



**Canadian Institute of Forestry Presents Presidential Award Posthumously to Christopher (Chris) A. Lee of Ottawa, Ontario**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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**Mattawa, ON – Wednesday, September 14, 2022** – The Canadian Institute of Forestry/Institut forestier du Canada (CIF-IFC) is pleased to announce Christopher (Chris) A. Lee, RPF of Ottawa, ON and CIF-IFC Ottawa Valley Section as the posthumous recipient of the 2022 Presidential Award. The Award was presented at the 2022 CIF-IFC Annual National Awards Ceremony on September 12, 2022 at the Delta Hotels by Marriott Sault Ste. Marie Waterfront in Sault Ste. Marie, ON.

“This Award is presented to individuals who have made significant or consistent outstanding contributions to the CIF-IFC through their actions in support of the Institute’s mission,” noted Mark Pearson, Executive Director, CIF-IFC, “more specifically, they have advanced the stewardship of Canada’s forest resources, demonstrated leadership in forestry, taken an active role in promoting competence among forestry professionals, and have fostered public awareness of Canadian and international forestry issues.”

Chris started his over 40-year forestry career at the University of Toronto, Faculty of Forestry, graduating with a BScF in 1979. He started his work career with the Prince Albert Pulp Company in Prince Albert, Saskatchewan, but that was just the beginning. Chris’ diverse career included policy advisor in the office of the federal forestry Minister, advisor in British Columbia treaty negotiations and national lead of the Model Forests Network where he deftly managed the diversity of expectations and interests of the 11 forests across the country. His collaboration with the forest industry is well illustrated in the letter of support from the Forest Products Association of Canada as well as his role as a member of the leadership team that developed and delivered Natural Resource Canada’s national Pulp and Paper Green Transformation Program that catalyzed huge strides in economic and environmental performance of Canada’s pulp industry. He also led the Canadian Lumber Standards Accreditation Board as CEO from 2007-09. One of Chris’ many achievements included, as Managing Director, Canadian Forest Owners Association, leading the merger of the 2 largest national woodlot owners associations to create the Canadian Federation of Forest Owners which represents over 25 million hectares of private forests in Canada.

In terms of commitment to the profession and the Institute, Chris worked as national Executive Director as well as a term as President of CIF-IFC. Chris has been a long time engaged member of the CIF-IFC nationally and member of the Saskatchewan and Vancouver Island Sections and active in the Ottawa Valley Section as member and Councilor. Throughout his career, Chris never lost his energy for exploring creative ways to communicate about forestry and share with friends, family and colleagues’, elegant but understandable, explanations to complex forestry issues.



**Canadian Institute of Forestry**  
**Institut forestier du Canada**

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Chris passed on September 17th, 2021 and is forever remembered by wife Bonnie and son Scott.

“Chris was a very dedicated individual and an outstanding champion for the Institute and Canadian forestry as a whole,” explained Pearson. “He is highly deserving of receiving this Award posthumously.”

Formed in 1908, the CIF-IFC is the national voice of forest practitioners and many others with an interest in forestry and forests. The Institute strives to provide national leadership, promote competence, and foster public awareness of Canadian and international forestry/forest issues. To learn more about the CIF-IFC National Awards Program, visit: [cif-ifc.org/what-we-do/national-awards](https://cif-ifc.org/what-we-do/national-awards)

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