

FORESTRY

What's a forest professional?

Forest professionals sustainably manage BC's forests for future generations.

Two main types of forest professionals:

• **Registered Professional Forester (RPF)**

• **Registered Forest Technologist (RFT)**

What does an RPF do?

RPFs design forest management plans, often in partnership with other natural resource professionals, to ensure the ongoing sustainability of BC forests. They make decisions such as when, where and how to harvest and replant areas, how to protect or restore ecosystems, and how to protect fish, wildlife, water, and recreation uses.

What does an RFT do?

RFTs perform technical forest management activities within a team of resource professionals to ensure the growth and development of forests. They make decisions such as locating prescribed harvest boundaries, implementing planting projects, and carrying out forest fuel treatments to protect ecosystems and communities from fire.

Forest professionals are highly educated.

RPFs hold bachelor degrees or higher from nationally-accredited forestry programs at Canadian universities such as UBC or UNBC.

RFTs hold a technology diploma from nationally-accredited programs offered by Canadian institutes or colleges such as BCIT, CNC, Selkirk College and VIU.



To become an RPF or RFT, candidates must meet educational requirements and undertake an articling process for a minimum of 24 months.

Forest professionals must abide by a Code of Ethics and standards of practice.



ABCFP by Numbers
5,300+
Members Strong

Under BC's *Foresters Act*, anyone practising forestry in BC must be a member of the **Association of BC Forest Professionals**, which registers and regulates forest professionals. The ABCFP is the largest professional forestry association in Canada.



Types of work commonly performed by forest professionals:

- Chief forester
- Industry manager
- Resource manager
- Resource inventory management
- Urban forestry
- Vegetation management
- Harvest planning and reforestation
- Wildfire management
- Conservation
- First Nations tenure management
- Park forest management
- Forest hydrology
- Resource roads planning and construction
- Compliance monitoring
- Geographic information management and analysis
- Forest modelling
- Forest research
- Climate change adaptation and mitigation



WE'RE NOT LOGGERS, LUMBERJACKS, OR TREE PLANTERS. BUT SOMETIMES WE DO WEAR PLAID.

