

NEWS RELEASE

December 16, 2024



BCCFA Congratulates Newly Announced Three Rivers Community Forest in Quesnel, BC

QUESNEL and the Traditional Territory of the Lhtako Dene, Nazko, ʔEsdilagh, and Lhoosk'uz Dene Nations – The BC Community Forest Association (BCCFA) is proud to welcome a new community forest to its growing provincial network. Three Rivers Community Forest (TRCF) is an agreement between Lhtako Dene, Nazko, ʔEsdilagh, and Lhoosk'uz First Nations along with the City of Quesnel to empower the municipality and First Nations to manage local forest resources in the area. After over 5 years of hard work and collaboration, this new community forest is set to be operational in 2025.

Community forests, represented at the provincial level by the BCCFA, serve as a dynamic and effective tool for the long-term stewardship of forest resources. As demonstrated in the BCCFA's [Community Forest Indicators Report](#), these forests exemplify a commitment to balancing diverse community values, including watershed and old-growth management, enhancing recreational and educational opportunities, creating local jobs, and strengthening wildfire resilience. There are now 62 community forests across BC, with TRCF as the newest addition.

"We are thrilled to share the announcement of the Three Rivers Community Forest, which is the result of many years of dedication, fostering relationships, and steadfast commitment to community values. The BCCFA Board and staff extend sincere congratulations to the TFCF partners for this accomplishment, and we look forward to working together in our shared vision of supporting resilient forests and thriving communities in rural BC," said Jennifer Gunter, BCCFA Executive Director.

"Community forests are an opportunity for local involvement, investment and community benefit from the forest industry. Through agreements like these, communities can partner with First Nations to develop land management approaches that focus on shared values of sustainability and resiliency," stated Minister of Forests Ravi Parmar in a recent [press release](#). "The Lhtako Dene, Nazko, ʔEsdilagh, and Lhoosk'uz Dene Nations have worked for years with the city of Quesnel to bring the Three Rivers Community Forest together, and I'm excited to see the results of this collaboration and what it will mean for all five communities."

"There has been a lot of dedicated work between the Lhtako Dene, Nazko, ʔEsdilagh, and Lhoosk'uz Dene Nations and the City of Quesnel over the past several years to get the Community Forest Agreement up and running. I'm very proud of all the work that has been done by all the communities individually to get to this point, and I am looking forward to seeing

the collaborative effort continue to come together for the Three Rivers Community Forest into the future,” said Josh Pressey, Regional Executive Director of Cariboo Chilcotin.

-30-

Contact: Carly Dow
BCCFA, Manager of Communications and Outreach
(204) 223-6962
cdow@bccfa.ca

For more information visit:

<https://www.threeriverscomfor.ca/>

<https://bccfa.ca/>