

The Forestry industry on PEI - 2011

Definition:

Forestry is the science of planting and caring for forests and the management of growing timber.

Forests cover some 45% of Prince Edward Island's land surface. Most of our forest (88 per cent) is owned by private woodlot owners. The remainder is public forest that is held and managed on behalf of all Islanders for reasons such as timber, wildlife habitat, protection of high value ecological sites, recreation and wetlands conservation.

Island forests have experienced two centuries of poor harvest practices, extensive clearances for farming and other development, fragmentation and the loss of some native species and the introduction of new species. On the other hand, Island forests also have some of the highest growth rates in Canada and the diversity of species allows and owners to manage for and produce a wide range of products and services.

Examples of products:

- sawlogs
- pulpwood and pulpwood chips
- other products
- veneer
- fuel wood
- wood pellets and sawdust

The state of the industry on PEI - from a recent CBC segment

The Forestry industry is down across Canada. Reasons for the decline of forestry include:

- An increase in the value of the Canadian dollar makes it more expensive for importers to buy Island wood and wood products.
- High energy prices mean increased costs for processing and transportation.
- The economic downturn has lowered demand for softwood lumber and studwood in the US.
- Increased reliance on electronic media has reduced demand for newsprint. Paper sales for tissue and related products and calendar grade papers remain relatively strong.
- Softwood lumber exports to the US have declined due to US protectionism.
- Markets for fuelwood and biofuels such as woodchips and wood pellets are strong and predicted to increase as fossil fuel prices increase.

Some jobs in the Forestry sector:

- foresters and forest technicians/technologists, including lumber graders, other wood processing inspectors, forestry workers, supervisors of logging and forestry, chainsaw and skidder operators
- forest and land-use planners
- GIS and geomatics specialists
- academics and researchers
- forest health specialists and silviculture surveyors
- forest protection officers and forest firefighters
- urban foresters and arborists
- technical positions in the manufacture of forest products, i.e., millwrights, engineers
- biologists, ecologists, watershed managers
- timber cruisers and compassmen/women
- block layout and road surveyors
- tree planters and silviculture workers
- summer positions for forestry students
- other professionals who specialize in the forest and forest product sectors, i.e., economists, marketing specialists, business analysts, natural resource policy analysts, and more.

Forestry companies and jobs on PEI:

Martinus Rose operates **Royalty Hardwoods**, PEI's largest hardwood products mill located in Poole's Corner. With just 3 employees in 1994, Royalty Hardwoods has grown to become one of Atlantic Canada's largest manufacturers of hardwood and softwood flooring. The mill produces a full line of moldings, stair materials, kiln dried hardwood lumber and custom manufactured wood products for home interiors as well as decking and siding products. They also offers a wide range of forest management services to land owners through the company **Marwood Properties**. Visit www.royaltyhardwoods.com

One person who works in forestry on PEI and has a fairly high profile is **Gary Schneider**, manager at **MacPhail's Woods** in Orwell. His job is to demonstrate sustainable forest management, which includes forest restoration, running a native tree and shrub nursery, and holding occasional information sessions for the public. For more information, visit www.macphailwoods.org

Wages:

Forestry professionals are such a small group on Prince Edward Island that there is no data as for wages or numbers of workers.

We do have numbers for **biologists and related scientists**, some of whom might work in the forestry industry: The wages for 2010 range from \$24.26 to \$37.00 per hour. The average wage is \$29.14.

Education:

New Brunswick: Université de Moncton - Campus d'Edmundston - BA in Forestry

<http://www.umoncton.ca/umce-foresterie/>

University of New Brunswick - Faculty of Forestry and Environmental Management

UNB offers continuing education programs and Undergraduate Programs

<http://www.unb.ca/fredericton/forestry/>

Maritime College of Forest Technology: Fredericton, NB:- two years, summer work practicum

<http://www.mcft.ca/history.htm>

For further information:

The PEI Department of Environment, Energy and Forestry:

<http://www.gov.pe.ca/envengfor/index.php3?number=68953&lang=E>

Macphail Woods Ecological Forestry Project: <http://www.macphailwoods.org/links.html>

Prince Edward Island Ecosystem-Based Forest Management Standards Manual:

<http://www.gov.pe.ca/photos/original/EBFMSummary.pdf>

Atlantic Wood Product Manufacturers' Association: <http://atlanticwood.ca>

Canadian Institute of Forestry: www.cif-ifc.org