

Forestry Technician

The person who actually measures the forest: plots, plants, roads, cut blocks and regrowth.

TYPICAL PAY

\$69,000

a year, full time

PAY RANGE

\$47k to \$93k

starting to experienced

TIME TO QUALIFY

2 to 3 years

after high school

DEMAND

Good

job outlook

LICENCE NEEDED

No

anyone can do it

WHERE YOU WORK

Cut blocks, bush roads, tree nurseries, mill yards, field offices

How you get there

- 1 High school diploma** Grade 12
College-level English and math are the usual entry requirements. Fleming College asks for Grade 11 college math and Grade 12 college English.
- 2 Forestry technician diploma** 2 years
Two years at a college such as Fleming, Sault, Confederation, Maritime College of Forest Technology or the British Columbia Institute of Technology.
- 3 Field camps and co-op** Inside the program
Programs build in fall and winter camps plus a paid work term. Fleming's co-op semester is about 450 hours.
- 4 First season on a crew** Year 1
Timber cruising, silviculture surveys, tree marking, road layout, planting inspection.
- 5 Specialize or register** 2 to 5 years
Move into inventory, fire, harvest planning or nursery work. In British Columbia, register as a forest technologist.

Pros and cons

- + Good pay for two years of college
- + Outdoors every day in places with no roads
- + Paid co-op and easy hiring straight out of school
- Seasonal contracts and winter layoffs are common
- Blackflies, heat, cold, deadfall and rough footing
- Jobs are in small northern towns, not cities

Good to know

Field camp is part of the diploma

Fleming College's forestry technician students do a five-day fall camp at the Canadian Ecology Centre and a three-night winter camp at Haliburton Forest, including tree marking and a visit to a working loggi...

The forest is measured by sampling

Nobody counts every tree. Technicians measure small circular plots and scale the numbers up across thousands of hectares. Most of what governments know about Canada's forests starts as a person with a t...

Optional boosts

Chainsaw operator certificate. Tree marking certification. Wildland fire training. Mapping and drone skills.

Where these numbers come from

Job Bank: Forestry Technician in Canada, wages (updated Nov 2025)
Fleming College: Forestry Technician, Adaptive Practices
Forest Professionals British Columbia
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/forestry-technician>



Scan for the full clicker