

THE FUTURE OF FORESTRY IS BRIGHT

AND A CAREER IN ALBERTA'S
INDUSTRY IS WAITING FOR
SOMEONE LIKE YOU.

WORKWILD.CA





WHY WORK IN FORESTRY?

WHEN YOU WORK IN FORESTRY, YOU:



Have a wide range of
opportunities to do
meaningful work



Play a role in a
sustainable future



Experience leading-edge
technology and innovation

WHY WORK IN FORESTRY?

Forestry is one of Alberta's most important industries. Many people are surprised to see that the career opportunities within it are diverse. What's even better is that all of these careers play a role in driving sustainability, supporting the economy, and creating the products we all depend on every day. Here are just a few reasons why growing a career in forestry might be a good fit for you.

FORESTRY IS ON THE LEADING EDGE OF TECHNOLOGY

The days of bucksaws and bushwhacking are long gone. Our industry proudly drives innovation and advances technology. Major leaps in artificial intelligence, drone technology, bioenergy, and more have led to more productivity, smarter workflows, and stronger data collection. So, if you love your tech as much as you love nature, forestry is for you.

FORESTRY GROWS OUR ECONOMY

Canada's forest drives a range of benefits for our economy. It adds more to our country's GDP than the plastics, aerospace, and chemical industries. Here in Alberta, the forest industry generates revenue of more than \$5.8 billion annually and provides more than 16,500 direct and 15,000 indirect jobs, making it a significant economic, environmental, and social contributor to the province.

FORESTRY PROVIDES THE PRODUCTS YOU NEED (AND LOVE)

People count on the forestry industry for a long list of products you'd expect, like lumber, structural panels, newspapers, paper, tissue, and packaging. But there are also a wide variety of wood components used in some surprising everyday products. When you work in forestry, you play a big part in getting households in Canada – and across the globe – the items they need and love most.

FORESTRY PLAYS AN IMPORTANT ROLE IN ADDRESSING CLIMATE CHANGE

With the growing impacts of climate change, environmental and social sustainability matters now more than ever. Forestry practices are an important part of using the planet's resources sustainably. They can moderate the impacts of climate change, nurture ecosystems and habitats, and offer a source of renewable energy.

DID YOU KNOW?

The Alberta forestry industry employs

31,000+

people directly and indirectly within the province.

Alberta's forestry industry has great opportunities for young people. It provides an average annual compensation of approximately

\$62,317

to those under 25.



Bath towels, toothpaste, makeup, nail polish, medications, paints, LCD screens, and more are all made with products derived from trees

On average,

100 million

new seedlings are planted in Alberta every year.

A full-page background image showing a forestry worker in profile, facing right. He is wearing a black hard hat with a headlamp, safety glasses, a red and black plaid shirt, and grey work gloves. He is working with a large piece of wood. In the background, there are industrial structures, including a staircase with yellow railings, suggesting a sawmill or processing plant.

CAREER PATHS IN FORESTRY

FORESTRY CAREER OPPORTUNITIES AT A GLANCE

JOBS IN FORESTRY

Do you crave the outdoors or prefer to spend the day inside? Are you a planner or do you love to get your hands dirty? Love math and science...or maybe not so much? Whatever your passions, skills, and interests are – there's a career in the forestry industry that's waiting for you!

NOT QUITE SURE WHICH PATH TO PICK?

Start your journey with our quick career quiz.



31,500+
people work in Alberta's
forestry industry.

16,500+ | directly in
the industry
15,000+ | spin-off jobs



11,600 Indigenous people work in Canada's
forestry sector



1,400+ Indigenous-owned businesses
operate in the forestry sector

Engineering

Are you passionate about innovation and problem solving? The forestry industry has many career opportunities for engineers of all kinds.



CHEMICAL ENGINEER

You thrive on transforming materials into products and enjoy the science behind the process.

- **What you need:** Bachelor of Science in Engineering (Chemical Engineering)
- **Where you get it:** University of Alberta, University of Calgary
- **Average salary:** \$120,772.00

MECHANICAL ENGINEER

Explore this if you have the contradictory ability to be practical and conceptual, concrete, and visual, and you enjoy design.

- **What you need:** Bachelor of Science in Mechanical Engineering
- **Where you get it:** University of Alberta, University of Calgary
- **Average salary:** \$96,549.00

ELECTRICAL ENGINEER

This could be a fit if you're analytic, apt in math and science, and you want to work with technology.

