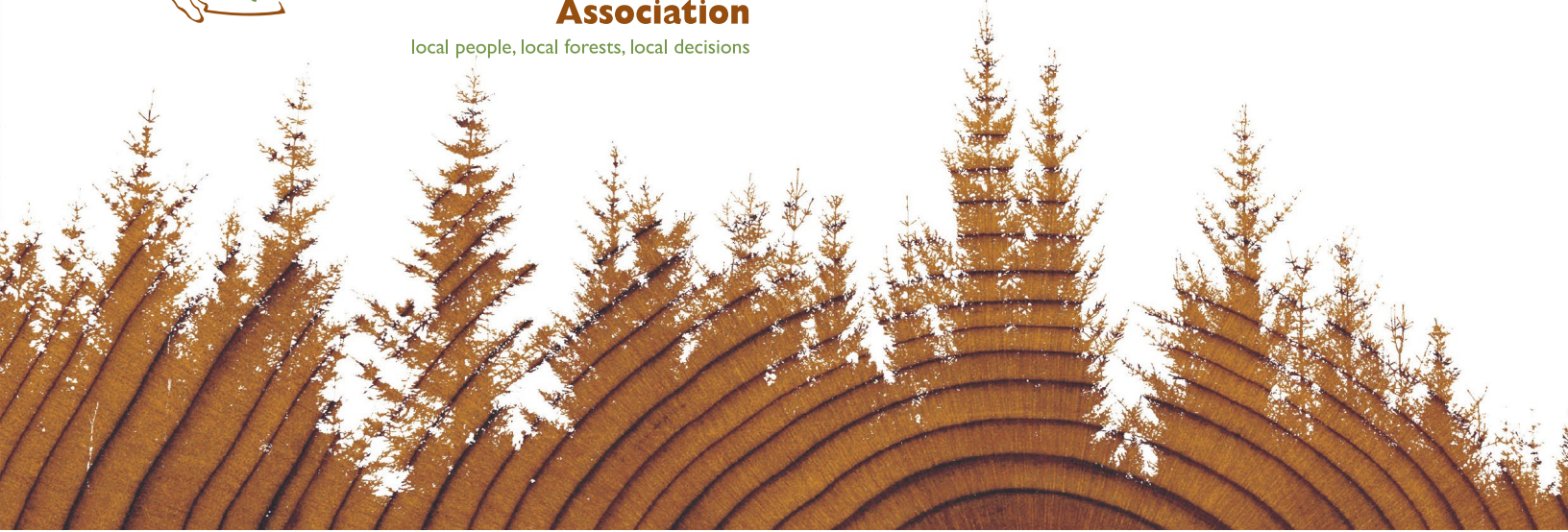




British Columbia  
**Community  
Forest  
Association**  
local people, local forests, local decisions



# COMMUNITY FOREST INDICATORS 2019

## MEASURING THE BENEFITS OF COMMUNITY FORESTRY



SEPTEMBER 2019



WE ARE SINCERELY GRATEFUL to everyone who devoted time and effort to participate in the survey. The Community Forest Indicators Project would not be possible without the participation of our members. Thank you also to the British Columbia Community Forest Association Board of Directors for guidance and support. We also want to acknowledge the expert analysis of Randy Sunderman of Peak Solutions.

— Jennifer Gunter, BCCFA Executive Director & Susan Mulkey, BCCFA Manager of Communication & Extension

**COMMUNITY FOREST INDICATORS 2019**  
**MEASURING THE BENEFITS OF COMMUNITY FORESTRY**

September 2019

Cover photo: Kaslo and District Community Forest field trip, by Sabrina Mutterer

Graphic design by Nadene Rehnby, Hands on Publications



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# Executive Summary

**WE ARE PLEASED TO SHARE THE RESULTS** of the BC Community Forest Association's 5<sup>th</sup> Community Forest Indicators Survey. Community forests in British Columbia are provincial tenures that give Indigenous and non-Indigenous communities the opportunity to manage local forests according to local values, for local benefit. This innovative form of forest management generates economic, social, cultural and environmental benefits for local communities and for the province as a whole. These benefits can be seen as the return on investment. To better understand this return, the British Columbia Community Forest Association (BCCFA) has developed a system to measure and track the benefits of community forests in BC.

Community forests give Indigenous and non-Indigenous communities the opportunity to manage local forests according to local values, for local benefit.

Eighteen indicators provide tangible, quantitative information on the economic, social, cultural and environmental benefits that community forests generate. Thirty-six community forests participated in the 2018/2019 survey, providing data from their last reporting year, specific to their operations. This sample represents 82% of the operating community forests in the BCCFA. Most are small rural communities, Indigenous and non-Indigenous, with an average population of 3,732. The majority of respondents represent communities of under 3,000 people.

The community forest organizations operate relatively small forest tenures, with an average Allowable Annual Cut (AAC) of 39,000 m<sup>3</sup>. While they may be small, the results reported on the 18 indicators tells the story of how important

community forests are to their communities and the province.

## Economic Benefits

This year's results show that community forests are creating 80% more employment in forestry, logging and support services than the industry average. They operate in sensitive areas and are meeting their cut control while reliably supplying logs to both major processing facilities and small manufacturers. They generated \$1.96 million in economic activity, on average, and contributed an average of \$527,235 cash and in-kind to local projects. The total funds donated to community projects by the participating community forests in the reporting year alone exceeded \$16.8 million.

## Social Benefits

Community forests are primarily located in the land surrounding communities where there are many overlapping values. Increasingly, British Columbians understand the urgent need to manage these areas to adapt to climate change and mitigate the risk of catastrophic wildfire. The survey results demonstrate that many community forests are leaders in the proactive management of wildfire hazard. Seventy-seven per cent of survey respondents have collaborated with their local government on wildfire planning and preparedness.



**Fifty-eight percent of the community forests surveyed are held by First Nations or are partnerships between Indigenous and non-Indigenous communities.**

According to this year's survey, community forests treated an average of 23 hectares and spent \$39,749 of their own funds to reduce wildfire risk in the reporting year. To date, the reporting community forests have collectively treated 3,187 hectares and invested over \$2.2 million for wildfire mitigation. They managed an additional \$9.71 million from outside sources.

In recognition of the important role that community forests play in promoting more resilient forest ecosystems and human communities, the membership of the BCCFA voted in June 2019 to change the purposes of the Association to include the promotion of community forestry as a strategy for ecosystem resilience and community economic development.

## **Cultural Benefits**

Fifty-eight percent of the community forests surveyed are held by First Nations or are partnerships between Indigenous and non-Indigenous communities. In addition to community forests where First Nations are owners or partners, many community forest organizations include First Nations representation on their boards. In many cases, First Nations are engaged in cooperative planning, share profits, have MOUs and employment contracts, and work with community forest organizations in capacity building activities like training and education.

## **Environmental Benefits**

A community with a long-term, area-based tenure is motivated to manage for ecosystem resilience and to invest for the future. Communities that manage community forests are directly affected by their forest management decisions. For this reason, CFA holders are considering a range of objectives including enhanced forest stewardship and the conservation of ecologically and culturally significant areas and values. This year's survey respondents collectively invested \$1.9 million in enhanced forest stewardship, above and beyond legal requirements.

Background information on the Community Forest Indicators survey questions and methodology as well as an electronic copy of this report can be found on our website at [bccfa.ca/category/indicators/](http://bccfa.ca/category/indicators/).



