



**Canadian Institute of Forestry Designates the Mackenzie Region of Northwest Alberta as the 2024 Forest Capital of Canada**

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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 the Mackenzie Region of Northwest Alberta as the Forest Capital of Canada (FCC) for 2024.

“The Forest Capital of Canada designation was established in 1979 and celebrates a community or a region for its connectivity to the forest,” noted Mark Pearson, CIF-IFC Executive Director.

The FCC program focuses on the valuable role forests play in the socio-economic and environmental health of our communities – past, present and future, while also recognizing and celebrating the rich forest heritage and commitment to sustainable forest management practices across Canada. Originally delivered by the Canadian Forestry Association, the CIF-IFC now administers this legacy program, designating a community or region to host a celebration of its forest resources for a period of 12-24 months.

The 2023 CIF-IFC National Awards Ceremony was hosted on September 25, 2023 at the Vancouver Island Conference Centre in Nanaimo, British Columbia (BC). Lisa Wardley, Councillor for Mackenzie County, was in attendance to accept the designation and provide a few remarks on behalf of the Mackenzie Region of Northwest Alberta.

The Mackenzie Region is 80,000 square kilometers within the Boreal Forest of Northwest Alberta, and everything they do is connected to the forest or the land in some way. Their land mass is substantial - about the size of New Brunswick - and over 70% of the region's citizens are involved with, rely on, or work in the forest in some capacity. The Mackenzie Region is made up of forestry, energy, agriculture, trapping, tourism, and a whole lot of history and vibrant cultures.

“The Forest Capital of Canada Designation helps recognize how we are all connected to the forest and the integral role forestry plays in the Mackenzie Region of Northwest Alberta is apparent,” mentions Doug Reid, Past President, CIF-IFC. “We are excited to see their forestry celebrations unfold in 2024.”

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 FCC Designation, visit: [cif-ifc.org/national-awards/fcc](https://cif-ifc.org/national-awards/fcc)

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