- **What you need:** Bachelor of Science in Engineering (Electrical Engineering)
- **Where you get it:** University of Alberta, University of Calgary
- **Average salary:** \$103,500.00



"If I'm doing my job right, I shouldn't have any major problems to solve because everything should be running smoothly."

– Deanna Exley, Reliability Engineer

POWER ENGINEER

How does your TV work? How does your car engine work? As a power engineer, you have obtained the knowledge to answer these questions.

- **What you need:** Certification from the Alberta Boilers Safety Association (Third Class, Second Class, First Class)
- **Where you get it:** Alberta Boilers Safety Association. Training available at Northern Alberta Institute of Technology (NAIT) and Southern Alberta Institute of Technology (NAIT)
- **Average salary:** Power engineer \$42.22 an hour. Steamfitter \$40.55 an hour



“In forestry, they give every person an equal chance, as long as you’re willing to work towards it and show you have ideas.”

– Jasmine Holinaty, Power Engineer

Forestry

Calling all outdoor lovers! Spend time outside and get paid in a career that’s integral to the sustainable management of our forests and resiliency of our economy.



WILDFIRE FIGHTER

If you love adventure, staying fit and taking on a challenge, this may be the right path for you. Venture to remote locations to suppress forest fires.

- **What you need:** Complete the training program, plus health and fitness requirements
- **Where you get it:** Hinton Training Centre
- **Average salary:** \$71,495

ENVIRONMENTAL COORDINATOR ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS COORDINATOR

Forestry is a sustainable industry, and you ensure it operates accordingly.

- **What you need:** Bachelor’s Degree or Technical Diploma in Environmental Science
- **Where you get it:** University of Alberta, University of Calgary
- **Average salary:** \$66,265.00 to \$110,381.00

GRADER

Lumber eagerly await your critical eye and approval. They want to become structural lumber for family homes and many other products that must meet strict building code requirements – and you’re the one who determines their future.

- **What you need:** A Grade Certificate is required, which can be achieved by attending the Alberta Forest Products Association Grading School
- **Average salary:** \$28.59 to \$46.78 an hour

GIS SPECIALIST

Do you live and breathe technology and geography? Combine your innate sense of direction with computer-based Geographical Information Systems (GIS) to create, maintain, and analyze information in maps and databases.

- **What you need:** Diploma or Degree in Geography, Forestry or Science with a strong background in computer science and remote sensing
- **Where you get it:** Lethbridge College, Northern Alberta Institute of Technology, Olds College, Southern Alberta Institute of Technology, University of Lethbridge, University of Alberta, University of Calgary
- **Average salary:** \$82,211.00



“GIS is a hobby that you get paid to do. Everybody always asks me, ‘what is GIS? What do you do with GIS?’ And I always refer back to, ‘you use Google Maps on your phone, on your computer.’ GIS is our version – it’s our imagery, it’s our data.”

– Chad St. Amand, GIS Coordinator

REGISTERED PROFESSIONAL FORESTER/ REGISTERED PROFESSIONAL FOREST TECHNOLOGIST (RPFT)

You are passionate about the health and longevity of Alberta's public forests. As an forester or forest Technologist, you create forest plans and make them come to life.

- **What you need:** Bachelor's Degree in Forestry or Diploma in Forest Technology. Outdoor experience recommended
- **Where you get it:** University of Alberta or Northern Alberta Institute of Technology (NAIT). Program can be started at Northern Lakes College or Portage College. Alberta Junior Forest Rangers provides work related forestry experience
- **Average salary:** \$92,005.00

INDIGENOUS RELATIONS LIAISON

Cross-cultural understanding between people of Indigenous and non-Indigenous origin is important to you. As an Indigenous Relations Liaison, you help build and maintain effective relationships and cultural understanding between the forest industry and the Indigenous peoples and communities. You will work in partnership with the 50 nations and nine Métis Settlements across the province. You recognize the importance of Indigenous peoples' strong connection to the land, as well as the cultural uniqueness of Alberta's vibrant Indigenous communities.

- **What you need:** Degree in Business, Education, Human Ecology, Humanities, Languages, Social Science, Law, Religious Studies or Native Studies
- **Where you get it:** Various universities and colleges in Alberta. Most roles require a combination of education and experience
- **Average salary:** \$62,124.00



"As a liaison, I get to go out to sites with members of the community so they can show us where there's things like wildlife, recreation, or cultural sites, and we use that information they provide to plan how we can preserve that."

– Noel Gairdner, Community Liaison

PRODUCT TECHNICIAN

You're a smart worker who decided to start in an entry-level position so you're able to quickly move up in the industry. You work hard to ensure production runs smoothly from the bottom up.