PHOTO: SUSAN MULKEY



# COMMUNITY FORESTS IN BC

■ = Contributed to the *Community Forest Indicators 2019* report

100 Mile Community Forest

Alberni Valley Community Forest

Babine Lake Community Forest

Bamfield-Huu-ay-aht Community

Barkley Community Forest

Bella Coola Resource Society

Burns Lake Community Forest

Cascade Lower Canyon Community Forest

Cheakamus Community Forest

Cherryville Community Forest

Cheslatta Carrier Nation

Chinook Community Forest

Clinton & District Community Forest

Cortes Forestry General Partnership

Creston Community Forest

Dungate Community Forest

Dunster Community Forest

Eniyud Community Forest

Esk'etemc Community Forest

Fort St. James Community Forest

Fraser Lake Community Forest

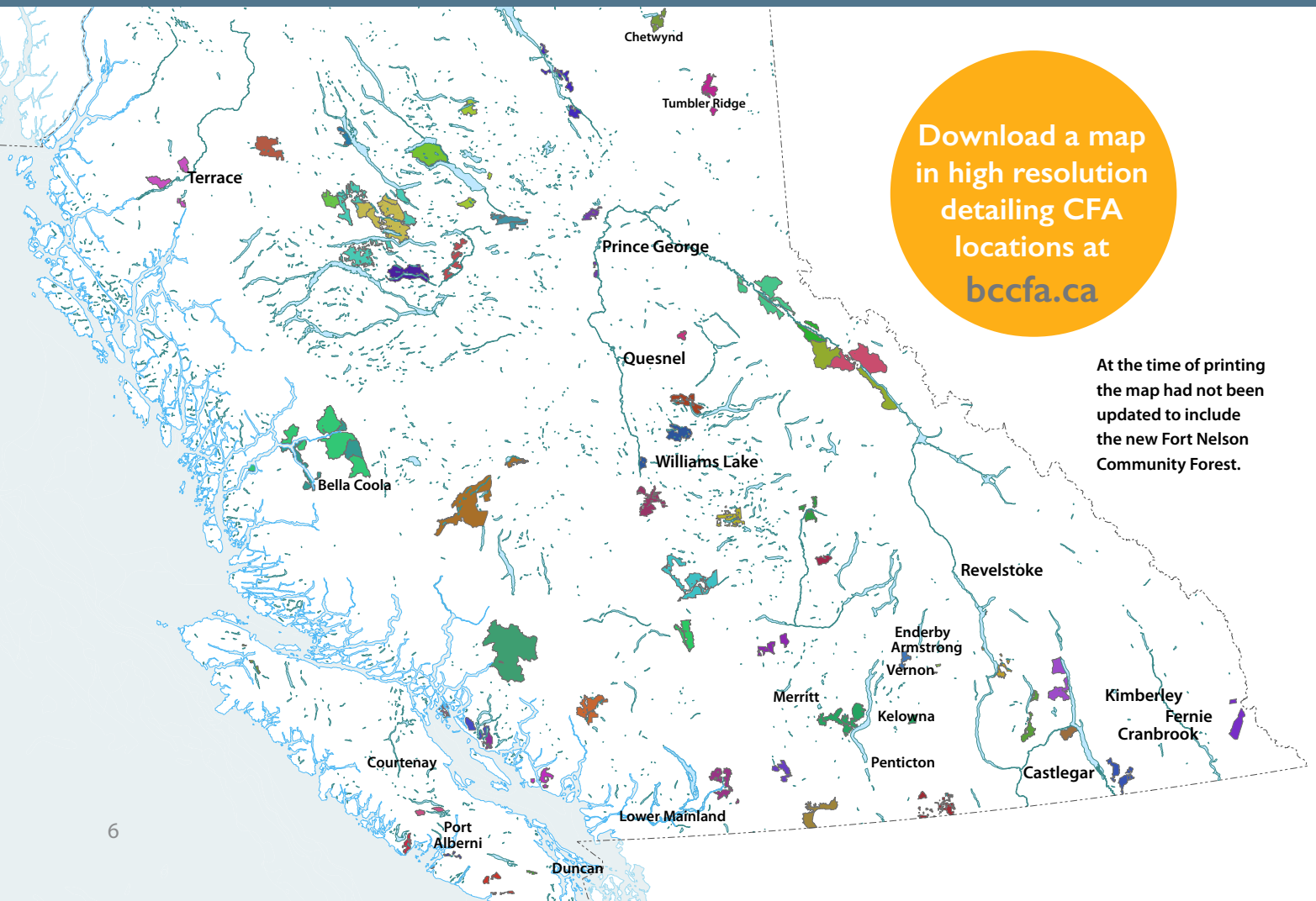
Harrop-Procter Community Forest

Huu-ay-aht First Nation Forestry

Kaslo and District Community Forest

Khowutzun Community Forest

Klahoose Forestry Limited Partnership





Likely-Xats'ull Community Forest

Little Prairie Community Forest

Logan Lake Community Forest

Lower North Thompson Community Forest

Lower Similkameen Community Forest

McBride Community Forest

McLeod Lake-Mackenzie Community Forest

Monashee Community Forest

Nakusp & Area Community Forest

North Island Community Forest

Northern Rockies Community Forest

Nupqu Development Corporation

Nuxalk Forestry Limited Partnership

Powell River Community Forest

Qala:yit Forestry Limited Partnership

Slocan Integral Forestry Cooperative

Sunshine Coast Community Forest

Tanizul Timber Ltd.

Tano T'enneh

Terrace Community Forest

Tla'amin Timber Products

Tumbler Ridge Community Forest

Valemont Community Forest

Vanderhoof Community Forest

Vermillion Forks Community Forest

Wells Gray Community Forest

Wells-Barkerville Community Forest

West Boundary Community Forest

Westbank First Nation Community Forest

Wetzin'kwa Community Forest

Williams Lake Community Forest

Xaxli'p Community Forest

## THIS YEAR'S FEATURED COMMUNITY FORESTS

As BC turns its attention to policy reform and transition planning that supports resilient forestry communities, that reconfigures relationships with Indigenous communities, and takes on the challenges of climate change and the risk of wildfire, community forests are an immediate and accessible tool to employ. We have selected a few stories from the dozens and dozens received through our survey to highlight the capacity of community forests to contribute to solutions to meet current and future challenges.



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## Excellence in Community Forestry

Logan Lake Community Forest (LLCF) is located on the crown land around Logan Lake. It covers 36,800 ha with an AAC of 20,000 m<sup>3</sup> per year. Since the beginning of operations, LLCF has harvested approximately 260,000 cubic metres and directed more than \$3 million of revenue over operating expenses back to the shareholder, the District of Logan Lake, and to the community. Over 40 different community groups and initiatives have benefitted from the profits of the LLCF in its 10 plus years of operations. In their last fiscal, over \$1.6 million was contributed and LLCF directly leveraged \$220,000 to access two provincial and one federal funding programs.

Logan Lake has been a leader in wildfire mitigation efforts in the province, gaining recognition as a FireSmart community in 2003 and the first community to have a Community Wildfire Protection Plan in BC. Their mitigation efforts were awarded when a recent wildfire threatened the community yet was stopped due to wildland urban interface (WUI) fuel reduction. With a goal of “zero burning” of waste wood fibre they have researched fibre utilization initiatives and trialed a grinding program.



**ABOVE:** Face-Paska Lake discuss local fuel management treatments within the CF. PHOTO GARNET MIREAU. **BELOW:** Logan Lake Discovery Camp. PHOTO LLCF.





A team of high school students helps to further FireSmart principles and mitigation efforts for eight weeks each summer. The students use hand tools to space, prune and pile woody debris. They are also taught basic forest and wildfire management lessons by the LLCF Manager in the field, such as tree and plant identification (scientific names included), and other general topics like career paths and university applications. To date over 100 students have participated in the program.

The LLCF engages with 23 First Nation communities through their relationship building and outreach efforts. Participation of the First Nations in field and office review of proposed operations is funded by the LLCF and recommendations that result from this engagement are implemented.



## ROBIN HOOD AWARD WINNERS

In 2019, the province recognized the principles and achievements of the LLCF through the Robin Hood Memorial Award for Excellence in Community Forestry. The \$10,000 award is given annually to the community forest that best exemplifies the values exhibited by the late Robin Hood, past President of the BCCFA, and by the Community Forest Agreement Program. These values include innovation and leadership in land management, building and maintaining social licence and involvement with the local community and First Nations, and providing social, economic, cultural and environmental benefits to the local community and First Nations.



# The Context

**THE COMMUNITY FOREST AGREEMENT (CFA)** is an area-based licence that provides the exclusive right to harvest timber within the CFA area, and the right to manage botanical forest products. Licences are long-term, 25 years, replaceable every 10. Since the development of the CFA tenure in 1998, BC has issued 59 CFAs with another four formally in the application process. These licences are held by a variety of community-based legal entities, including limited partnerships, societies, co-ops, Indigenous and local governments. Collectively, over 100 Indigenous and rural communities are involved in community forestry in BC. Nearly half (49%) of the operating community forests province-wide are held by First Nations or a partnership between an Indigenous and non-Indigenous community.

The CFA tenure was developed to give local communities the opportunity to manage local forests for the benefit of those communities, in a manner consistent with locally defined objectives and values.

