

# The Employment Journey

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## The Forestry industry on PEI - 2010

### Definition:

Forestry is the science of planting trees and tending natural forest to produce timber, wildlife habitat, recreation, non-timber forest products and the many other values forests provide.

Forests cover some 45% of PEI land surface. Most of our forest (88%) is owned by private woodlot owners such as farmers, teachers, retirees, business people and others. 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, high grading (i.e. “take the best and leave the rest”, leading to growth and reproduction of poor quality trees), fragmentation and the loss of some 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 owners to manage and produce a wide range of products and services.

### Examples of products:

- sawlogs
- pulpwood and pulpwood chips
- other products
- veneer
- fuel wood
- energy chips and sawmill residue

### People employed in sector:

According to the **September 2009 Labour Market Bulletin**, employment in forestry, fishery, mining, oil & gas declined by 900 from September 2008.

Employment in forestry, fishery, mining, oil & gas:

September 2009: 2,000

September 2008: 2,900

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

The Forestry industry is in a downturn across Canada.

Reasons for the decline of forestry include:

- an increase in the value of the Canadian dollar means lower prices for Island harvesters
- high energy prices mean increased costs for processing and transportation
- the economic downturn has lowered demand in the US, which is Canada's largest export market
- increased reliance on electronic media has reduced demand for newsprint and other paper products
- softwood lumber exports to the US have declined due to US protectionism

Also, A news item from the Guardian, October 15 2009, says that a new proposed subsidy for US forest products will cause thousands of job losses in Canada.

## Some jobs in forestry:

- 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 successful jobs on PEI:

**Martinus Rose** operates **Royalty Hardwoods**, PEI's largest hardwood products mill, in Poole's Corner. With just 3 employees in 1994, Royalty Hardwoods has grown to be 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. Mr. Rose also offers a wide range of forest management services to land owners through his company **Marwood Properties**.

Visit [www.royaltyhardwoods.com](http://www.royaltyhardwoods.com)

One person who has a fairly high profile who works in forestry on PEI is **Gary Schneider**, who is the 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](http://www.macphailwoods.org)

### **Using wood as a heating source is a bright spot in the forestry industry:**

**Paul Smallman**, who owns **Clean Green Heat Ltd.** and **Wildwood Pellets Ltd.**, says that there is a good future for using “junk” wood that is not good for anything else to make pellets that can be used as a heat source.

**Pellagri Energy** manufactures burners that can be fitted to boilers that can burn wood pellets, as well as pellets made from agricultural products like straw.

Visit [http://www.employmentjourney.com/PDF\\_issues/EJSept09.pdf](http://www.employmentjourney.com/PDF_issues/EJSept09.pdf)

### **Wages:**

[www.pei.jobfutures.org](http://www.pei.jobfutures.org) says that forestry professionals are such a small group on PEI 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 range from \$16.80 to 33.45 per hour. The average wage is \$22.15.

### **Education:**

#### **New Brunswick:**

**Université de Moncton - Campus d'Edmundston** - BA in Forestry

**University of New Brunswick** - Faculty of Forestry and Environmental Management  
UNB offers continuing education programs and Undergraduate Programs

#### **Community College:**

**Maritime College of Forest Technology**: Fredericton, NB:- 2 years, summer work practicum

### **For further information:**

Contact **Department of Environment, Energy and Forestry**, 368-5286 or  
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