Forestry Graduates Receive Prestigious Internships in Canada-UK Exchange Program

Four top students from the United Kingdom and Canada begin the inaugural Prince of Wales Forest Leadership Award program having secured unique summer work placements in their respective partner countries. UK winners Keira Tedd and David Johnes will work in iconic coastal British Columbia with Strategic Natural Resource Consultants (SNRC) and in Algonquin Park with the Algonquin Forestry Authority (AFA) in Canada, while Canadian winners Jacqueline Hamilton and Ross Hobbs will be placed in the South West England and Wales at Pryor and Rickett Silviculture, as well as spending time interning with the Duchy of Cornwall.

Endorsed by HRH The Prince of Wales, and delivered in partnership by the Institute of Chartered Foresters, the Canadian Institute of Forestry, and the Duchy of Cornwall, the Award recognises young forestry professionals in Canada and the United Kingdom who possess a dedication to sustainable forestry and the skills and aptitude to become future forest leaders.

Jacqueline Hamilton, of The University of Toronto, and Ross Hobbs of The University of Alberta, will be based in Hereford, England and Brecon, Wales, respectively, with Pryor and Rickett Silviculture, a top woodland management and silviculture company in the UK. They will also be located close to The Prince of Wales’ own Duchy of Cornwall estate woodlands where they will take part in the Duchy’s forestry activities. Jacqueline recently completed a Master of Forest Conservation from the University of Toronto and has strong interests and experience in forest ecology management, environmental monitoring, geographic information systems, and international forest conservation. Ross will be graduating from the University of Alberta this spring with a Bachelor of Science in Forest Management. He is actively engaged in the professional forestry community in Canada and abroad, having completed his bachelor’s degree on exchange in New Zealand.

Graham Taylor, Managing Director of Pryor and Rickett Silviculture, noted:

"Although Canadian and British forests are different, the aims of forest management remain the same: providing a sustainable supply of wood, protecting the unique ecological characteristics of forests and woodlands, and generating social and economic benefits for local communities. We are very excited to host Jacqueline and Ross in the UK and to offer them the opportunity to learn about silvicultural and forestry practices here."

Keira Tedd of The University of Cumbria, will intern with the AFA, based out of Huntsville, Ontario, and work in Algonquin Provincial Park. The AFA is the Crown Agency that undertakes a wide variety of activities to ensure sustainable management of the forests in the well-known provincial park. Keira will have the opportunity to take part in forest operations planning and implementation, tree marking, silviculture treatment layout and effectiveness monitoring, and compliance monitoring. She has spent a year with Forest Commission Scotland, has been a volunteer tree planter, and conducted research on light intensity and seedling regeneration. With the AFA, she will be able to build upon these experiences, all within a Canadian forestry context.

Jeff Leavey, General Manager of the AFA, commented:
“Sustainable forest management is a complex endeavor, requiring the use of the latest science, sophisticated planning and modelling, and on-the-ground data collection, but it’s also largely about people working together. I couldn’t think of a better way to forge strong partnerships in international forestry than for young forestry professionals to do these kinds of work placements in each other’s countries.”

Finally, David Johnes, also from The University of Cumbria, will work for SNRC out of Port McNeill, British Columbia. SNRC is one of the leading natural resource consulting companies in coastal BC, specializing in forestry and environmental conservation. David will have the opportunity to use his training and experience in forest planning, harvest management and Geographic Information Systems (GIS) to engage and learn how forestry operations and monitoring are carried out in British Columbia and Canada.

Jon Lok, Managing Partner of SNRC, says:

“We are very excited to take part in this unique program that gives young forestry professionals not only valuable work experience to help kick-start their careers, but also the opportunity to experience forestry and natural resource management in different environments and contexts. This kind of exchange is so important for fostering sustainable forest management around the world.”

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Media and Photo Enquiries:

Headshots of all award winners are available on request.

Julie Adamson
Marketing & Communications Officer
Institute of Chartered Foresters
+44 (0)131 240 1425
julie.adamson@charteredforesters.org

Notes to Editor

1. The Institute of Chartered Foresters (ICF) is incorporated by Royal Charter as the only professional body in the UK to award Chartered Forester and Chartered Arboriculturist statuses. Full details of how to join the Institute, and routes to professional membership are available on the ICF website: charteredforesters.org.

2. The Canadian Institute of Forestry (CIF-IFC) is the national voice of forest practitioners in Canada. It promotes public awareness and understanding of good forest stewardship, and provides outreach and opportunities for education and professional development. Visit cif-ifc.org.

3. The Duchy of Cornwall is a private estate established by Edward III in 1337 to provide independence to his son and heir, Prince Edward. It funds the public, charitable and private activities of the Prince of Wales and his family. Visit duchyofcornwall.org.

4. The Prince of Wales Forest Leadership Award is sponsored by TD Bank Group.

5. Pryor and Rickett Silviculture manages around 20,000 hectares of woodland in the UK and specializes in silviculture. Visit silviculture.co.uk.
6. The Algonquin Forestry Authority (AFA) is the Crown Agency responsible for Sustainable Forest Management in Algonquin Provincial Park, Ontario, Canada. Visit algonquinforestry.on.ca.

7. Strategic Natural Resource Consultants (SNRC) is one of the most highly regarded natural resource consulting firms on the West Coast of British Columbia, Canada. Visit snrc.ca.