## The CFA tenure is unique in the province for several reasons:

1. The ownership of the tenure is exclusively local, and the organization that holds the licence must represent the local community. Profits do not leave the community to benefit distant shareholders.
2. There is a comprehensive application process that includes the requirement to demonstrate local community engagement and support.
3. The Licence Document and Management Plan must:
  - Contain the broad social, economic and resource management goals proposed for the CFA;
  - Identify the linkage between the CFA goals and the provincial CFA Program goals (below); and
  - Include a plan for annual reporting out to the community.

## The provincial government's goals for the community forest program further set the tenure apart. They are to:

1. Provide long-term opportunities for achieving a range of community objectives, values and priorities.
2. Diversify the use of and benefits derived from the community forest agreement area.
3. Provide social and economic benefits to British Columbia.
4. Undertake community forestry consistent with sound principles of environmental stewardship that reflect a broad spectrum of values.
5. Promote community involvement and participation.
6. Promote communication and strengthen relationships between aboriginal and non-aboriginal communities and persons.
7. Foster innovation.
8. Advocate forest worker safety.



SIFCO PHOTO: RACHEL BONE

**“SIFCo’s goal is to be a leader in climate change adaptation, community resiliency, ecosystem-based management and economic diversification. We use the platform of Community Forestry to think beyond the border of our tenured lands (15,981 hectares) and participate in the creation of a truly resilient bioregion and community.”**

**— Stephan Martineau, Manager SIFCo**

Community forests in BC reflect the ecological and cultural diversity of our province. They exist in many types of forests and terrain. They range in size from 361 to 191,000 hectares, with a current annual harvest from 860 m<sup>3</sup> to 217,650 m<sup>3</sup>.

CFAs work under the same rules as the rest of the forest industry in BC. They are governed by the Forest Act and the Forest and Range Practices Act, and all other applicable statutes and regulations. They pay stumpage (fees paid for harvesting timber from Crown land in BC) based on a tabular rate system that recognizes the CFA Program goals and the unique conditions under which they operate.

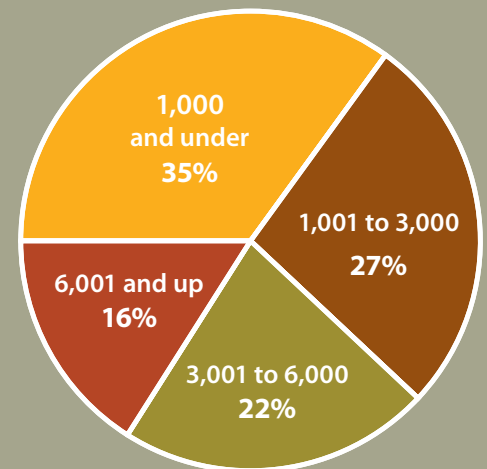
## Now is the Time for Innovation

Community forests are feeling the impacts of the curtailments and closures of mills occurring across BC. As land managers and log sellers, fluctuating log markets directly affect management decisions and the financial health of the organization. The strong foundations of the long-term tenure, however, will help community forests manage the changes over time. As independent log sellers, community forests can be flexible and respond to local and regional market demand. Innovation and resiliency and the potential to provide a secure source of fibre to manufacturers and value-added businesses can leverage new opportunities and expand existing ones.

**Community forests are thinking long term and planning for the ecological resiliency of their area-based, long-term tenures.**

## Population of Reporting Communities

*What is the population directly served by your community forest?*



Minimum population: 200  
Maximum population: 17,678  
Average population: 3,732

### ABBREVIATIONS USED IN THIS REPORT

AAC = Allowable Annual Cut  
CF = Community forest\*  
CFA = Community forest agreement  
Ha = Hectares  
PY = Person Year of Employment.  
One PY, considered 1 full time job = 1,750 hours.  
M<sup>3</sup> = cubic metres of wood

\*Note: This report often uses the term “community forest” to refer to the organization that holds a community forest agreement.



# Indicator 1

## Number of Jobs

**EMPLOYMENT IN RURAL COMMUNITIES** is one of the primary benefits of community forests. This indicator measures the total direct employment and contract labour generated by community forests. By determining the number of person years of employment per 1,000 m<sup>3</sup> of timber harvested we can see the value, in terms of jobs, of the harvest volume allocated to community forests. Person year is a commonly used metric, but since not all jobs associated with community forest operations are full-time, respondents also reported the total number of workers that derived all or part of their income from the community forest.

Number of Person Year (PY) based on reported harvest of 1,239,786 m <sup>3</sup>				
Employment	Forestry, logging and support <sup>a,b</sup>	Trail building, firefighting, research etc.	Milling <sup>c</sup>	All activities <sup>d</sup>
Person years /1,000 m <sup>3</sup>	0.43	0.01	0.57	1.02
Average person years per community forest	14.94	0.37	19.68	34.99
Total person years	537.86	13.44	708.45	1,259.75

Notes: Analysis completed by Peak Solutions Consulting Inc. <sup>a</sup>In accordance with BC Stats, one Person Year (PY) is 1,750 hours. This replaces Person year (PY) of 1,820 hours used in previous BCCFA reports. <sup>b</sup>Includes forest management, logging, hauling, road building, silviculture (planting, spacing pruning etc.), administration and accounting. <sup>c</sup>Milling employment is based on jobs with one job representing one person year in this report. According to Statistics Canada (Table 36-10-0480-01) the average number of hours worked in 2018 for wood product manufacturing (BS321) workers in BC was 1,894 hours. <sup>d</sup>Sum of Person years for forestry, logging, support services, trail building etc., and milling.



### COMMUNITY FOREST JOBS EMPOWER FIRST NATIONS WORKERS

**Khowutzun Forest Services (KFS)** offers employment and training opportunities for young people of the Cowichan Nation. The largest First Nation in BC, a high percentage of Cowichan Tribes population is under 30 years of age. KFS has 12 fire crews, each a crew of five.

“Back when we started in 2003, we struggled to get even 10 guys out there. Now 16 years have gone by. A lot of these guys, they never had a job, just lived on social assistance. Now this is not an option anymore. A lot of our children had dreams of becoming fire fighters and didn’t even think it could one day be possible. Kids don’t want to be on social assistance. We show them that they can be part of forestry. They are proud of it.”

— Cedar Elliott, Manager

PHOTO: KHOWUTZUN FOREST SERVICES

Number of people who derived all or part of their income from the community forests:

**Total: 2,131**

**Average: 59**

Community forests created 0.43 person years of local employment per 1,000 m<sup>3</sup> harvested in forestry, logging, and support services in 2018. This is approximately 80% more than the industry average.<sup>1</sup> When employment in trail building, firefighting, and scientific study are included, the coefficient goes up to 0.44 person years per 1,000 m<sup>3</sup>.

#### FEATURED COMMUNITY FOREST: Chinook Community Forest

### New Partnerships Create New Opportunities

The Chinook Community Forest is a bold partnership built of six Indigenous communities and two local governments with each holding equal shares: Burns Lake Band, Village of Burns Lake, Cheslatta Carrier Nation, Lake Babine Nation, Nee Tahi Buhn First Nation, Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako Regional District (Area B and E), Skin Tyee First Nation, and Wet'suwet'en First Nation. They are navigating the challenges of governance and learning to work together for the benefit of all their communities. Over the last two years it has awarded over \$500,000 in contracts to First Nation partners creating benefits of local work and capacity building.

**PROCESSING FIREWOOD AT CHINOOK CF:** When many locals were on evacuation during the fires of 2018 and could not get into the bush to collect their winter firewood, the Chinook Community Forest processed firewood and made it available for evacuees to pick up. They also provided a logging truck load of firewood to each of their eight shareholders communities. 9,293 hectares of the community forest were lost to the Verdun, Shovel Lake, Nadina and Equity Mine fires.

