

FACES OF FORESTRY

A Celebration of our Aboriginal Members





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As the Association of BC Forest Professionals works to build relationships with the Aboriginal Peoples of British Columbia, we want to take a moment to celebrate our current Aboriginal members. The depth of traditional knowledge and culture these members bring to the ABCFP enhances our association as a whole and we value their skills.

We also want to use this booklet to promote careers in forestry to Aboriginal youth. As you will see from the stories inside, forestry is a broad profession and the variety of work available is impressive. Also, forestry jobs are often in small towns, rural communities and on Aboriginal lands. This can be ideal for Aboriginal youth looking for meaningful, well-paid employment near home.





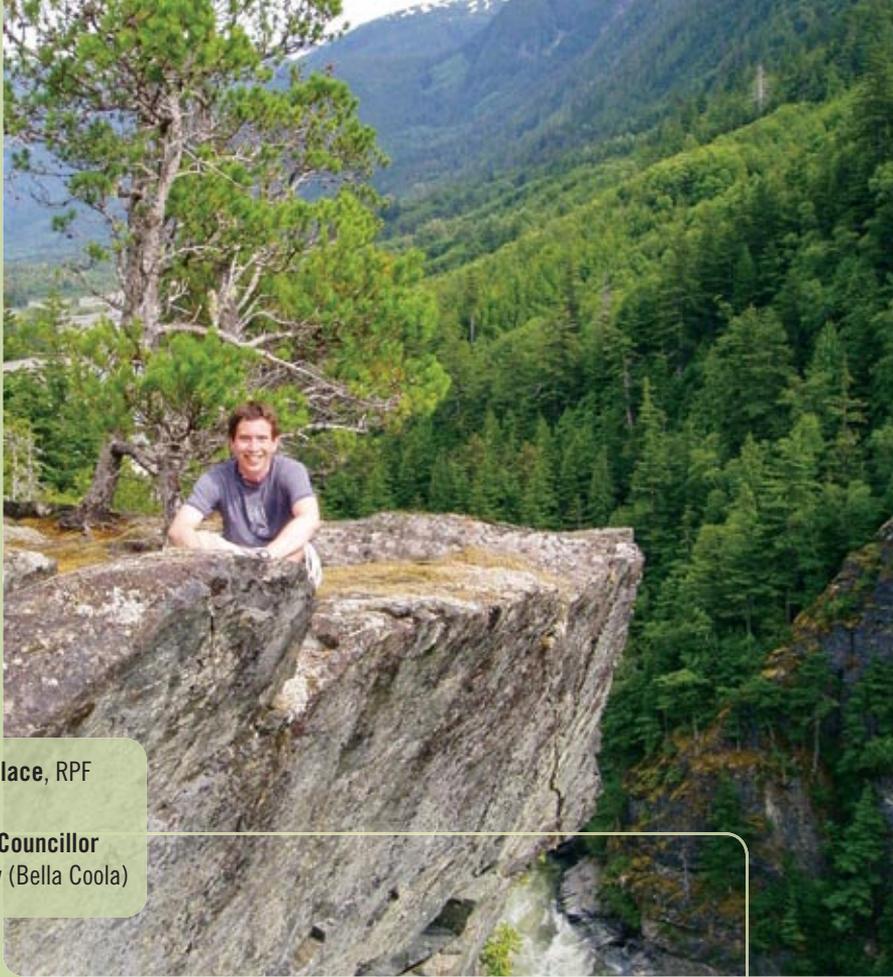
Betsy Cranmer, FIT
'Namgis First Nation
Silviculture/Forest Technician
Sandspit

“I am involved in all aspects of silviculture and stand tending,” said Betsy. She begins with organizing a planting season, moves on to surveying, monitoring and applying treatment to those trees and finally sees the trees through to a healthy regenerated stand.

“I enjoy the tending aspect of silviculture,” said Betsy. She likes watching and being a part of the progression of a newly planted stand of trees through to mature trees.

“Why did I get into forestry? I got into forestry by chance and the overwhelming need to eat,” said Betsy. “Forestry was completely unknown to me at the time but through tech school, university and field training, I grew into forestry and over time it became more than just a job.”

Betsy would recommend forestry to Aboriginal youth. “There are lots of opportunities out there these days for First Nations and forestry. The youth of today need to be made aware of that early on in their schooling so they can prepare for a post-secondary education.”



Spencer Siwallace, RPF
Nuxalk Nation

Elected Chief Councillor
Nuxalk Territory (Bella Coola)

“I am responsible for ensuring the direction given by the council is communicated to the administration staff through the band manager,” said Spencer. “The responsibilities include all aspects of life on a reserve from roads and drainage to health to education to housing and everything in between.”

The Nuxalk Nation has a Community Forest Agreement and volume associated with a Forest and Range Opportunity. Spencer’s experience as an RPF is a major asset and helps him to convey important forestry related information to the elected council and the community as a whole.

“My favorite part of my job is working for my people and doing what I can to ensure my nation has the best future possible,” said Spencer. “I use my education and experience every day as I work to improve the lives of my people to the best of my ability.”

“How did I get into forestry? While attending UBC with the intent of getting into electro-mechanical engineering, I flipped through the UBC academic calendar and all of the forestry related courses caught my attention,” said Spencer. “I transferred to the forestry program with hopes of obtaining a job where I would spend most of my time outdoors.” Spencer did work outdoors for a while. Now, as elected chief of the Nuxalk, he spends most of his time in the office but makes every effort to spend time out in Nuxalk Territory. “I also volunteer for our Rediscovery program where I teach the youth about our plants and the forests,” said Spencer.



