



Canadian Institute of Forestry Presents Gender, Diversity and Inclusion Award to Apsana Kafle of Edmonton, AB

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Mattawa, ON – Wednesday, September 27, 2023 – The Canadian Institute of Forestry/Institut forestier du Canada (CIF-IFC) is pleased to announce Apsana Kafle of Edmonton, Alberta (AB) as the first recipient of the Gender, Diversity and Inclusion Award. The Award was presented at the 2023 CIF-IFC Annual National Awards Ceremony on September 25, 2023 at the Vancouver Island Conference Centre in Nanaimo, British Columbia (BC).

This Award was newly added to the CIF-IFC National Awards Program in 2021 and recognizes individuals who make significant, unique, and outstanding contributions to advance gender equity, equality, diversity and inclusion in their community or workplace in the field of forestry in Canada. This Award honours the dedication and commitment of those individuals to increase equity, inclusivity and diversity of underrepresented groups in the forest sector.

“We are excited to have our first recipient of the Gender, Diversity, and Inclusion Award,” stated CIF-IFC Executive Director, Mark Pearson. “The Institute is pleased to honour Apsana for her exceptional efforts towards promoting gender, diversity, and youth inclusion in the forest sector.”

Over the past 5 years, Apsana has been a dedicated advocate of gender and youth inclusion in forestry decision-making realms. As a co-founder of the Female Foresters Network, she's instrumental in mentoring and empowering more than 500 female foresters in Nepal, creating pathways for diversity and growth. Relocating to Canada in 2021, Apsana's commitment to her cause remains unwavering as she pursues her MSc in Forest Management from the University of Alberta. Her influence spans continents, as she represents North America within the International Forestry Students Association. Apsana's leadership extends to global platforms and she has led forestry student delegations to prominent events such as the World Forestry Congress, the UN Convention on Biodiversity, and Sustainable Forest Initiative meetings, where she champions youth perspectives. Apsana played a pivotal role in shaping the Women's Forest Congress by contributing to the gender inclusion strategy. Her engagement also extends to forestry education through IFSA and IUFRO, showcasing her dedication to advancing gender equality across the sector. Currently, she works with Center for International Forest Research (CIFOR), and is also active in IFSA.

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/national-awards

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