- **What you need:** No formal education required
- **Average salary:** Minimum \$17.00 an hour

TIMBER SCALER

You love the outdoors, timber and how the two size up. You have the ability to keep your numerical and computer skills sharp.

- **What you need:** No formal education required. However, forest education is valued and Registered Professional Forester (RPFs) and Registered Professional Forest Technician (RPFTs) certifications are available
- **Where you get it:** Association of Alberta Forest Management Professionals
- **Average salary:** \$68,069.00

SILVICULTURE CONTRACTOR

Silviculture is all about maintaining the growth, structure, and quality of forests. That means you're passionate about the environment and prefer to spend your summers being at one with nature and your winters waging war against the pine beetles. There are many job titles, but you could be a tree planter, regeneration surveyor, herbicide applicator, or cone picker.

- **What you need:** No formal education required. Many are Registered Professional Forest Technicians with training
- **Average salary:** \$39.57 an hour



"Silviculture is the art and science of growing trees. It's making forests come to life."

– Stacey Pike, Silviculture Superintendent

Office

Working in the forestry industry doesn't mean always being outdoors. The office career path is perfect for those who love to work with numbers, people, or technology. Play a key role in ensuring the forestry industry moves smoothly.



ADMINISTRATION

You're organized, on top of office tasks, and excited about working in a sustainable industry.

- **What you need:** No formal education required
- **Average salary:** \$18.55 to \$37.29 an hour

ACCOUNTANT

You enjoy numbers, clear rules, developing innovative solutions to problems, and logical analysis.

- **What you need:** Bachelor's Degree and certification from the Certified General Accountants' Association of Alberta
- **Where you get it:** Athabasca University, Grande Prairie Regional College, MacEwan University, Mount Royal University, Northern Alberta Institute of Technology, Southern Alberta Institute of Technology, University of Alberta, University of Calgary, University of Lethbridge
- **Average salary:** \$79,752.00

BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT MANAGER

You strike the perfect balance between being logical and conceptual. Your business is forestry and it's your job to develop it accordingly.

- **What you need:** Business or Forestry related post-secondary education
- **Where you get it:** Athabasca University, Grande Prairie Regional College, MacEwan University, Mount Royal University, Northern Alberta Institute of Technology, Southern Alberta Institute of Technology, University of Alberta, University of Calgary, University of Lethbridge
- **Average salary:** \$29.92 to \$47.89 an hour

PUBLIC RELATIONS

You're the bridge between your organization and the public, and you shape the organization's image according to their standard of representation.

- **What you need:** Degree or Diploma in a communications-related field
- **Where you get it:** Athabasca University, MacEwan University, Lethbridge College, Mount Royal University, University of Alberta, University of Calgary
- **Average salary:** \$68,595.00

HUMAN RESOURCES

You're personable, relatable, sensitive, and you want to reach organizational goals and objectives.

- **What you need:** Degree or Diploma in a field related to human resource management
- **Where you get it:** Athabasca University, Bow Valley College, MacEwan University, Keyano College, Lakeland College, Mount Royal University, Northern Alberta Institute of Technology, University of Alberta, University of Calgary, University of Lethbridge
- **Average salary:** \$69,906.00



"A career in Human Resources can be incredibly rewarding. Just one of the reasons I love this profession is that it provides the chance to build and make positive impacts on people and in business practice. The forestry industry has been a supportive, inviting space to grow and develop in this field – it truly is an industry with endless possibilities."

– Kaitlin Noskey, Human Resources Superintendent

IT AND COMPUTER SYSTEMS

You're proud to be called a tech whiz, passionate about innovation, and love problem solving. Be part of an industry using leading-edge technology in new ways.

- **What you need:** High school diploma and related training and/or experience
- **Where you get it:** Academy of Learning, Bow Valley College, Cypress College, Grande Prairie Regional College, Medicine Hat College, Northern Alberta Institute of Technology (NAIT), Northern Lakes College, Red Deer College, Southern Alberta Institute of Technology (SAIT)
- **Average salary:** \$120,102.00

LAWYER

You have a strong code of ethics, sense of responsibility, and persuasive personality.

- **What you need:** Two to four years in an undergraduate degree program, a three-year Bachelor of Laws (LLB) degree from an accredited law school, and one full year in an articling position (student-at-law)
- **Where you get it:** University of Alberta and University of Calgary offer undergraduate and LLB degree programs. It is your responsibility to obtain an articling position
- **Average salary:** \$145,690.00

SALES AND MARKETING

You love talking to people. You might select this industry because of your affinity with wilderness, your strong communication skills, your professionalism, and passion for new ideas.