W. I. (Bill) Thibeault, RPF
Métis

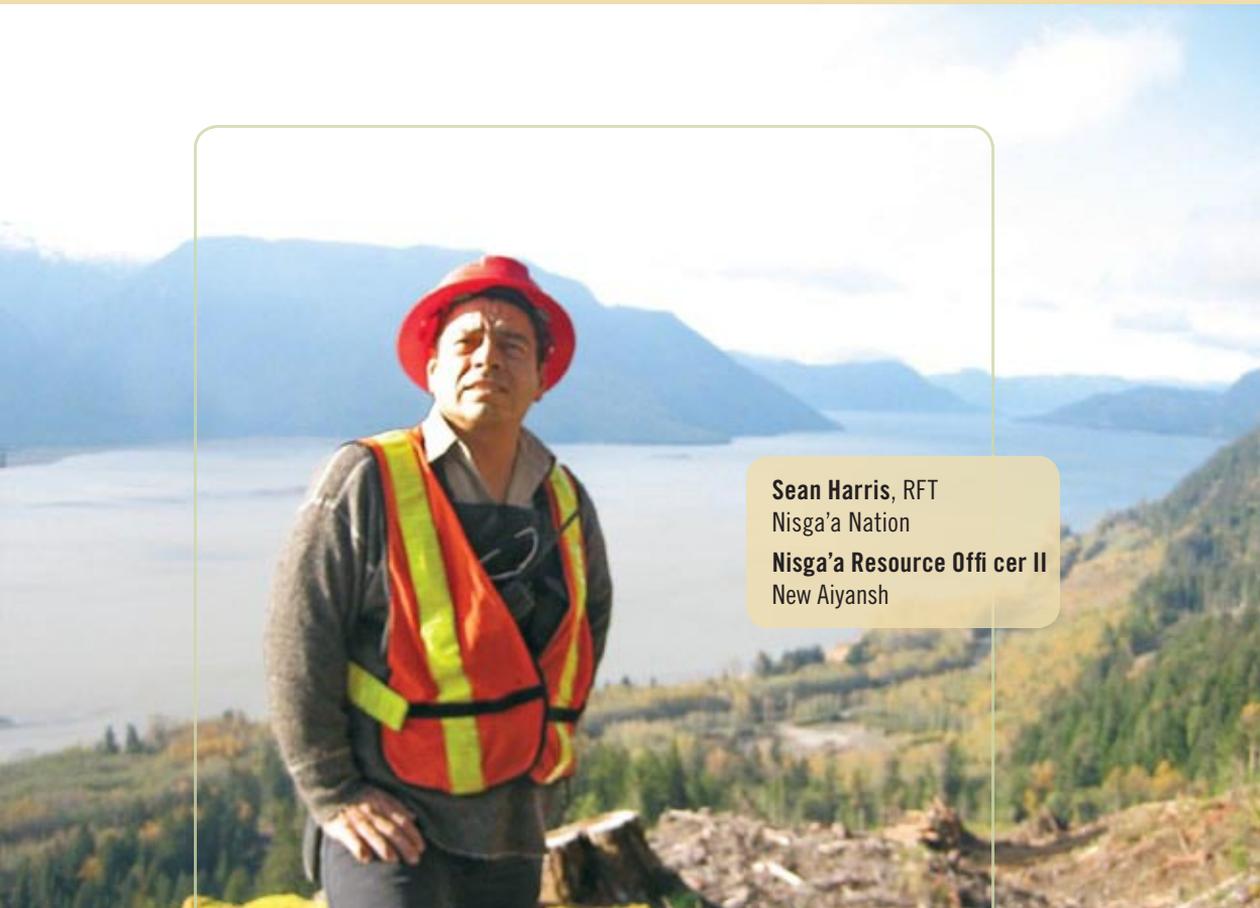
District Manager
Vanderhoof

As a district manager, Bill is accountable for leading the effective and efficient delivery of all aspects of district operations to ensure healthy, productive forests, safeguard government financial interests and advance a globally competitive forest industry. As stewards of British Columbia's forest and range resources, the Forest Service has key responsibilities in the protection, conservation and management of these resources.

"The district manager position gives me the chance to be a part of the overall management of our forest and range resources," said Bill. "They are valuable and important public resources that provide environmental, economic, social and cultural benefits to all citizens of the province."

"Why did I get into forestry? I have always loved the outdoors and the chance to work in the forests and being part of managing forest resources appealed to me," said Bill. "Also, I like living in small towns and forestry offered me the opportunity to live that lifestyle."

Bill would recommend forestry to Aboriginal youth. "Forestry is a career in a sustainable, renewable resource. You can be part of providing a variety of benefits to citizens as well as participating in the challenging field of forest resource management."