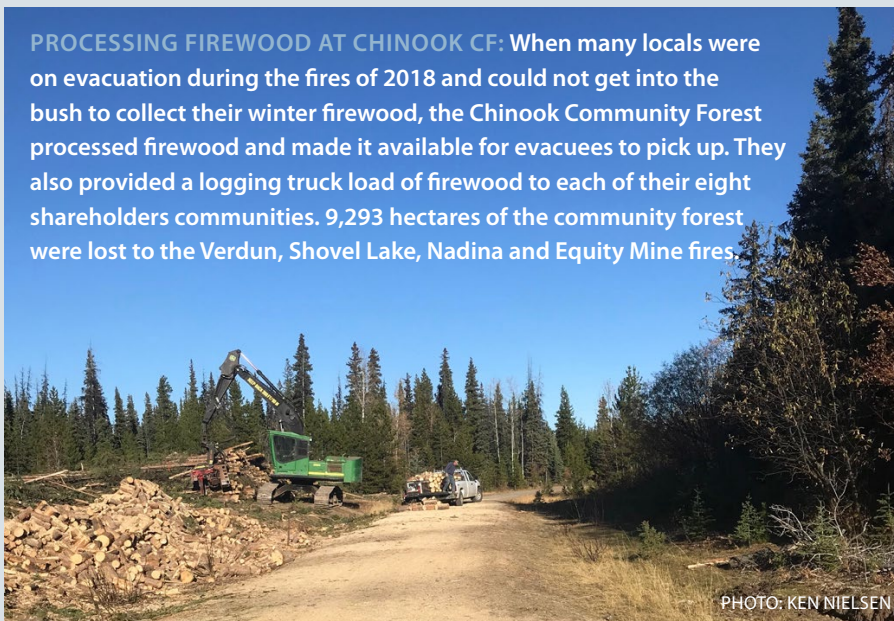


PHOTO: KEN NIELSEN

<sup>1</sup> FLNRORD, 2019, Major Primary Timber Processing Facilities in British Columbia 2017, [https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/farming-natural-resources-and-industry/forestry/fibre-mills/2017\\_mill\\_list\\_report\\_final.pdf](https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/farming-natural-resources-and-industry/forestry/fibre-mills/2017_mill_list_report_final.pdf); Natural Resources Canada, 2019, Secondary Manufacturing of Solid Wood Products in British Columbia 2016: Structure, Economic Contribution and Changes since 1990, BC-X-447, <http://nofc.cfs.nrcan.gc.ca/authors/read/15709>

**OF NOTE:** 80,729 m<sup>3</sup> was sold to value added manufacturers, pole, veneer, plywood, & OSB facilities. These mills have an employment coefficient of 0.942 person years/1,000 m<sup>3</sup>. In 2018, the volume sold by community forests to those companies resulted in 76.03 person years of employment.



"Our logger can walk from his house to the community forest job site."

— Erik Leslie, Harrop Procter CF

PHOTO: ERIK LESLIE



# Indicator 2

## Total Economic Activity



**COMMUNITY FORESTS ARE** community economic development enterprises that help to build a rural community's self-reliance. The total annual cost of sales and expenditures is an indicator of the total economic activity generated by the community forests in the reporting year.

Value of sales	
Average	\$ 2,794,715
Minimum	\$ 0
Maximum	\$ 8,679,566

Value of expenditures	
Average	\$ 1,962,056
Minimum	\$ 1,200
Maximum	\$ 7,581,674

This economic activity was generated by an average harvest of only 34,439 m<sup>3</sup>. With an average population of 3,732, the pivotal role that a community forest can play in a rural community must not be understated.

### LOCAL INVESTMENT EXPANDS LOCAL OPPORTUNITIES

The **Lower North Thompson Community Forest** purchased land to create the Barriere Industrial Park in 2017. In the reporting year the CF invested \$799,844 in land development, equipment and infrastructure as means to drive economic development and diversify the revenue stream. This includes water and three-phase power development at the mill site, construction of 35' x 120' mill building, construction of a 30' modular kiln, and purchase of skid steer loader and firewood processor. "Together these activities improve our ability to fully utilize the logs from the community forest while creating new opportunities for employment, innovation, and revenue generation." (LNTCFS website <https://lntcfs.org/>)

In addition to log sales, \$22,301 was generated in lumber sales through LNTCFS' milling operation.

PHOTO: LOWER NORTH THOMPSON  
COMMUNITY FOREST

Indicator  
**3**

# Community Contributions

**REVENUES FROM COMMUNITY FORESTS** accrue directly to Indigenous and rural communities. The cash and in-kind contributions made by the community forest include dividends, grants, infrastructure improvements, and special projects. In many cases, these payments serve social, cultural and environmental objectives, in addition to economic ones.

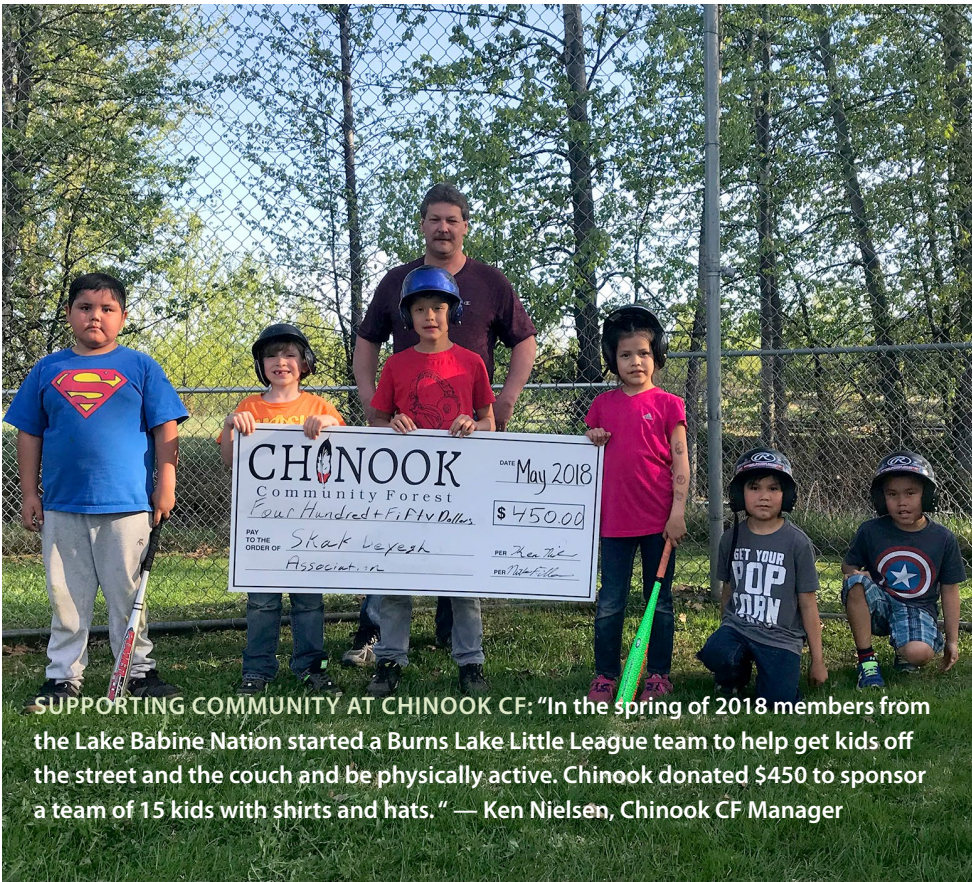
Total cash contributed to the community	
Total	\$ 16,813,395
Average	\$ 509,497

In the reporting year, 100% of respondents made cash contributions in their communities. On average, they contributed \$509,497 with an additional \$17,738 in in-kind contributions totaling \$527,235. This is up from last year, when 88% of community forests made contributions totalling \$11,381,537 for an average of \$379,384.

Average cash and in-kind contributions:  
**\$527,235**

Exceptional values on the 60,000 m<sup>3</sup> of 2018 sales and some late 2017 sales resulted in a significant surplus for the year which was awarded to the joint shareholders in the form of a \$2 million payment to each.

— Barkley Community Forest, a partnership of the Town of Ucluelet and Toquaht First Nation



**SUPPORTING COMMUNITY AT CHINOOK CF:** “In the spring of 2018 members from the Lake Babine Nation started a Burns Lake Little League team to help get kids off the street and the couch and be physically active. Chinook donated \$450 to sponsor a team of 15 kids with shirts and hats.” — Ken Nielsen, Chinook CF Manager



# Funds Leveraged

Total \$ raised for projects from outside sources:

**\$5,276,240**

an average of \$405,865 for those that leveraged

**THE PROFITS GENERATED**, and contributions made by community forests are often used as seed money to grow larger projects and create even more local benefits. This indicator shows how CF funds are used to leverage additional funds for community priorities.

Forty-three per cent of respondents said they leveraged the community forest's funds to bring in additional dollars. The total of \$5.3 million is up from \$2.7 million reported last year.

