

2025-2029

STRATEGIC PLAN

OUR VISION

Public trust in registered forest professionals.

OUR MISSION

Protect the public by ensuring BC has skilled, knowledgeable, and accountable forest professionals.



**Forest
Professionals**
BRITISH COLUMBIA

Introduction

The care and management of BC's forests is critically important for all people living in the province. The forest professionals who provide advice and services to manage and use forests are regulated by Forest Professionals British Columbia.

Under the *Professional Governance Act* (PGA), Forest Professionals BC is mandated to protect the public and the environment by ensuring only those with the proper education, experience, and knowledge practise professional forestry. By law, anyone practising professional forestry in BC must be a registrant of Forest Professionals BC.

The 2025-2029 strategic plan sets out the goals and objectives for Forest Professionals BC to fulfil its mandate and vision. The plan also outlines the regulatory philosophy and operating principles that define the culture and conduct of the organization.

The strategic plan maps a path through a new era of modern professional regulation and forest management that must account for multiple and changing social values. Forest Professionals BC's focus is on the people practising professional forestry. As the regulator for the practice of professional forestry, Forest Professionals BC sets and

enforces standards and provides guidance to help registered forest professionals obtain and maintain their skills and knowledge, and contribute to other values such as reconciliation, diversity, foreign credential recognition, biodiversity, and climate change. Forest Professionals BC does this by adhering to guiding principles while working with registrants, partner agencies, other professional regulators, and all levels of government in providing regulatory services.

Strategic Goals and Objectives 2025 - 2029

Goal: Skilled and knowledgeable forest professionals.

Objectives:

- Monitor and enforce a mandatory continuing professional development (CPD) program for Forest Professionals BC registrants.
- Proactively audit forest professionals to help ensure they continue to provide quality professional service and conduct.
- Provide a suite of professional development offerings as well as an annual forestry conference to assist registrants in maintaining and improving their professional forestry skills and knowledge.

Goal: A strong accountability framework to safeguard the public interest and integrity of the forestry profession.

Objectives:

- Deliver a timely complaint and discipline process.
- Maintain a fair system of processes and procedures for investigating forest professionals alleged to have engaged in incompetent or unethical practices and conduct.
- Ensure the practice of professional forestry is conducted only by those who meet the professional and education standards for registration with Forest Professionals BC and maintain and update the skills and knowledge required to competently practise professional forestry.
- Prevent those who have not met and maintained the standards and requirements for registration with Forest Professionals BC from using reserved titles.

Goal: Professional standards that support responsible forest stewardship.

Objectives:

- Set competence and practice standards in critical areas of professional forestry practice.
- Maintain standards of professional and ethical conduct for Forest Professionals BC registrants.
- Provide interpretative guidance and resources, coupled with a practice advisory program, to support Forest Professionals BC registrants in applying and upholding professional standards.
- Grow and support inclusive professional communities of forestry practice that support forest professionals in applying and refining their knowledge while learning from others.
- Increase the use of quality assurance statements to strengthen accountability and transparency in forest management.
- Develop a framework for regulating firms working in forestry as an additional measure to safeguard the public interest.

Goal: Ensure BC has a supply of skilled forest professionals.

Objectives:

- Increase student and employer awareness of the regulation of professional forestry and the pathways to entry.
- Streamline the application process for BC, Canadian, and international applicants.
- Modernize and maintain robust education entrance standards, in partnership with post-secondary institutions and Canadian forestry regulators, to ensure those entering the profession are qualified.
- Support registrants-in-training through a meaningful and timely articling and learning program.
- Strengthen existing professional designations and implement new designations including limited licences and a forest technician designation to support the need for a skilled workforce and better address public and environmental safety.

Goal: Effective governance, administration, and communication.

Objectives:

- Ensure Forest Professionals BC remains on sound financial footing.
- Diversify revenue sources to support Forest Professionals BC's long term financial stability.
- Regularly and transparently communicate the results of Forest Professional BC's regulatory activities.
- Fulfil regulatory standards set by the Office of the Superintendent of Professional Governance.
- Raise public and stakeholder awareness of the forestry profession and its practice.
- Update information technology systems to better support and enhance the delivery of regulatory services to meet the needs of Forest Professionals BC registrants and the public.
- Safeguard digital and physical information.
- Foster good governance through the appointment of board, statutory committee, and panel members via a merit-based, competency-driven process.
- Maintain a competent regulatory workforce.



Photo credit: Willow Ellsworth, RFT

About Forest Professionals British Columbia

Forest Professionals British Columbia was created by the BC government in 1947. Today it operates under the authority of the *Professional Governance Act* (PGA).

Forest Professionals BC is governed by a board of eight elected Forest Professionals BC registrants and four government appointees. The board is granted the authority to govern and administer the affairs of the organization in accordance with the PGA. The board uses a policy-based governance model to provide leadership and strategic direction to guide the business operations.

Forest Professionals BC is committed to supporting reconciliation through inclusion, awareness, and providing ongoing education and training opportunities to our registrants on the culture, history, and rights of Indigenous People and advancing opportunities to better integrate Indigenous knowledge and participation in the regulatory work of the forest profession.

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Forest Professionals BC's regulatory philosophy is reflected in all business operations. Its guiding values highlight what the organization considers both important and desirable.

Regulatory Philosophy:

- **Fair:** processes and decisions are made in accordance with applicable rules and appropriate authority, based on relevant information, and respectful of individual needs and circumstances.
- **Objective:** issues and decisions of Forest Professionals BC are impartial and made with integrity, approached with an open mind, apolitical, and avoid pre-judgement and bias.
- **Transparent:** Forest Professionals BC shares information in a forthright way; it is clear and accessible and respectful of confidentiality and privacy rights.
- **Proportionate:** Forest Professionals BC's regulatory services, frameworks, and processes are appropriate for the size and complexity of the organization. The regulatory approach is neither excessively burdensome nor too lenient, balancing the need to protect the public and environment while not overregulating professionals.

Guiding Values:

- We place our public protection mandate above registrant interests.
- We support reconciliation with Indigenous Peoples through inclusion, education, and awareness within our regulatory programs and services.
- We engage our registrants and leverage their skills and expertise in the regulatory work of the forest profession.
- We build partnerships founded on mutual trust and shared interests.
- We provide effective support and recognition for volunteers, staff, and registrants.
- We foster regulatory collaboration at provincial, national, and international levels.
- We cultivate an environment that embraces diversity and inclusivity.
- We measure and report on our regulatory work.
- We embrace technology and evidence-based decision making.
- We foster balanced forest and environmental stewardship through our work.