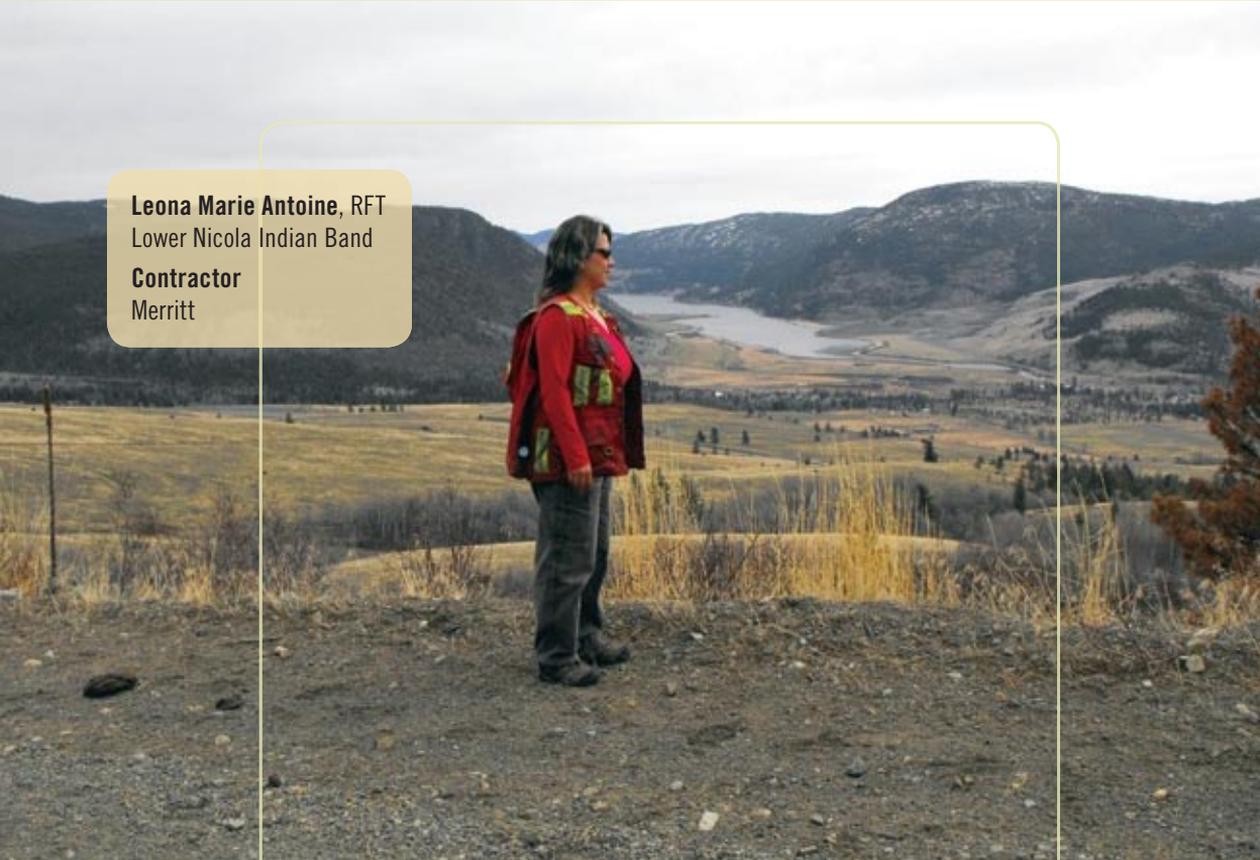
Sean Harris, RFT
Nisga'a Nation
Nisga'a Resource Officer II
New Aiyansh

Sean monitors all aspects of forestry operations on Nisga'a Lands from the time a consultant lays out a cut block, right up to the time that cut block is replanted with seedlings. He checks to make sure all the rules regarding cut block layout, such as wildlife tree patches and riparian management areas, are being followed. When logging is completed, he inspects the block for anything the logging company still needs to do, such as cleaning streams and ditches or even removing their garbage from the site.

Another part of Sean's job is to monitor and enforce the rules for the harvesting of botanical forest products (BFPs) on Nisga'a Lands. BFPs include all types of edible mushrooms. "I have been given the fun name of Mushroom Police by the locals here," said Sean.

Sean's favourite thing about forestry is being out in the field, walking up and down a mountain. "It's better than looking out my office window at the mountains," said Sean.

"I would highly recommend forestry to Aboriginal youth because it is one way to experience the nomadic nature that our ancestors used to have when they followed the food supplies," said Sean. "It's also a great way to stay in shape—lots of walking."



Leona Marie Antoine, RFT
Lower Nicola Indian Band
Contractor
Merritt

Leona works as an independent First Nations contractor for bands, industry and the Ministry of Forestry and Range. “As a Registered Forest Technologist, I wear many hats,” said Leona. “Throughout my career, I have assisted with research, data field collection, fall and burn of beetle-killed trees, firefighting across the country, supervision of tree planters, stream assessments and layout of cut blocks.”

Leona enjoys being part of the team that oversees how our resources are managed. She also likes harvesting native medicinal plants as she sees them, sharing them with the elders and teaching her own children. As a firefighter, she was also able to carry out traditional practices of burning for plant restoration and fuel management.

“I got into forestry because I was raised in a family that worked in the forest industry. I had a natural curiosity about the outdoors and wondered how our resources were being managed,” said Leona. “I saw a great demand for First Nations input and strived in my education and career towards my passion.”

“I would recommend forestry to youth because it enhances our existing First Nations knowledge and the present development that the landscape is undergoing,” said Leona.

A photograph of Tony Yow, a forestry supervisor, standing in a forest. He is wearing a red safety vest over a dark blue shirt and dark pants. He is holding a yellow measuring tape that is stretched across a large, weathered tree stump in front of him. To his right, a large tree trunk is visible, marked with a bright orange safety tape. The background is a dense forest with various trees and undergrowth.

Tony Yow, RFT
Little Shuswap Indian Band, Shuswap Nation
Forestry Supervisor
Kamloops

Tony works in the Forest For Tomorrow silviculture program which reforests and rehabilitates forested lands affected by wildfire and mountain pine beetle. “I find the job both interesting and challenging but, best of all, many phases such as planning, timber development, timber harvesting supervision and mechanical site preparation are outdoors,” said Tony.

Another thing Tony enjoys is the opportunity to travel as a consultant and assist communities in different places such as the central Interior, the west coast of Vancouver Island, the Pacific Northwest and Alaska.

“I started in forestry on a fire suppression crew and this led to other positions such as using fire for silviculture site preparation,” said Tony. “One thing led to another and I continued working outdoors.”

Tony’s recommendation to Aboriginal youth is: “If you enjoy working outdoors there is no better place to be. First Nations have always strived for meaningful, well-paying jobs and an opportunity to make land-use decisions within their respective territories.”