For example:

- **Nakusp Community Forest** leveraged \$273,960 from its Legacy Fund against other sources of funding available to the Village of Nakusp for Phase One of the downtown revitalization project, with no impact on property taxes. Revitalization of the first three of six blocks included new sidewalks, lighting, trees and benches.
- **McLeod Lake Mackenzie Community Forest** contributed \$84,923 in community project funding in 2018. Project proponents leveraged this investment totaling \$32,737 in outside funding. In 2018, this funding supported a school ecology education program and the replacement of essential equipment for the local radio station.

## USING PROFITS TO ATTRACT EVEN GREATER BENEFITS

Through the **Lower North Thompson Community Forest's** Value-Added Fibre Utilization Project, \$34,210 in cash and in-kind contributions were leveraged to receive a \$100,000 grant from the BC Rural Dividend Fund.

As part of the holistic approach to forest management the objective of this project was to improve utilization and add value to low-quality logs from the CFA that would otherwise have been wasted and burned in slash-piles.

The project created mill site improvements and employment for two Simpcw First Nations.



PHOTO: LOWER NORTH THOMPSON CF

# Indicator 5

## Cut Control

**COMMUNITY FORESTS PLAY AN ACTIVE ROLE** in the forest sector through timber harvesting. This indicator measures their success at meeting cut control requirements, keeping the supply of logs flowing into the market.

72% of community forests reported being on track to meet their cut control.

This means that the majority are successfully harvesting the volume of timber allocated, and they are contributing logs to the market. Some of the main challenges faced by those that are not on track are the impacts of active wildfires, poor markets, and that the AAC is not achievable in the tenure area.



CHEAKAMUS CF WINTER HARVESTING PHOTO: HEATHER BERESFORD

**72% of community forests reported being on track to meet their cut control.**

### FEATURED COMMUNITY FOREST: McLeod Lake Mackenzie CF

#### Collaborative Wildfire Mitigation Planning

McLeod Lake Mackenzie Community Forest (MLMCF) is a partnership between the McLeod Lake Indian Band and the District of Mackenzie. MLMCF operates on 24,218 Ha with an AAC of 30,000 M3. The MLMCF and the District co-chair the Mackenzie Wildfire Advisory Committee (MWAC) which brings together key organizations to prioritize and streamline wildfire related efforts within the Mackenzie area.

The formation of the MWAC has had a significant impact on wildfire hazard reduction in the area by accelerating fuel treatment funding and projects. Projects identified for treatment include fuel mitigation along 25km of Highway 39, the only paved emergency evacuation route from Mackenzie and landscape level wildfire fuel and fire behavior modelling. The MWAC also held a Town Hall Meeting, the first of many public engagement events to come, to begin conversations around fuel reduction efforts, home FireSmart strategies as well as emergency preparedness.



PHOTO: PAMELA HENGEVELD, MLMCF



# Indicator 6

## Distribution of Log Sales

Of the 36 community forests that participated in the 2018/2019 survey:

**48% have markets for waste and residue**

**58% are actively seeking markets for waste and residue**



PHOTO: JEFF REYDEN

**COMMUNITY FORESTS SUPPLY LOGS** on the open market and strive to support the full spectrum of milling and manufacturing facilities.

Distribution of log sales	
Sales to large mills $\geq 295,000 \text{ m}^3/\text{year}$	60.8 %
Sales to medium mills $95,000 \text{ m}^3$ to $295,000 \text{ m}^3/\text{year}$	7.5 %
Sales to small mills $< 95,000 \text{ m}^3/\text{year}$	3.7 %
Sales to value added mills	.9 %
Sales to pole, veneer, plywood & OSB	4.6 %
Sales to facilities that use low quality fibre (chip, pellet, pulp & paper)	3.5 %
Sales to firewood	.4 %
Logs exported	.3 %
Broker	18.3 %

Where markets are diverse, community forests are able to sell to numerous buyers. The average number of bidders invited was 5.6, and on average, community forests sold logs to 3.8 different buyers. These figures vary greatly around the province, with one respondent selling to 18 different buyers in the reporting year.

### INCREASING UTILIZATION AND REDUCING WASTE

Firewood is an important product for the **Nakusp and Area Community Forest (NACFOR)**. They are working towards changing the logging contractor mindset around firewood to reduce waste and increase utilization. Their logging contract clearly states that firewood will be donated or sold by NACFOR and the contractor will receive a fixed rate for all firewood based on the scaled volume. This approach ensures that all firewood volume is tracked and scaled. NACFOR donates and/or sells over 20 loads of firewood annually.

Indicator  
**7**

# Investments in Intensive Silviculture

**COMMUNITY FOREST AGREEMENTS** are long-term, area-based forest tenures. These conditions create strong incentives for investment in the future productivity of the forest. By measuring the investments in intensive silviculture that are above and beyond legal requirements, we see the efforts being made to increase the growing capacity in a community forest, with the intent of increasing the AAC over time.

Activities include spacing, brushing, and enhanced genetic stock. Respondents reported total treatment cost, including planning, development, and administration of these projects.

CFA investment in intensive silviculture	
Total	\$ 2,440,726
Average of those that invested	\$ 122,036

## Value and source of investment in intensive silviculture

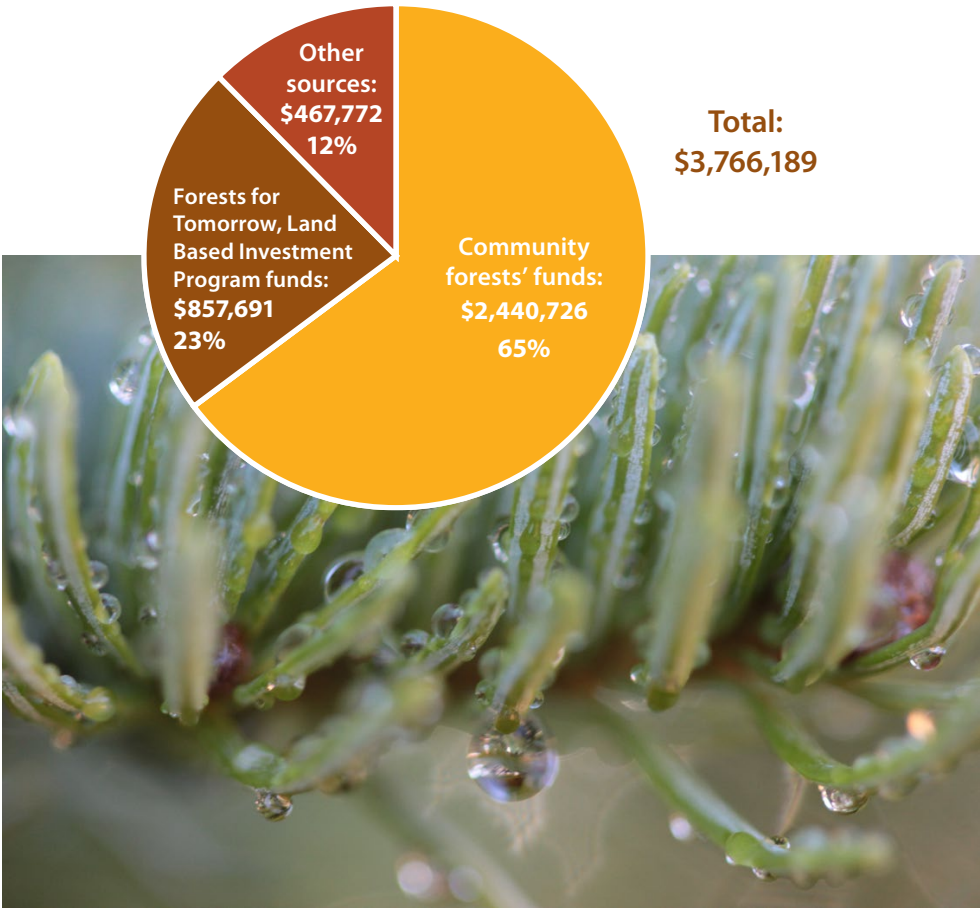


PHOTO: JEFF REYDEN

Respondents that made investments in incremental silviculture: **56 per cent**, compared to 39 per cent the year prior.

Total investment: **nearly \$4 million**, up from \$2 million the year before.

Area treated: **4,687 hectares**, averaging 234 hectares per respondent.

### Examples of intensive silviculture activities from survey respondents include:

- Aerial fertilization treatment.
- Road rehabilitation plans & prescriptions.
- Broad use in community forests of the purchase of the highest genetic gain seed possible and addition of tea bag fertilizer for all trees planted.
- Brushing blocks for conifer release.



