



New community and aboriginal forestry course specialization at UBC



Now is the time for First Nations to shine! With up to 8% of the provincial harvest being made available for re-allocation to First Nation communities, the potential and need for First Nations to enter the forest sector is at an all-time high. Since 2002, the Province of British Columbia has signed forestry agreements with 153 First Nation communities, providing \$223.8 million in revenue sharing and access to 35.5 million m³ of timber.

This means that, for the first time, First Nations are having much greater access to, and influence on, how the government and the forest sector are managing the forest. Now more than ever, First Nation communities need increased numbers of qualified aboriginal forest professionals to fulfill these new responsibilities.

The Forest Resources Management Major (Specialization in Community and Aboriginal Forestry [CAF]) in place at the University of British Columbia in 2010 provides prospective forestry professionals with a comprehensive understanding of the discipline of forest management. The program is designed to help students acquire the specific knowledge and skills needed to give them the confidence to make effective decisions in the emerging field of Community and Aboriginal forestry. Graduates, after appropriate work experience

and examination, will be eligible for registration as professional foresters (RPF).

This program introduces students to the biological, physical, and social sciences that are basic to forest resource management. It ensures a working knowledge of the characteristics of forest resources, its interactions, and management approaches. The CAF specialization will appeal to students interested in the political



and socio-economic contexts of forestry practice, and the historical and ethical foundations of the profession. The interdisciplinary CAF specialization provides awareness and skill in cross-cultural communications, facilitation, policy, and small business management.

The Canadian Federation of Professional Forester Associations (CFPFA) has re-assessed its accreditation goals and standards, and the Faculty of Forestry has followed this approach. Because every graduate does not need to follow exactly the same course path, the CFPFA is giving students the flexibility to emphasize certain aspects of forest management. Students in the CAF specialization fulfill the core requirements of the CFPFA and add courses with learning objectives appropriate for Community and Aboriginal forestry.

The Faculty of Forestry at UBC offers:

- **Bachelor of Science in Natural Resources Conservation:** This interdisciplinary degree prepares you for careers in environmental sustainability and resource management.
- **Bachelor of Science in Forestry:** This degree integrates science and technology to advance the understanding and practice of sustainable forest management. It will enable you to become a Registered Professional Forester.
- **Bachelor of Science in Wood Products Processing:** This award-winning program is a fusion of science, engineering, and business that prepares you for a career in the wood products sector and related fields.
- **Bachelor of Science in Forest Sciences:** This program encompasses multiple disciplines in understanding our biologically diverse forests and other ecosystems.

Contact us if you have any questions:

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