James Brian Moore, RFT
Laxgalt'sap Band, Nisga'a Nation
Assistant Engineering Technician
Merritt



Brian builds and maintains forest roads and bridges. He also oversees the hiring and supervision related to road and bridge contracts.

"My favourite things about this job are being out in nature and taking projects from planning through to completion," said Brian. "I got into forestry so I could work outside and also because there are a lot of possibilities and a wide variety of jobs in the sector."

"Would I recommend forestry to Aboriginal youth? Defi nitely," said Brian. "Currently, there are many different positions available in forestry and with the introduction of new technology—the sky is the limit for jobs. There are even options to create new positions within forestry as innovations are introduced."



Tara Reimer, RPF
Métis
Consultant
Lumby

While Tara used to be a layout technician, she is currently in the business plan development stage of opening her own environmental consulting firm.

When Tara was a layout technician, she went into the forest and implemented field work from the plans created in the office. “I laid out the cut blocks and roads, completed field assessments including stream assessments and ecological classification, laid out wildlife tree patches and other reserves,” said Tara. “I also processed completed field work in the office so that the blocks could be harvested and the roads could be built.”

“My favourite thing about working in forestry is spending the majority of time working on my own with my dog,” said Tara. She got into forestry for similar reasons. “I could not see myself working in an office all day from nine-to-five; it seemed too structured for me. I also had a strong desire to learn more about my environment and feel a part of it.”

“I would recommend forestry to Aboriginal youth if they don’t just want a career,” said Tara. “To be successful in forestry you can’t just see it as a career but rather as a lifestyle. If your lifestyle gravitates towards nature and the forest and you have a vested interest in the environment, forestry is for you.”

A photograph of Eric A. Miller, a man with glasses and a cap, sitting on a mossy rock by a waterfall. He is holding a young child and a black dog. The background shows the rushing water of the waterfall and surrounding trees.

Eric A. Miller, RPF, RPBio
Métis
Vice President/Director
Nelson

Eric is a founding member of Selkirk Power Company Ltd. and one of the two people responsible for the development of new research, engineering, permitting and development of new technologies for renewable energy projects.

“We recently completed an environmental assessment for the Beaver River Hydroelectric Projects, which are two small hydro projects (\$120 million capital cost) near Golden, BC,” said Eric. “It required two years of field work and scientific analysis. I was responsible for coordinating the entire assessment along with organizing a team of independent local scientists.”

What is Eric’s favorite thing about his job? “I love working in an industry on the brink of incredible growth. With careful consideration of the local community, First Nations and the environment, it is also a great tool to fight climate change,” said Eric. “And I still get to work outdoors conducting terrestrial inventory, locating potential renewable energy sites, and conducting hydrology monitoring and fisheries work.”

“I definitely would recommend forestry to Aboriginal youth because it led me on a path into the renewable energy sector,” said Eric. “The technical forestry engineering skills I learned at school and in the field were critical assets in the founding and starting of Selkirk Power—a nine-year process.”

Eric N. Sankey, RFT
Lax kw'alaams Band
Area Supervisor TFL-1
Terrace



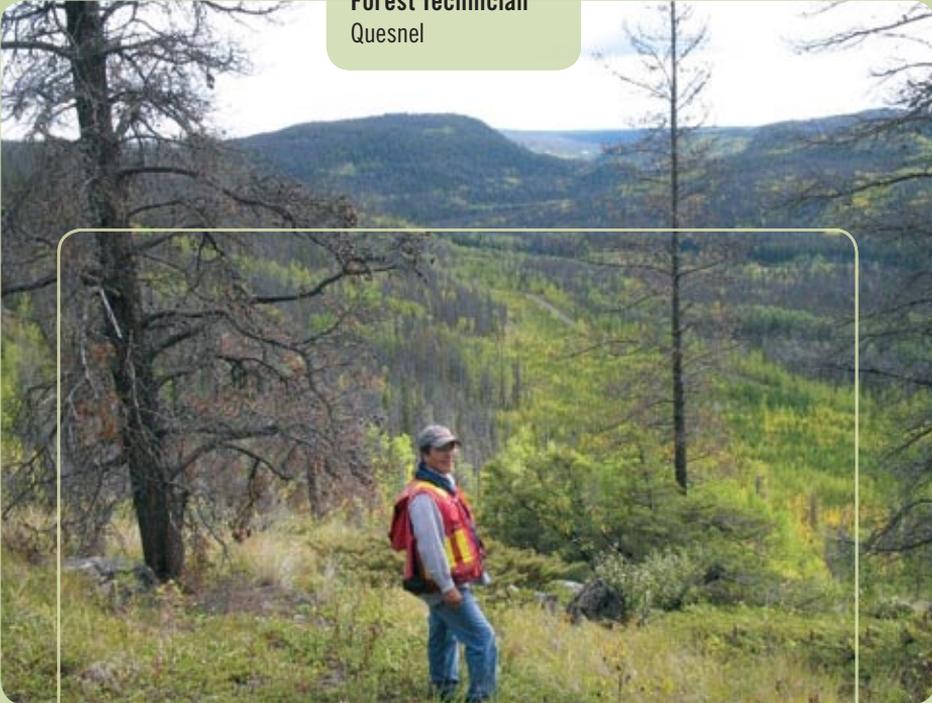
As an area supervisor, Eric's duties are supervising road construction, road maintenance and deactivation, falling and harvesting, and overseeing field crew projects. He is also involved in the layout of cut blocks and roads, which entails the collection of data through planning, mapping, assessments and reconnaissance both in the office and in the field.