# Indicator 8

## Economic Diversification

Total value of diversified sales:

**\$332,371**

an average of \$110,790 for those that had revenue from diversified sales

**AN IMPORTANT PROVINCIAL GOAL** for the community forest program is to diversify the use of, and benefits derived from, the community forest agreement area. This diversification can include the development of goods, like non-timber forest products (NTFPs)<sup>1</sup> such as berries or greenery, as well as the development of services.

Increasingly community forests are using the expertise they have gained to offer services to other forest-based initiatives in their area.

For example, one community forest is expanding their wildfire management skills to other communities in their valley.

### FEATURED COMMUNITY FOREST: Cheakamus Community Forest

#### Recovering Biomass

Situated on 33,018 Ha surrounding Whistler, the Cheakamus Community Forest (CCF) is a partnership between the Lil'wat and Squamish First Nations and the Resort Municipality of Whistler (RMOW).

Through CCF's forest fuel reduction project funded by the Forest Enhancement Society of BC, 2,993 metric tonnes (~6-8,000m<sup>3</sup>) of post harvesting biomass was ground and delivered to the RMOW Composter. The biomass is mixed with solid waste from Whistler, Squamish and Pemberton sewage, composted into a Class A soil amendment and sold locally. The cost to grind and deliver was \$91,348.

Revenue through a biomass rebate was \$104,755, producing a net return to the fuel reduction program of \$13,406.



<sup>1</sup> When it comes to NTFPs, to date community forests are generally not involved in commercial activity, beyond services and firewood. Their role is to facilitate access for the community and adapt the timber harvesting approach to protect the non-timber resources.

# Indicator 9

## Community Accountability

**THE CFA TENURE** is unique in BC in its requirements concerning community accountability. This indicator measures whether the community forest reports out annually to its community and describes the methods used to report.

Community forests must develop Management Plans that contain the broad social, economic and resource management goals proposed for the tenure. In addition to formal annual reporting to local residents, community forests employ a variety of strategies & tools to communicate the community forest's performance on the commitments made in the Management Plan. These include field trips, social media, local newspapers, and open houses. With the feedback from this engagement, community forests find ways to be innovative and include multiple values in their decisions.

**Results: 94% of survey respondents report annually to the community.**

Example experiences include:

- **CRESTON COMMUNITY FOREST:** "The fuel mitigation project treatment area is adjacent to private lands where some landowners have voiced concerns. We take the time to meet with them and do field visits to answer questions and address concerns. We also hosted a community wildfire preparedness day in the area to help spread info about FireSmart and to allow community members to visit the site with us and engage in discussion." — Daniel Gratton, Manager
- **ENIYUD COMMUNITY FOREST:** "A recent fir beetle harvest site involved access through a recreation area. We scheduled harvesting activities to be completed prior to the ski season so there was no conflict with ski trail users. Rather than using a more direct route through the centre of the community, log hauling was diverted to a backroad system to avoid disturbance and safety issues." — Board of Directors

**Logan Lake Community Forest** is a complex area to operate within and we consider many values. We are committed to a structured planning process and most of all enjoy going in the field to discuss the multitude of factors to consider. It's amazing how fresh air and "kicking the dirt" answers so many questions.

— Garnet Mireau, Logan Lake Community Forest Management Team. LOGAN LAKE CF FIELD TRIP PHOTO: GARNET MIREAU



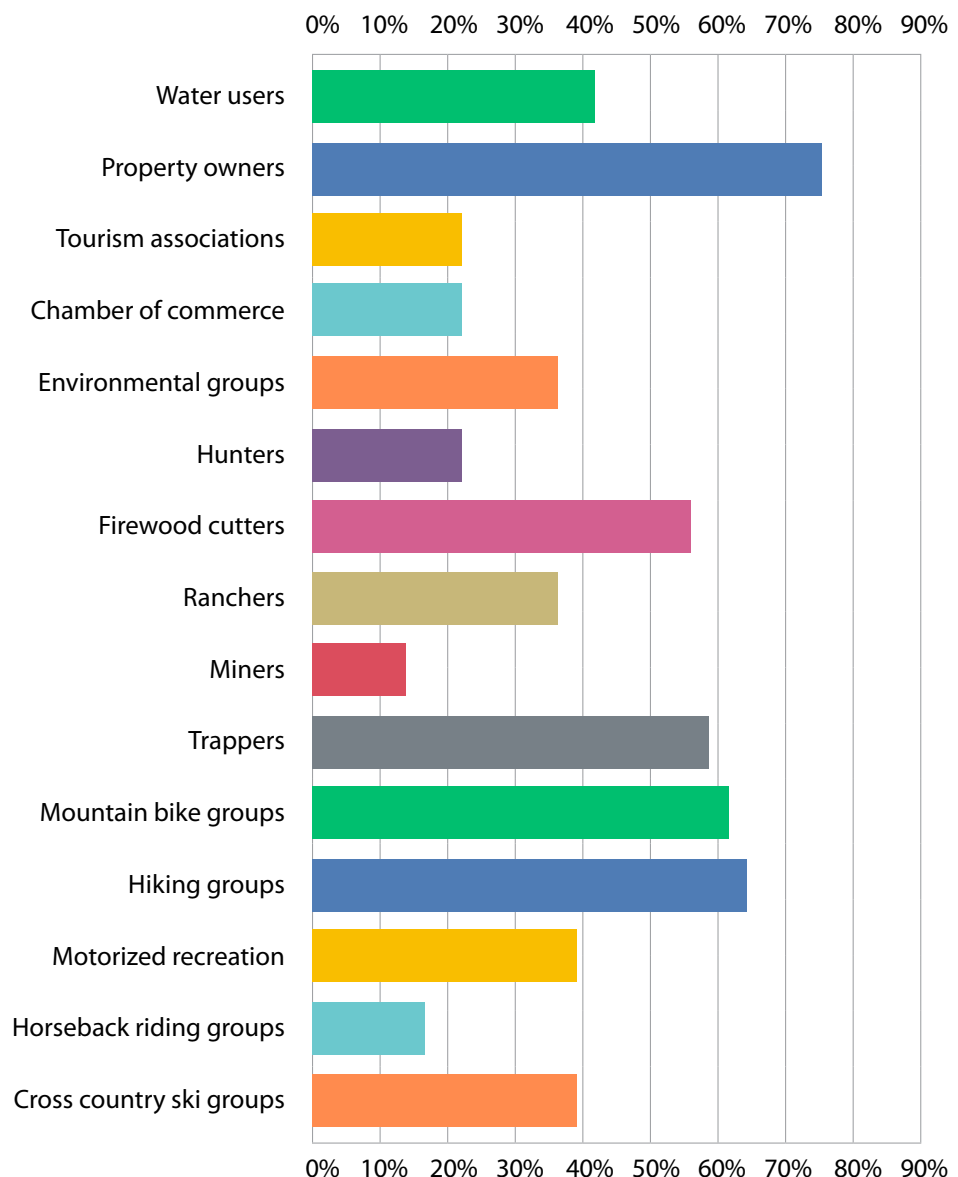


# Indicator 10

## Public Engagement

**THE PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT INDICATOR** measures the efforts of the community forest to engage with the diversity of community members and stakeholder groups. Outreach to the full array of forest users and community organizations leads to an improved awareness of forest management among the public and increases potential to resolve conflicts over timber harvesting in watersheds and other sensitive areas.

### Engagement with Community sectors



CHEAKAMUS CF PHOTO:  
HEATHER BERESFORD

### PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT IN THE CHEAKAMUS COMMUNITY FOREST

The use of a structured community resource board, the Forest and Wildlands Advisory Committee (FWAC) provides a forum for planning and for field and performance review throughout the year. They tour every spring and fall to look at what the CF has done in the past year, then write a recommendation report that goes to the CCF Board and the Resort Municipality of Whistler.

Indicator  
**11**

# Investments in Community Education

**COMMUNITY FORESTS HELP TO** connect community members to the forest and to increase their understanding of forest ecosystems and management. Investments in education and capacity building include school presentations, field trips, public events, as well as training supported by the community forest (such as first aid, faller certification, etc.) by community forest staff, contractors, employees and volunteers.

Investment in education	
Total	\$ 177,848
Average	\$ 4,940

For many First Nations and their partners, training young people for work on the tenure is a major focus of their operations. Additionally, seven organizations had programs targeting their local K–12 schools and getting kids out into the forest.