- **What you need:** Business related post-secondary education
- **Where you get it:** Athabasca University, Grande Prairie Regional College, Lethbridge College, Medicine Hat College, Mount Royal University, Northern Alberta Institute of Technology, Red Deer College, Southern Alberta Institute of Technology, University of Alberta, University of Calgary, University of Lethbridge
- **Average salary:** \$108,063.00

Operations

Spend your days operating equipment that is larger than life. This career path is the key to keeping this sustainable industry moving forward.



CRANE OPERATOR

You want to be the person behind heavy machinery and have the talent to manipulate multiple pedals and levers simultaneously.

- **What you need:** Either a registered apprenticeship, journeyperson certification or recognized trade certificate. Where you get it: Alberta Apprenticeship and Industry Training
- **Average salary:** \$36.00 an hour

EQUIPMENT OPERATOR

Your job is like a massive, real-life video game. You've acquired the hand-eye coordination needed to operate your increasingly sophisticated equipment.

- **What you need:** No formal education required. Training available at Northern Lakes College, Olds College and Woodland Operations Learning Foundation
- **Average salary:** \$33.85 an hour

MILL MANAGER

You're a leader, a coordinator, a director—you're a manager, responsible for leading your organization to victory.

- **What you need:** Education in engineering, forestry or business is typically required
- **Where you get it:** MacEwan University, Mount Royal University, Northern Alberta Institute of Technology, Southern Alberta Institute of Technology, University of Alberta, University of Calgary
- **Average salary:** \$110,981.00



"My job is to ensure that, number one, our people are safe. It's also to make sure we're growing and investing in our people, we're growing and investing in our community. And hopefully, I'm creating a facility where my grandkids can come work someday."

– Natalie Peace, Mill Manager

PILOT

You're the ace of the aircraft that travels to places that only few will. As a pilot in the forest industry, you're responsible for bringing people to remote areas so they're able to perform their jobs, providing aerial observation, safely dropping off tree seedlings and more.

- **What you need:** Pilot's License
- **Where you get it:** Aviation schools are available across the province
- **Average salary:** \$36.39 an hour



"I enjoy the flexibility of being a helicopter pilot. One day I am working with silviculturists and another fighting wildfire."

– Rodney Drake, Chief Pilot

ROAD CONSTRUCTION

The road less travelled is the road you intend to be on – but you're excited to pave the way for others.

- **What you need:** No formal education is required
- **Average salary:** \$19.25 to \$45.90 an hour

TRUCK DRIVER

It's just you and the road.... You enjoy driving on and off highway and are methodical in your approach.

- **What you need:** Class 1 Driver's Licence with Q-endorsement (Air Brake)
- **Where you get it:** New Class 1 Driver's Licence training delivered by an Alberta licensed driver training school
- **Average salary:** \$28.79 an hour



“Every day, I help ensure access to the products that keep the forest industry thriving. Whether that’s delivering raw materials to mills or communities around our province, I have found a rewarding career that is critical to keeping our society and economy thriving.”

- John Loewen, Truck Driver

Sciences

Be the go-to expert on plants, water, soil, animals, and more with a career path in the sciences.



BIOLOGIST

You’re investigative, detail oriented and naturally curious. Whether you’re working with wildlife, fisheries or with plants, you’re passionate about life and living organisms.

- **What you need:** Bachelor of Science Degree in Biological Sciences. Master of Science Degree
- **Where you get it:** University of Alberta, University of Calgary, and University of Lethbridge
- **Average salary:** \$91,023.00



“[Biologists] all want to maintain the ecosystems that we share with species and we want to do this in a sustainable fashion.”

- Gordon Stenhouse, Research Scientist

CHEMIST

Particles and molecules get you excited. You are a woodsy chemist who researches the properties and composition of elements and compounds.

- **What you need:** Bachelor of Science Degree in Chemistry
- **Where you get it:** Concordia University College of Alberta, The King’s University College, University of Alberta, University of Calgary, University of Lethbridge
- **Average salary:** \$104,560.00

ECOLOGIST

You always say, “a bad day in the bush is better than a good day in the office!” You’re passionate about the relationship between plants, animals, and the environment.

- **What you need:** Bachelor of Science in Biological Sciences
- **Where you get it:** University of Alberta, University of Calgary, and University of Lethbridge
- **Average salary:** \$91,023.00

HYDROLOGIST

Studying streams and other water sources fascinates you. As a hydrologist, you explore water-related concepts by utilizing your scientific mathematical knowledge.