"As an engineer and supervisor, I enjoy the learning process in forestry. Whether it's in the field, in the office or in a workshop or classroom, there seems to be no end to it," said Eric. "I also enjoy the physical and mental aspect of forestry and I have learned to appreciate the natural surroundings that come with the job."

Prior to practising forestry, Eric worked in fishing and construction. He was offered a job as a silviculture laborer which led to completing a silviculture course and an on-the-job training program. His boss then recommended he participate in a natural resources management program at Nicola Valley Institute of Technology in Merritt, BC.

"I would encourage Aboriginal youth who are interested in their traditional territories physically, economically or politically to acquire natural resources education to support their personal knowledge and experience," said Eric.

Kelvin Alphonse, TFT
Forest Technician
Quesnel



Kelvin's job is in forest measurements and includes tasks such as stand level biodiversity management, riparian stream assessments, check cruising, planting inspections and site preparation.

His favorite thing about his job is having the chance to work in four different forest districts since going to college and getting his forestry diploma. "I have seen many beautiful places that I would never have seen if I was not in this profession and I have met many great people in each district," said Kelvin.

Kelvin got into forestry because it was all he had ever done and he wanted to learn why he was doing what he was doing.

"It's hard to recommend forestry to Aboriginal youth at the moment because of the way the economy is right now," said Kelvin. "But in the future I would say 'yes' because not only do you get to see some beautiful sites, you also get to meet some great people in this business."

Shannon Jonasson, RPF
Westbank First Nation
Proprietor
Quesnel



As soon as the snow goes, Shannon is working in silviculture. “I check that the trees are being planted correctly and areas are being properly reforested,” said Shannon. “I also check that the herbicide is applied properly and to the correct areas.” During the winter when the snow inhibits silviculture, Shannon helps establish block boundaries and roads for logging.

Shannon’s favourite part of forestry is being able to see and experience things that most people don’t, such as stunning landscapes, hot sunny days, berry picking and wildlife in its natural habitat.

How did Shannon get into forestry? “I enjoy working outdoors so I started out as a tree planter in 1991 and after six years of that job it was time for a change,” she said. “I went to work for a forestry consultant in 1996 who was supportive of my desire to further my education and my need to improve my status in the workplace. I enrolled in the ABCFP’s forestry pupil program in 2000 and completed my school work and work experience in 2008.”

Shannon would recommend forestry to Aboriginal youth because she feels that Aboriginal people need to take a more prominent stand in establishing the legislation and laws governing forestry. “We need to understand how forestry is run and use our knowledge from the elders to suggest some changes that will benefit the environment,” said Shannon.



Andrea Lyall, RPF
Kwakwaka'wakw
Stewardship Forester
Squamish

Andrea is a stewardship forester for the Squamish Forest District who develops and executes strategic plans for forest health, fire management, visual quality and invasive plant species. She also monitors forest practices and assesses the effectiveness and application of the *Forest Range and Practices Act*.

Andrea's forestry career has spanned 13 years and she has worked for large corporations and lived and worked in many Aboriginal communities. She has overseen full-phase forestry operations, negotiated capital projects with the federal government and created contract opportunities.

Andrea's favourite thing about forestry is seeing positive changes for the environment and community. "I recently drove up one of the first logging roads that I worked on near Woss Lake and I saw that the reforested trees were healthy and several metres tall," said Andrea.

"I got into the field of forestry with a tree planting job in my traditional territory," said Andrea. "Kingcome Inlet and Gilford Island were heavily logged in the 1970s and 1980s. I wanted to learn how to make informed decisions that affect the forest ecology and natural resources."

Andrea recommends a career in forestry to Aboriginal youth because it offers challenging work that's rewarding. "While working for Aboriginal communities, you have the opportunity to be exposed to the full spectrum within the field of forestry, develop many skills, work indoors and outdoors, and learn how to balance economic growth with protecting natural resources."



Holly Edwards, TFT
Nicomen Indian Band, Nlha7kapmx Nation

Forest Technician
Terrace

Holly is part of an engineering crew. Her office work includes creating maps and entering proposed cut block information. Outdoors, she collects the information needed to estimate the cost of harvesting an area.

“My favorite thing about my job is being out in the mountains and maintaining my connection to Mother Earth,” said Holly. Office work is important in this industry as well though. You need to understand the policies and regulations of creating a sustainable environment.” Holly also has stronger relationships with her co-workers than she’s had in other jobs. “My crew is there when I need them. Just like family.”

“During my last year of high school, I was part of a group trying to stop clear cut logging within our traditional area and while I protested I thought that there had to be a more productive solution to such situations,” said Holly. “So I enrolled into a forestry program at a nearby college to learn more about forestry operations and how to create a balance. Over the years, I have been learning about the the importance of economic development and how to create and maintain our sustainable resources.”

“Forestry has helped me to better understand myself and the importance of being a First Nations person,” said Holly. “My connections to the land and people are stronger because of forestry and I have found the stability I need in today’s world. I am capable of creating a harmony between my traditional world and the world of modernization. To me forestry isn’t a job; it’s a lifestyle I prefer.”