**Directors for the Little Prairie Community Forest were in attendance when Chetwynd schools bused to the community forest and released butterflies. The LPCF also covered the costs of the bus and driver for the field trip.** PHOTO: ASHLEY TOWER



MLMCF PHOTO

In 2018 the McLeod Lake Mackenzie Community Forest (MLMCF) supported the coordination and delivery of a forestry field trip held during National Forest Week as part of the Williston School Ecology Program. The MLMCF provided the site, layout, seedlings, and funded the transportation of students to and from the event.



# Indicator 12

## Investments in Recreation

Community forests have collectively developed and maintained a total of **1,764 km** of trails in the area around communities to date.



PHOTO: KOOTENAY ADAPTIVE SPORT ASSOCIATION

### INVESTMENTS CREATE UNIQUE RECREATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

Nakusp and Area Community Forest (NACFOR) contributed funding towards the Mt. Abriel mountain bike boardwalk project (photo below right), a unique trail network that includes capacity for adaptive mountain bikes (aMTB hand-pedaled trikes – photo above). The new trail network will enable adaptive sport and accessibility, enhance recreational opportunities and support tourism in Nakusp and the Arrow Lake region. Total project value was \$271,933 and was supported through six funding partners, the Jobs Creation Program and in-kind contributions.

**COMMUNITY FORESTS MAKE** significant investments in creating, improving and maintaining local recreational infrastructure and opportunities. This indicator measures investments in recreation features, on and off the community forest, including trails for hiking, biking, skiing, horseback riding, information kiosks, cabins or warming huts, and viewpoints.

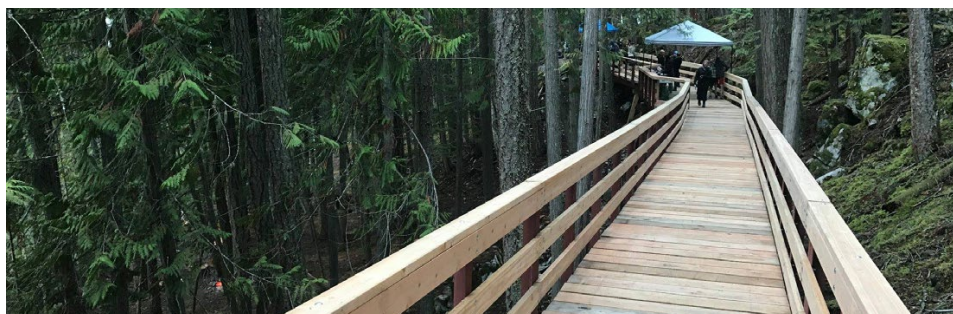
Investment in recreation	
Total	\$ 699,800
Average of those that invested	\$ 34,990

In addition, respondents managed another \$826,675 from outside funding sources.

Number of kilometres of trail	
Total	502
Average kms of those that built & maintained trails	24

Example investments include:

- **McLeod Lake Mackenzie Community Forest** (MLMCF) funded community projects in 2018 supported trail repairs, lights, and signage on 30 km of cross-country ski trails on the CF tenure area, and bridge replacement on a 2.4 km hike/bike trail in Mackenzie.
- **Cheakamus Community Forest** maintains 649 kms of trail and has a formal partnership agreement with the off-road cycling association.
- **Tumbler Ridge Community Forest** in partnership with the District of Tumbler Ridge is building an accessible interpretive trail in and around a recreation use area. Up to 20 interpretive trail signs are being constructed in English and the local Indigenous language of Beaver. The trail is within walking distance of the Tourism Centre and High School, where students are involved in the design and stewardship of the trail.



NAKUSP AND AREA COMMUNITY FOREST (NACFOR) PHOTOS: RORY MCLEOD

# Indicator 13

## Proactive Management of Wildfire Hazard

**COMMUNITY FORESTS ARE SITUATED** in the wildland urban interface, or WUI. They are in a unique position to serve as leaders in the coordination and management of these areas to reduce the risk of catastrophic wildfire.

Investment to reduce wildfire hazard	
Total	\$ 794,987
Average of those that invested	\$ 39,749

Number of hectares treated	
Total	765
Average # of ha treated	70

To date, the reporting community forests have collectively treated 3,187 ha and invested over \$2.15 million for wildfire mitigation. They managed an additional \$9.71 million from outside sources.



Seventy-seven per cent of respondents collaborated with their local government on wildfire planning and preparedness. Funding from external sources, like the Forest Enhancement Society of BC and Community Resilience Initiative is crucial given the urgency to reduce the fire risk to rural communities. Community forests are taking on a leadership role in the planning and implementation of these efforts.

In May 2018, the BCCFA presented the Government of British Columbia with a proposal to increase the number and size of community forests around Indigenous and rural communities, to enhance their ability to manage for wildfire. The Union of BC Municipalities<sup>2</sup> and the BC Flood and Wildfire Review<sup>3</sup> made the same recommendation.

2 Union of BC Municipalities 2018 Resolution B43. [ubcm.ca/assets/Resolutions~and~Policy/Resolutions/2018%20UBCM%20Resolutions%20Book.pdf](http://ubcm.ca/assets/Resolutions~and~Policy/Resolutions/2018%20UBCM%20Resolutions%20Book.pdf)

3 Addressing the New Normal: 21st Century Disaster Management in British Columbia. April 2018. [www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/public-safety-and-emergency-services/emergency-preparedness-response-recovery/embc/bc-flood-and-wildfire-review-addressing-the-new-normal-21st-century-disaster-management-in-bc-web.pdf](http://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/public-safety-and-emergency-services/emergency-preparedness-response-recovery/embc/bc-flood-and-wildfire-review-addressing-the-new-normal-21st-century-disaster-management-in-bc-web.pdf)

**"100% of our cut was Wildland Urban Interface logging."**

— Stephan Martineau, Manager SIFCo



Fuel reduction work done by Sqomish Forestry from Squamish First Nation in the interface area on Callaghan Valley Road, Cheakamus CF. The community fully supports the integration of fuel reduction and we have seen a cultural shift from a preservation standpoint of "Why cut trees around Whistler?" to "Why are you not cutting more and reducing the potential wildfire threat?"

CHEAKAMUS FIRE MITIGATION  
PHOTOS: SUSAN MULKEY



# Indicator 14

## Forest Worker Safety



### INVESTMENTS IN FOREST WORKER SAFETY

Nakusp and Area Community Forest (NACFOR) has operated for three years under an Environmental and Safety Management System, a comprehensive, systematic and documented approach to managing and tracking NACFOR operations in compliance with legislation and acceptable environmental standards and to provide the NACFOR Board of Directors, shareholder and public with the assurance that the CFA land base is being well managed with established policies and processes. The ESMS also provides the foundation for ensuring safe work practices and procedures for NACFOR contractors and consultants.

FILING SAW PHOTO: SUSAN MULKEY

**SURVEY RESPONDENTS REPORTED** on whether the CFA holder requires its employees and/or contractors to be Safe Certified with the BC Forest Safety Council or an equivalent program. Information on the number of and severity of incidents further demonstrates how community forests are meeting safety objectives in their operations.

Percent requiring Safe Certification	
Percent yes	79 %
Percent no	21 %

Number and severity of recordable incidents	
Minor	8
Serious (requiring attention)	4
Fatality	0
Total	12



