



Forest Professionals
BRITISH COLUMBIA

What is a Forest Professional?

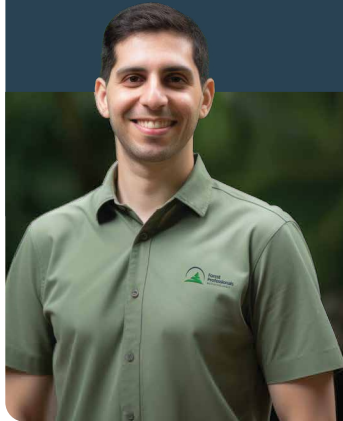
Forest professionals in BC are a regulated profession, like lawyers, accountants, doctors, dentists, and engineers.



Forestry is the science of managing, caring for, and creating forests and forest lands. Under the **Professional Governance Act**, the Forest Professionals Regulation defines professional forestry as the provision of advice or services related to trees, forests, forest lands, forest resources, forest transportation systems, or forest ecosystems. Forestry is NOT logging; logging is the cutting of trees for use as wood products.

Professional forestry happens on the ground in the forest, or in an office where plans and policies are made. Work done by forest professionals encompasses:

Two main types of forest professionals:



Registered Professional Forester (RPF)

Holds a four-year university degree in forestry or allied science; responsible for all aspects of forest management and how the forest is used and cared for.

Registered Forest Technologist (RFT)

Holds a college diploma in forest technology; mainly involved in technical forest management activities and on-the-ground field work.

- wildfire and forest fuel management
- wildfire rehabilitation
- stand-level and landscape-level forest planning
- urban forest management
- research and climate change adaptation
- forest conservation
- reforestation and seedling production
- forest watershed planning and management
- forest management in collaboration with Indigenous Peoples
- forest inventory and analysis
- forest policy, procedures, and administration
- forest ecosystem assessment and management
- auditing, inspecting, monitoring, and verifying forest operations, plans, and practices
- forest roads and transportation systems
- forest harvest planning and oversight

Forest professionals meet strict educational and professional standards

Forest professionals must have a post-secondary education, complete a two to four-year articling process, pass a series of licensure exams, and maintain their competence through ongoing professional development.



To protect the environment and the public, provincial legislation requires anyone practising professional forestry in BC be registered and regulated by Forest Professionals BC (FPBC).

FPBC by the Numbers **5,200+**
Registrants



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