioxide, help slow down the air and reduce the climate. Forests regulate our supply of fresh water, help prevent erosion and flooding, create habitat for wildlife and provide recreation and spiritual opportunities. Forests are also the main source of wood for paper, furniture and building materials.

Well-managed forests are a renewable resource and Canadian forests play a major role in the country’s economic, social and cultural well-being along with its environmental sustainability.

A career in forestry can take you to an urban forest or deep into remote woodlands, to a laboratory to study forest life or into communities to live and work with individuals whose livelihood depends on forest resources. Whether you like the outdoors or indoors, if you have a passion for the environment and thrive on solving complex problems, then a career in forestry is for you!

WHAT IS FORESTRY?

Forestry is the science and art of protecting, conserving and managing forest ecosystems for present and future generations. Forestry is an interdisciplinary field, linking environmental, social, cultural and economic values. From surveying ecological conditions, to developing innovative wood products, to working closely with many different groups and communities, including Canada’s Aboriginal Peoples, there is something for you.

WHAT DO FOREST PROFESSIONALS DO?

Forestry can be more than just a job—it can also be a passion. It is one of the most rewarding career choices in Canada. Forest professionals understand the relationships between people and forests, wildlife, ecology, fire and pest detection and control, wood science, harvest operations, forest regeneration and manufacturing processes. They design, implement and promote management programs that have a positive impact on human dignity and private needs. They develop an understanding of the broader economic, environmental, and social dimensions of managing renewable resources to consider all uses and uses. Forest professionals become skilled communicators, similar to public concerns, and are able to explain forestry goals and practices to a diverse range of stakeholders.

By combining scientific, management and communication skills, forest professionals develop comprehensive natural resource inventories, plan and supervise harvesting and regeneration programs and work to protect forests from sodding, insects and disease, and to manage and conserve forest values including biodiversity and wildlife habitat.

Many forest professional work for forest products companies, others as soil erosion and watershed experts for mining companies, as outdoor recreational planners for provincial and municipal governments, as advisors to environmental non-governmental organizations or as urban forest managers managing trees in parks and city streets.

Some forest professionals work as researchers at one of several centres across Canada for federal or provincial governments or at universities.

Important areas of research include social forestry, biotechnology, forest economics, ecology and soil biology.

WHAT DOES IT TAKE?

Training to become a forest professional generally requires a minimum of four years of college or university training in forestry or a related natural resources program. This usually takes from two to three years. College-trained forest professionals will experience a variety of opportunities associated with the management and conservation of forests and related resources such as wildlife, water, recreation and social concerns. They may be involved in a wide array of activities, from harvesting operations to forest conservation and protection, to wildlife management. Technical tools may include surveying, forest fire fighting, tree planting and data collecting.

Once you have the training, the rest is up to you!

Get Involved!

Practitioners are often involved in education, public relations, marketing and sales, and in activities such as planning, harvesting, regeneration and forest ecology. No matter what the role, university-trained forest professionals are committed to finding solutions to all resource management challenges and to ensuring the sustainability of the forest and the conservation of all that forests encompass.

College-level training to become a forest technician or technologist requires a certificate or diploma from an academic institution specializing in forestry or a related natural resources program. This usually takes from two to three years. College-trained forest professionals will experience a variety of opportunities associated with the management and conservation of forests and related resources such as wildlife, water, recreation and social concerns. They may be involved in a wide array of activities, from harvesting operations to forest conservation and protection, to wildlife management. Technical tools may include surveying, forest fire fighting, tree planting and data collecting.

Take charge of your future, an exciting career in forestry awaits you!

For more information about careers in forestry or about the Canadian Institute of Forestry, check out our Web site: www.cif-ifc.org

For additional info: Email: admin@cif-ifc.org; Phone: 705-746-3175 ext. 523

Canadian Institute of Forestry
Institut forestier du Canada

P.O. Box 430, 6905 Hwy. 17 West
Mattawa, Ontario, Canada P0H 1V0
Fax: 705-746-1716 • Email: admin@cif-ifc.org • www.cif-ifc.org

The Canadian Institute of Forestry (CIF) is the national voice of forest practitioners. Formed in 1908, the Institute represents foresters, forest technologists and technicians, educators, students and many other professionals and groups with a professional interest in forestry. The Institute’s mission is to provide national leadership in forestry, promote stewardship among forest professionals, and foster public awareness of Canadian and international forestry issues. As a member, you will enjoy the benefits of support and representation in a well-informed community of professional and practitioners, working together to develop comprehensive, solution-oriented and professional development, and promoting a better understanding of forestry to the Canadian public.

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Get Involved!

While you are a student or after you graduate—join the Canadian Institute of Forestry!