- **What you need:** Bachelor of Science Degree in Hydrology. Bachelor of Science in Engineering (Environmental)
- **Where you get it:** University of Alberta, University of Calgary, and University of Lethbridge
- **Average salary:** \$130,597.00

SOIL SCIENTIST

Your day on the job starts and ends in soil, and you know that dirt is just the stuff under your fingernails. As soil scientist, you study the properties of soil and the processes that occur in soil.

- **What you need:** Bachelor’s Degree in Environmental Engineering, Land Reclamation, Agriculture, Forestry, Biological, Earth or Environmental Sciences with a specialization in Soil Sciences
- **Where you get it:** University of Alberta, University of Calgary, and University of Lethbridge
- **Average salary:** \$100,619.00



“Soil is at the heart of everything we do. This specialization is unique because healthy soil is the backbone of a thriving ecosystem.”

- Rick Murray, Soil Specialist

Trades

When equipment breaks down, work stops. Skilled tradespeople monitor, maintain, and utilize machines of all kinds.



BOILERMAKER/WELDER

You love working with your hands, have strong attention to detail, and possess strong math skills.

- **What you need:** Either a registered apprenticeship, journeyperson certification, recognized trade certificate
- **Where you get it:** Alberta Apprenticeship and Industry Training
- **Average salary:** Boilermaker \$32.89 an hour.
Welder \$37.56 an hour

ELECTRICIAN

You segue effortlessly from one important industry into another: from electrical power to forestry. You get to use your electrical knowledge to power a sustainable industry, while enjoying the outdoor lifestyle.

- **What you need:** Either a registered apprenticeship, journeyperson certification or recognized trade certificate, plus related training
- **Where you get it:** Alberta Apprenticeship and Industry Training
- **Average salary:** \$38.34 an hour

INSTRUMENT TECHNICIAN

Do you have strong troubleshooting abilities, problem solving skills, and meticulous attention to detail? Instrument technician could be the career path for you.

- **What you need:** Either a registered apprenticeship, journeyperson certification or recognized trade certificate
- **Where you get it:** Alberta Apprenticeship and Industry Training. Training offered at Grande Prairie Regional College, Lakeland College in Vermilion, Northern Alberta Institute of Technology (NAIT), Red Deer College, Southern Alberta Institute of Technology (SAIT)
- **Average salary:** \$44.78 an hour

HEAVY DUTY MECHANIC

Skidders, processor and loader, and chippers are just some of the sophisticated, and aptly named, equipment that you're the master of.

- **What you need:** Either a registered apprenticeship, journeyperson certification or recognized trade certificate
- **Where you get it:** Alberta Apprenticeship and Industry Training
- **Average salary:** \$38.15 an hour

MILLWRIGHT/PIPEFITTER

Want to embrace the fun and satisfaction of bringing blueprints to life? You'll get your hands dirty installing, maintaining, repairing and troubleshooting machinery – and the hours in your day never look the same.

- **What you need:** Four-year trade apprenticeship, plus technical training
- **Where you get it:** Find a suitable employer who is willing to hire and train an apprentice. Training offered at Grande Prairie Regional College, Keyano College in Fort McMurray, Northern Alberta Institute of Technology (NAIT), Red Deer College, Southern Alberta Institute of Technology (SAIT)
- **Average salary:** Millwright \$42.93 an hour.
Pipefitter \$40.55 an hour

PLUMBER

You are mechanically inclined, agile, and strong. Piping is what you know, and plumbing is what you love.

- **What you need:** Either a registered apprenticeship, journeyperson certification or recognized trade certificate, plus related training
- **Where you get it:** Alberta Apprenticeship and Industry Training
- **Average salary:** \$36.28 an hour



"I entered in as a tradesman and moved to supervisor responsibilities within the company. We have been able to attract a lot of good workers to make a career in the forestry industry, raise families and have a good lifestyle."
- Jim Thiessen, Shop Supervisor

ABOUT WORK WILD

Work Wild reaches out to people who are making one of the most important choices in their lives — finding a career they love! We are here to educate you on the diversity of employment choices in forestry and show you the benefits of working in this sustainable industry. Work Wild is supported by the Alberta Forest Products Association (AFPA) and the Forest Resource Improvement Association of Alberta (FRIAA).

VISIT OUR WEBSITE TO FIND SCHOLARSHIPS, CAREER PROFILES, CURRENT JOB OPENINGS, AND CLASSROOM RESOURCES.

WORKWILD.CA