



**Canadian Institute of Forestry Presents The Prince of Wales Award for Sustainable Forestry to Ryan Wilkie of Thunder Bay, ON**

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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 Ryan Wilkie of Thunder Bay, Ontario (ON) and the CIF-IFC Northwestern Ontario Section as the 2023 recipient of The Prince of Wales Award for Sustainable Forestry. 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).

Developed by the CIF-IFC and the Duchy of Cornwall, this Award recognizes the achievements of an outstanding young forestry professional in Canada. The Award encourages the engagement in and dedication to the principles of sustainable forest management policy, planning and practice, sound science-based land stewardship, and public outreach/knowledge exchange focusing on the wise use and conservation of forests and the ecosystems that they encompass.

“Ryan’s exceptional commitment to sustainable forest management principles and academic excellence make him a very deserving recipient of The Prince of Wales Award for Sustainable Forestry Award,” mentioned Mark Pearson, CIF-IFC Executive Director.

Ryan grew up on the prairies of Manitoba, working and playing in the crop fields and oak pastures where his connection to nature was founded. An interest in remote sensing developed during his undergrad where Ryan majored in conservation planning and management, and his thesis focused on automated detection of raptor nests in forest canopies using drones. This was followed by graduate work studying road reclamation in Ontario’s boreal forests. After a stint on Vancouver Island as forest tech and drone pilot, Ryan went back to Lakehead University to teach the next cohorts of foresters and environmental technicians, working on various research projects with the faculty. This also included truth and reconciliation efforts in collaboration with other partners. Just recently, Ryan started with Parks Canada as the lead Geomatics Technician and drone pilot for the new Lake Superior National Marine Conservation Area.

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](https://cif-ifc.org/national-awards)

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