Stephanie Sambo, RPF
N'Quatqua First Nation
Forestry Technician
Vancouver

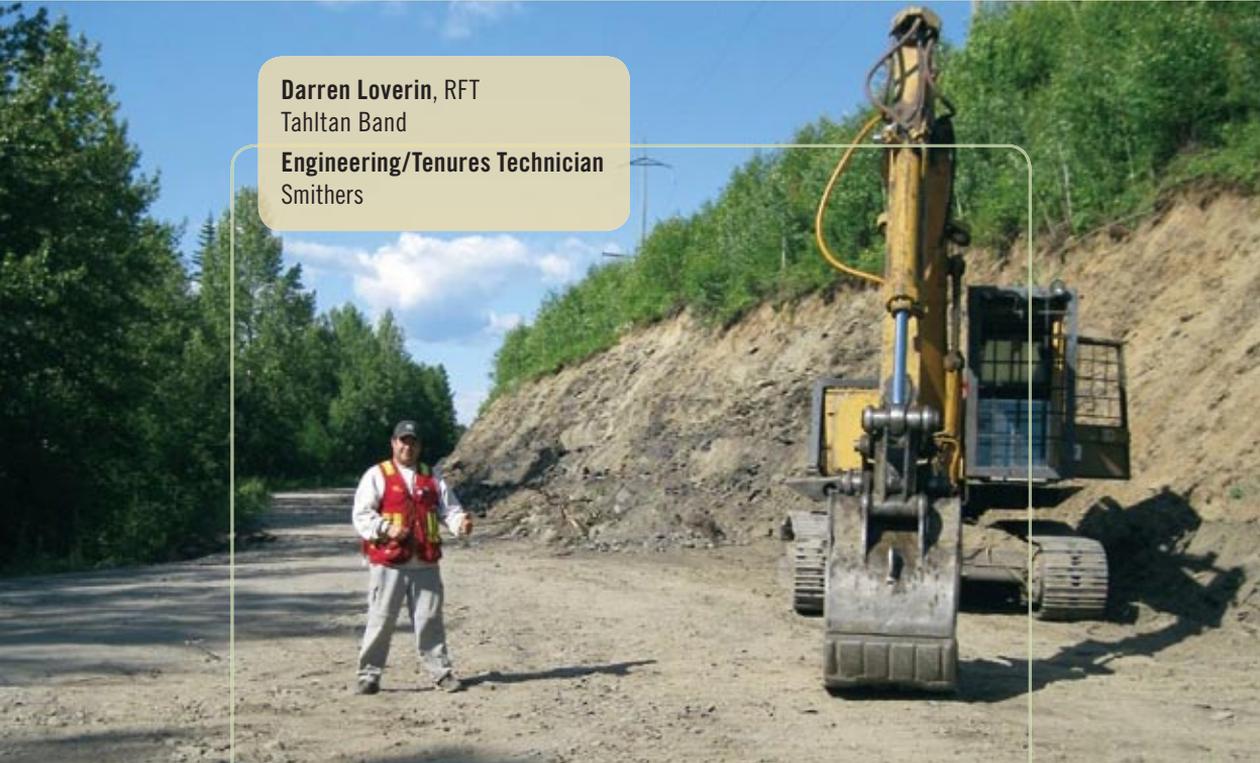


Stephanie's job involves conducting productivity studies on logging machinery, for example, studies to determine the effects of tree size and processing strategies on delivered log costs when harvesting small MPB-killed stands in the interior of British Columbia.

"My favourite thing about this job is being in the forest because it has a calming effect," said Stephanie. "I also like travelling around BC and Alberta and seeing mountain goats, mountain sheep and moose."

Stephanie got into forestry because she enjoyed the outdoors and wanted to help her band by becoming employed as a forest professional. "Some of my relatives were involved in forestry activities," said Stephanie. "Also, most people were pretty well assured a job after graduating from forestry. I'd like to thank all my sponsoring foresters who helped me to get my Registered Professional Forester designation."

"Forests are an important resource and being able to contribute to sustainable forest practices is a rewarding experience," said Stephanie. "There are several branches of forestry to specialize in and I'd encourage youth to pursue a career in forestry because we need more Aboriginal forest professionals."

A photograph of Darren Loverin, RFT, standing on a dirt road next to a yellow excavator. He is wearing a red safety vest over a white long-sleeved shirt, grey pants, and a cap. The excavator is positioned on the right side of the road, and the background shows a dirt embankment and green trees under a blue sky with some clouds.

Darren Loverin, RFT
Tahltan Band

Engineering/Tenures Technician
Smithers

Darren inspects Forest Service roads within the Skeena Stikine Forest District, an area one fifth the size of BC. This includes coordinating and supervising repairs, organizing regular road maintenance, updating the computer systems and spreadsheets, and ordering culverts, beaver stop devices and signs required for safety on the roads.

“My favorite thing about the job is actually getting out there in the back-forty where not many people get to go.” said Darren. “I’ve had lots of bear encounters. Once, I was riding my quad in the middle of four full grown grizzlies, getting pelted with rocks from three of them running on the road in front of me, with one behind! Of course, I also love the construction work. It’s like playing in a sandbox.”

“I would recommend forestry to Aboriginal youth and all youth!” said Darren. “It’s doom and gloom now. But with the number of retirements coming in the next 10 years, the forest sector is going to be short a lot of skilled people! Young people who further their schooling in the resource sector should be confident that there will be jobs for them in the future. After all, we do have one of the biggest renewable resources in the world!”



Bev Atkins, RFT
Chilcotin and Ojibwa
First Nations Liaison Officer
Williams Lake

“I have been working in the forest industry for 31 years”, said Bev. “I’m currently working as a First Nations liaison officer and my role is to work with members of First Nations communities and government officials to conduct First Nations consultation.”

“How did I get into forestry? I fell into it,” said Bev. “I was enrolled in my second year with the Native Indian Teachers Education program and was carrying out a teaching practicum at the Riske Creek elementary school. There was a knock on the door. When I opened the door this very crusty man said, ‘Are you Art’s daughter?’ When I said yes, he said, ‘Do you want a job?’ The rest is history!”

“I recommend forestry to Aboriginal youth because I think Aboriginal people are naturally attracted to the land and a position in forestry can help them influence how the land is managed today,” said Bev. “In my current role I see many Aboriginal communities that have agreements that include a forestry component and these communities require trained forest professionals to implement the agreements.”

