

Forester

Decide how a forest gets cut, protected and regrown, and sign your name to the plan.

TYPICAL PAY

\$98,000

a year, full time

PAY RANGE

\$65k to \$130k

starting to experienced

TIME TO QUALIFY

5 to 7 years

after high school

DEMAND

Good

job outlook

LICENCE NEEDED

Yes

regulated job

WHERE YOU WORK

Forest company offices, cut blocks, provincial ministries, consulting fi...

How you get there

- 1 High school diploma** Grade 12
Biology, chemistry, math and geography. Any outdoor or chainsaw experience helps you land the first summer job.
- 2 Accredited forestry degree** 4 years
A four-year forestry degree from a recognized Canadian faculty. Programs include field schools and summer camps.
- 3 Summer field jobs** Every summer
Cruising timber, tree planting, silviculture surveys. Employers hire graduates who already know the bush.
- 4 Articling as a forester in training** About 2 years
Paid work under a sponsoring registered forester, plus education modules, a practice diary and competency assessments.
- 5 Registration** After articling
Pass the registration requirements of your province's regulator and become a Registered Professional Forester.

Pros and cons

- + Strong pay for a four-year degree
- + Real responsibility young, your signature counts
- + Jobs in almost every province, including small towns
- Most jobs are in remote or northern communities
- You are caught between industry, government and the public
- Forest sector downturns cause layoffs

Good to know

Canada holds about 9% of the world's forests

Roughly 350 million hectares of Canada is forest, and most of it is publicly owned. That means forest management plans are written by foresters and approved by governments, not by private landowners.

The licence is like an engineer's

Forest Professionals British Columbia says that provincial legislation requires anyone practising professional forestry to be registered with and regulated by them. Signing a plan you are not qualified for is a di...

Optional boosts

Fire management. Forest health and pest management. Urban forestry. Carbon and certification auditing.

Where these numbers come from

Job Bank: Forester in Canada, wages (updated Nov 2025)
Forest Professionals British Columbia
Ontario Professional Foresters Association
Canadian Institute of Forestry

Numbers checked September 2026. Pay figures are typical full-time annual amounts in Canadian dollars, based on Government of Canada Job Bank wage data and published salary grids. They vary by province, employer and experience. Tuition is for domestic students. Sources, links and the click-through version: <https://career.help/ca/careers/forester>



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