BIRD ON SLED PHOTO: JEFF REYDEN

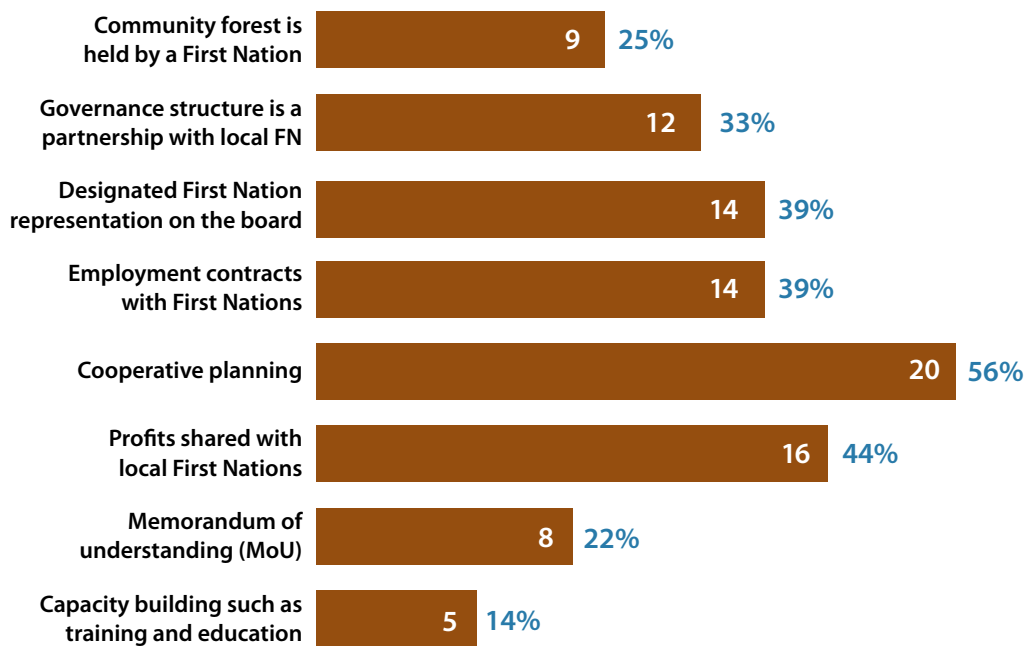
# Indicator 15

## First Nations Involvement

**FIFTY-EIGHT PERCENT** of survey respondents are community forests that are held by First Nations or a by a partnership between Indigenous and non-Indigenous communities. The BC Community Forest Association promotes forest management that respects First Nation rights and cultural values, and fosters understanding and cooperation between rural communities and First Nations.

This indicator measures the breadth and depth of First Nations' involvement in community forests. By measuring the types of involvement beyond legal requirements, this indicator serves to demonstrate how community forest organizations are working with the First Nations within whose traditional territory the community forest is located.

### Types of involvement with First Nations



The Chinook CF is a partnership of six Indigenous communities and two local governments. Jonathan Thomas, Nee Tahi Buhn member, captured this pic of himself and Barry Ogen, Wet'suwet'en member, during a block lay out training session supported by the Chinook CF.

CHINOOK CF PHOTO:  
JONATHAN THOMAS

**LITTLE PRAIRIE COMMUNITY FOREST (LPCF)** is comprised of three partners: West Moberly First Nations, Saulteau First Nations and the District of Chetwynd. Each partner has two directors who sit on the LPCF Board. The two Directors from each partner are responsible for reporting back to their respective Partners. An Annual General Meeting is held with the partners each June. Currently, the Directors are working with West Moberly and Saulteau First Nations on their Treaty Land Entitlement (TLE) selections, some of which fall within the community forest. The boundary for the community forest will be revised following finalization of the TLE selections.



# Indicator 16

## Management of Sensitive Areas

Percentage of  
total area that is  
sensitive: **33%**



**THE CFA'S UNIQUE** model of forest management can give community forest managers the social licence to operate in highly constrained areas that may not otherwise be accessible for timber harvesting due to local opposition. Survey respondents were asked to document the area within their land base that is sensitive.

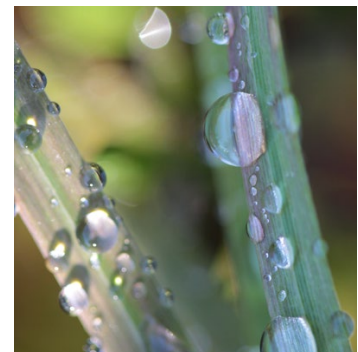
Sensitive areas are defined as:

- Domestic and community watersheds.
- Riparian areas.
- Visually sensitive areas.
- Potentially unstable and unstable terrain.
- Areas with archaeological values or cultural heritage.
- Identified and critical wildlife habitat.
- Fisheries sensitive watersheds.
- Recreation trails and sites; and
- Areas identified as sensitive by the community.

Thirty-three per cent of the combined tenure area of survey respondents is deemed sensitive. One-third indicated at least 75% of their land base is sensitive and five community forests reported that 100% of their land base is sensitive ground.

Example experiences include:

- **Cheakamus Community Forest:** Over half of the Cheakamus CF is considered sensitive. Old forest protection has been spatially assigned to >30% of community forest area through an integrated management plan that engaged all community stakeholders and forest users in 2015.
- **Slocan Integral Community Forest Cooperative (SIFCo):** "When creating our CF, we intentionally asked to manage our own consumptive use watersheds, which are 100% of the CF landbase."  
— Stephan Martineau, Manager, SIFCo
- **Williams Lake Community Forest:** 80% of the Williams Lake CF is considered sensitive with mule deer winter range, visual polygons, old growth management areas (OGMAs), archeology and cultural values, high value fish streams, and recreational trails.



# Indicator 17

## Investments in Forest Stewardship

**HEALTHY FOREST ECOSYSTEMS** are the basis of healthy local economies. With this understanding, community forest organizations are making significant investments in the ecological integrity of the forests they manage. This indicator measures the investments community forests are making in enhanced forest stewardship, incremental to legal requirements. The activities include the enhanced management of sensitive areas (as listed in Indicator 16), information gathering and planning, and monitoring and research which includes inventory and extra surveys that are above and beyond legal requirements.

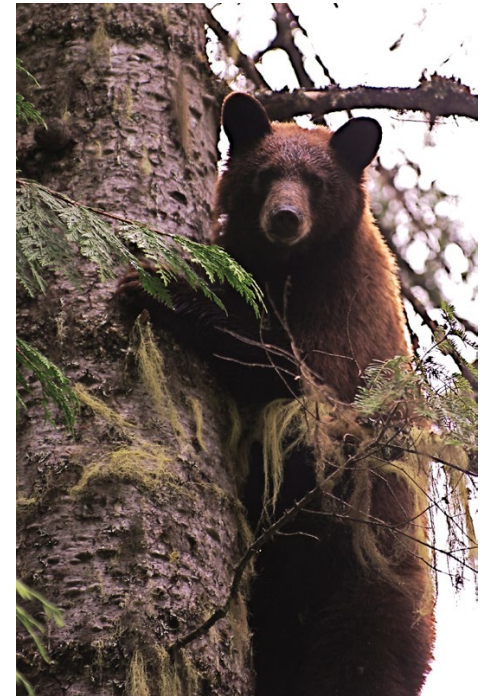
Investment in enhanced or modified management for ecological or social reasons	
Total \$	\$ 1,898,214
Average of those who invested	\$ 146,016

Number of hectares treated within and outside the CF boundary	
Total hectares	743
Average number of hectares treated	93

Partial cutting to address social and ecological values is widely used by CFAs and is significantly more expensive. CFAs prioritize these kinds of management decisions and consider them as investments in forest stewardship and social licence.

Examples of stewardship activities cited in the survey include:

- Wildlife monitoring studies of goats for timing of harvesting operations.
- Structuring and monitoring of coarse woody debris corridors for small fur bearing animals.
- Mule deer winter range sanitation.
- Grassland restoration.
- Fir bark beetle control.



**MCLEOD LAKE MACKENZIE COMMUNITY FOREST** set up trail cameras to provide data on frequency and timing of wildlife occurrences at 12 strategic locations from June to November 2018.

The goal was to provide data to support local Bear Smart initiatives.

PHOTO: JEFF REYDEN



# Indicator 18

## Compliance with Environmental Standards

Compliance determinations issued against the community forests surveyed: **0**

**THIS INDICATOR SHOWS** the number of inspections conducted and the number of determinations issued against the community forest organization/contractors/employees that related to the potential for environmental damage. We also asked about the results of any applicable Forest Practices Board audits or investigations by other provincial or federal agencies.

### Number of Compliance & Enforcement inspections conducted & determinations

Total inspections	21
Determinations issued against the CF	0



PHOTO: MLMCF



PHOTO: SUSAN MULKEY





PHOTO: JEFF REYDEN





From left: Jennifer Gunter, BCCFA Executive Director; Dave Gill, BCCFA Board Member and manager of the Westbank Community Forest; George Brcko, past BCCFA President and manager of the Wells Gray Community Forest; and Susan Mulkey, BCCFA Manager, Communication & Extension. BCCFA PHOTO

SUSAN MULKEY PHOTOS

The BC Community Forest Association is a network of rural community-based organizations engaged in community forest management, and those seeking to establish new community forests. We represent over 90 rural and Indigenous communities across our province. We share a vision of a network of diverse community forest initiatives, where local people practice ecologically responsible forest management in perpetuity, fostering and supporting healthy and vibrant rural communities and economies.



British Columbia  
**Community Forest Association**

local people, local forests, local decisions

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