Bev is also a firm believer in obtaining education. “Avoid the route I took,” she advises. “I worked for 29 years with no accreditation and when I became a registered member with the ABCFP it was a great feeling to know my knowledge and efforts were finally going to be acknowledged.” The two years I put towards my education degree have been beneficial and have been instrumental in helping me achieve what I wanted to do.

Gar Grant, RFT
Métis

Compliance Officer
Port McNeill



Gar's job as a compliance officer is to observe, record and report compliance and non-compliance issues to logging companies and the Ministry of Forests and Range in the North Island Central Coast Forest District. His favourite part of the job is the field portion because he gets to meet lots of different forestry personnel.

"I was 37 years old when I decided I needed a change in direction in my life and the goal I set was to join the ranks of the forest industry," said Gar. "With that in mind, I upgraded my high school grades 10 to 12 and completed a two-year forestry diploma program. Prior to completing my second year of college in 1992, our instructor advised us to send applications to forestry companies. I applied to the Ministry of Forests and Range and was hired. I have enjoyed working for the Ministry of Forests and Range ever since."

"I would absolutely recommend forestry to Aboriginal youth. All aspects of the forestry industry are challenging, exciting and rewarding," said Gar. "If Aboriginal youths are contemplating forestry as a career, now is the time to strive forward. The forestry job forecast for the not too distant future predicts a large number of baby boomers retiring."

"My college instructor once told me 'Gar, if I can do it, so can you.' I would like to convey that message to Aboriginal youths: If I can do it, so can you."



Sally Sellars, FIT
Soda Creek Indian Band
Natural Resources Manager
Williams Lake

Sally recently became a natural resources manager for her home community. “This job brings me home to my family, working within the community to bring solid economic development opportunities,” said Sally.

“I am interested in forestry because I grew up in the forests,” said Sally. “We are guided by spiritual and cultural traditions, which reflects an offer of gratitude to the Mother Earth”.

Sally gives credit to her deceased mother for the oral teachings of family history. She used these memories to help her career development in forestry. Sally strives to build opportunities in forestry and to also continue building the values which the Soda Creek members have set for their natural resources.

“Yes, I will always recommend forestry to our youth because forests are so important and it is part of who we are and where we come from,” said Sally. “The forests and natural resources are something to be protected and to be proud of. We live in a place that has so much to offer and we as people have so much to give back to nature and be thankful for.”



Ellen Simmons, FIT
Cree descent

**Aboriginal Forestry & Indigenous Knowledge
Extension Specialist, Biology Instructor**
Penticton

“I am helping design an Aboriginal forestry extension program that promotes indigenous knowledge as it relates to sustainable forest management and addresses resource management hurdles,” said Ellen. She is also involved with the Locatee Lands on the Penticton Indian Reserve. These black cottonwood lowland forests are home to many rare and endangered species. Much of the ongoing work includes habitat enhancement and restoration, as well as fostering an increased understanding of cultural traditions and ecological literacy among both Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal communities.

Ellen’s favourite part of her job is working with a kind and genuine group of people and reconnecting with her heritage. “I find drawing on indigenous knowledge and western science through continued endeavours to protect, enhance and restore protected areas very satisfying.”

Ellen would absolutely recommend forestry to Aboriginal youth. “I heard, not too long ago, someone making a statement on how our youth do not have as many opportunities to experience the outdoors. I think the term was ‘the extinction of experience.’ The forest and the outdoors are magical places—even in times of inclement weather. What better opportunity to work, while experiencing and learning about the lands?”



Aaron Hames
Métis
**Natural Resource Student,
ABCFP START Member**
Quesnel

“I drive out to the bush to supervise tree planting, brushing and layout and to complete regeneration surveys,” said Aaron. “I love the freedom and the wilderness.”

Aaron got into forestry to pursue future endeavours and he would recommend forestry to Aboriginal youth as a great way to reconnect with the wilderness and better understand their own culture.

What is Aaron’s advice for Aboriginal youth planning to leave their communities to attend post-secondary education?
“Follow through with your education. Don’t give up.”



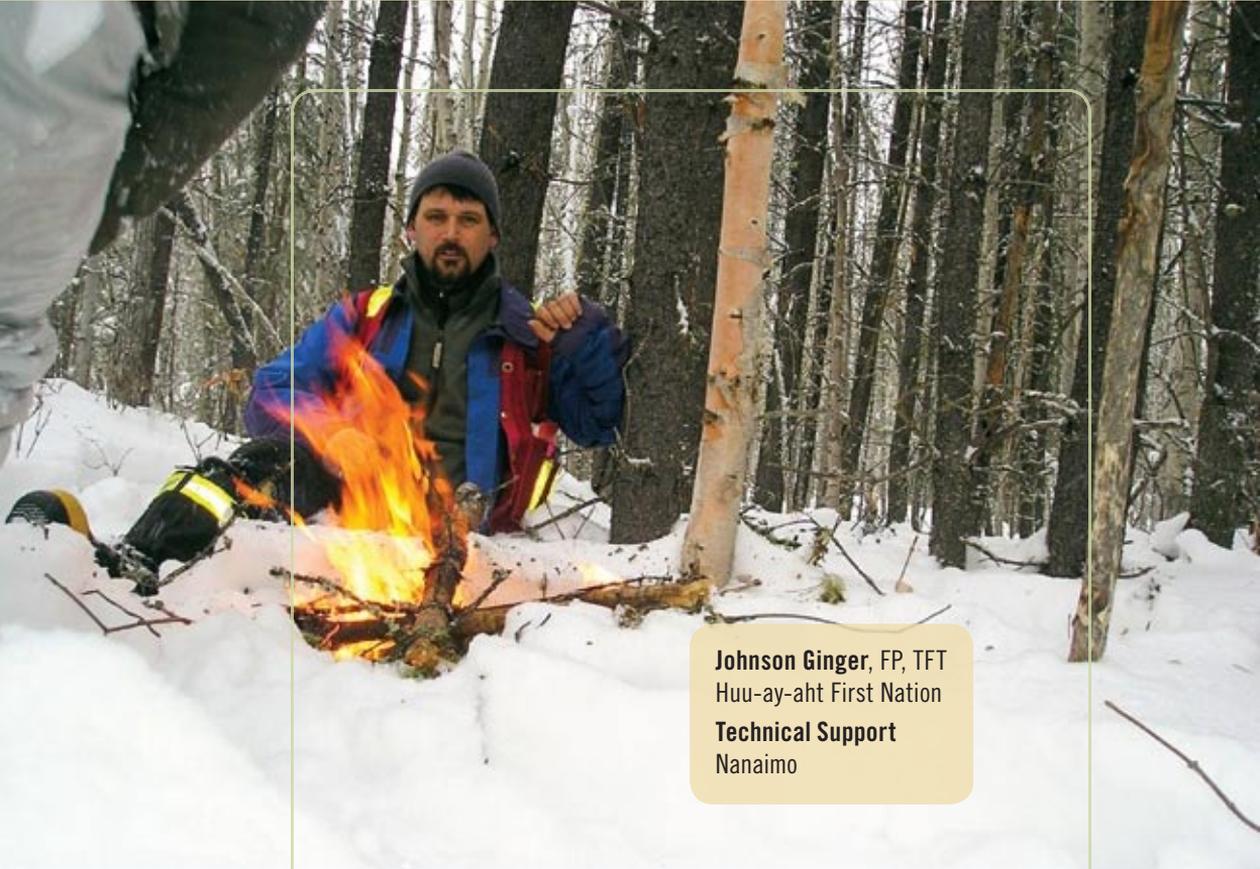
Terry Teegee, FIT
Sekani, Giixsan and Dakelh (Carrier)
Forestry Coordinator/ Vice Tribal Chief
Prince George

Terry's job has broadened to be more than a forestry coordinator for his band. "Primarily, I take care of forestry matters for our forest company, Takla Development Corporation," said Terry. "This includes managing forest license obligations such as silviculture surveys and implementing management tools such as brushing and weeding." Terry is also the vice-president of a joint venture company, with Nakazdli and Tlazten First Nations, known as Sustut Holdings.

"As part of my job, I have to do a lot of proposal writing for initiatives to create jobs for my band members," said Terry. Terry's favourite thing about his work is he can be outdoors one day walking through the forest and the next day travelling to Vancouver or Victoria voicing his band's concerns to industry and government.

"Yes, I would recommend forestry to Aboriginal youth," said Terry. "First Nations have an increased access to Forest Licenses and other opportunities in the Natural Resources sector." That said, Terry would advocate Aboriginal youth being anything they want to be. "Whether it is professional sports, a university degree, trades or technology, etc., we need more of First Nations in all facets of society to become healthier and more productive people in their communities," said Terry.

Most recently Terry has been elected the vice tribal chief of the Carrier Sekani Tribal Council and he states, "I look forward to the new challenges the political arena will have for me and I have been given the opportunity to voice concerns of the eight nations I represent in the north central Interior of British Columbia."



Johnson Ginger, FP, TFT
Huu-ay-aht First Nation
Technical Support
Nanaimo

Johnson attends monthly committee meetings, with his tribe, where he helps advise and remind committee members about current forest policy and regulations in simple everyday language.

One of his favorite parts of his job is talking with younger First Nation people who are interested in forestry as a career. “My hope is that they will follow in the footsteps and join the profession,” said Johnson.

Johnson had many reasons for getting into forestry. But he feels if he hadn’t had a chance to work with Fred Philpot, RPF, another forest professional in northern BC, he may have not realized his goal to become a forest professional. “Fred challenged me with many tasks as a forest technician and was always there to help me when it was required,” said Johnson. “I truly believe that having a forester mentor helped me to want to learn the discipline.”

Johnson would recommend forestry to Aboriginal youth. “As a First Nation person, I have always felt a special connection with the land,” he said. “In today’s world, understanding the laws that govern forestry in BC is essential. As more First Nations in BC move closer to treaties, Aboriginal forest professionals set a good example to their youth. The forest will always continue to grow, so the need for forest professionals is always going to be there.”



Kenneth J. Price, RFT
K'ómoks First Nation
GIS Technician/First Nation Log Purchase Liaison
Comox Valley

A very important, but mostly overlooked, aspect of Ken's job is to make sure that the information updated in his company's corporate database is done with high data quality. This provides smooth workflows for harvesting, safer environments for field personnel because they have clear and precise directions, and efficient auditing processes for certification standards.

"I constantly get challenged in my day-to-day work," said Ken. "I can honestly say that there are not many slow days and the questions that get asked don't have yes/no answers. I provide valuable information to planners and managers so correct decisions are made. I take a lot of pride in being able to understand the issues and help ascertain the correct path to take."

Ken chose to get into forestry because most of his close friends were in forestry and he spends most of his off time outdoors. Also, he believes that if you want to know what and why decisions are made regarding the environment, you need to get involved.

"I would recommend that Aboriginal youth get involved in forestry. Many Aboriginal youth live in remote areas and have difficult finding employment," said Ken. "A lot of forestry activities occur in remote areas and the people making the decisions should be local people who enjoy the area where they work and live."

Resources

For more information about the post-secondary forestry programs available in British Columbia, visit our website (www.abcfp.ca) and click on Entering the Profession, Students, Launch Your Career.





