



Forestry Initiatives Program 2021 Annual Report

Summary of Achievements

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE	GOAL ACHIEVED IN 2021
Community Forest	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Receive official Letter of Invite ✓ Assist Lhtako Dene to secure a NRFL ✓ Begin Application ✓ Establish collective values ✓ Hire consultant to work through area selection phase
FireSmart and Community Wildfire Protection Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Opened the Fuel Management Trail system ✓ Treat >100 hectares of land ✓ Assess >500 hectares ✓ Prescribe >200 hectares ✓ Reach >6000 residents – FireSmart ✓ Directly assist >50 homeowners – FireSmart
Landscape Management and Ecosystem Restoration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Secure landscape management research opportunities ✓ Support Provincial Forest Landscape Planning Pilot
Labour Force Re-Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Conduct interviews to assess training needs ✓ Complete a machine operator training pilot
Manufacturing Analysis and Business Case Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Produce two technical reports on wood products (solid wood & bioproducts) manufacturing ✓ Support Lhtako and Nazko First Nation in selecting a biomass utilization project
Increasing Forestry Initiatives Program Strength and Resilience	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Distribute monthly newsletters (reach >2,000 each) ✓ Attract new academic partnerships ✓ Attract interns

Financial Summary

GRANT	PROJECT	AMOUNT	SPENT	% SPENT	DURATION
Rural Dividend	Forestry Think Tank	\$360,000	\$360,000	100%	2019-2021
FESBC	CWPP	\$1,023,320	\$1,023,320	100%	2019-2021
FESBC	CWPP	\$713,679	\$339,736	47%	2020-2022
CCBAC	Cariboo Strong	\$13,000	\$13,000	100%	2021
UBCM (CRI)	CWPP, FireSmart	\$100,000	\$100,000	100%	2019-2021
UBCM (CRI)	CWPP, FireSmart	\$188,252	\$188,252	100%	2019-2021
UBCM (CRI)	FireSmart Private	\$148,900	\$90,331	60%	2021-2022
Red Cross	FireSmart	\$269,723	\$269,723	100%	2019-2021
FEP	CWPP	\$260,122	\$161,761	62%	2020-2022
CWRG	Training	\$11,680	\$11,680	100%	2021
Total		\$3,088,676	\$2,557,803	83%	



Employment Enabled

The FIP program enabled over 1200 person days of community employment (not including FIP staff) in 2021 through.

The Initiatives

Community Forest

- 8 multi-party meetings were convened
- Partnership Agreement signed
- Appointed a Partner Group and Technical Working Group
- Drafted a Project Charter and a Management Plan

FireSmart and Community Wildfire Protection Plan

FUEL MANAGEMENT TRAILS

The FIP worked with the Ministry of Forests (FLNRORD) to secure funding and build a popular new trail network on a section of the CWPP. Funding was used to design and install wayfinding signage and a kiosk with information on wildfire risk reduction.

COMMUNITY WILDFIRE PROTECTION PLAN (CWPP)

The FIP drives forward the CWPP, working with local area licensees and Provincial agencies to complete as much fuel mitigation work as possible each year.

- To date, 227 hectares have been treated, with an additional 88 hectares planned for 2022 and 209 hectares of shelf-ready prescriptions.

FIRESMART

- To date, 70 homes and buildings in Quesnel and area have been assessed for fire hazard, and 26 rebates have been fulfilled (total \$13,000).
- In 2021, FIP attended four Farmer's Markets, one Trade Show, set up a firefighter-themed story book walk, and hosted one community event: Movie Night in the Park
- Produced 33 communication materials (newspaper ads, press releases, radio segments, surveys, flyers, newsletters, emails and Facebook posts); average impact per communication: ~2,000 reached and ~450 engaged.

QUESNEL FIRE MITIGATION PROJECT

The FIP secured funding to run a project with the Nazko First Nation to assist those with disabilities to FireSmart their properties.

- 38 homes were assessed and treated
- List building for 2022 is underway

Landscape Management and Ecosystem Restoration

FOREST LANDSCAPE PLAN (FLP)

Continue to provide support on the Forest Landscape Plan (FLP) pilot (one of 5 pilots in BC). The goal is to develop an integrated planning process that brings together various parties to tackle complex resource use issues to restructure landscape dynamics and limit future wildfires and insect outbreaks. The FIP Manager is a co-Chair for the Community Partner Table.



SILV@21

Quesnel is the provincial hub for this federal project aimed at developing silvicultural solutions for 21st Century challenges linked to climate change. Research outcomes will inform how to maintain jobs, incorporate First Nations' interests, and address the economic, cultural, recreational as well as other uses of B.C.'s land base.

MOUNTAIN PINE BEETLE RISK STUDY

Researchers from Carleton University, University of Toronto, University of Alberta and Natural Resources Canada to develop a framework for risk management planning, assessment and resilience building related to the MPB epidemic.

Labour Force Re-Development

QSHRIP (QUESNEL SELECTIVE HARVESTING RESEARCH AND INNOVATION PILOT)

A funding proposal has been submitted for a three-year operator training pilot program to be hosted at the College of New Caledonia. Training will help pivot local contractors and educate new workers on innovative, lower impact approaches to forest management (single-grip harvesters and forwarders).

HARVESTER TRAINING PILOT

A grant was secured to train one operator this summer.

UBC FORESTRY FIELD TRIP 2021

The City of Quesnel, CNC and UNBC hosted a group of master's students, researchers and faculty members from UBC Masters of International Forestry in October to engage with local industry and to learn how the community is adapting to challenges in the sector. New research opportunities are being explored, including 2 PhD interns who studied in Quesnel for 3 months in 2021 and conducted a social network analysis (MiTACS).

Additional research opportunities are expected in 2022.

Manufacturing Analysis and Business Case Development

REPORTS: FOREST FUTURES

FIP worked with consultants to complete two manufacturing reports which will be used to refine economic opportunities in Quesnel:

- Forest Futures Study: Project Evaluation and Results for the City of Quesnel, by Tom Browne, Ian de la Roche, and Chris Gaston
- Forest-based bio-products: Biofuels pathways for the City of Quesnel in a carbon-constrained world, by Tom Browne

BIOMASS UTILIZATION SCOPING STUDY

Lhtako Dene Nation, in partnership with Nazko First Nation and in collaboration with the City of Quesnel and Clean Energy Consulting, led a new Biomass Utilization Scoping Study. The objective is to identify and rank biomass-based business opportunities in the Quesnel area for First Nations and community partners. The consultants are engaging with the two Nations to select the preferred biomass project.



UBC FORESTRY MITACS INTERN

A joint (FIP and UBC) research project to map out the relationships between actors of the Quesnel forest industry and to identify conditions that foster learning and innovation was completed. The interns lived in Quesnel during the summer to conduct in-person interviews.

Increasing Forestry Initiatives Program Strength and Resilience

COMMUNICATIONS

Four newsletters were created and shared via social media and email blast to the public and to our industry partners list. Average impact per newsletter: ~2,000 reached, ~1000 read, and ~130 engaged.

Forestry Initiatives Program website tracking: Average monthly page views for last year (April - Sept 2020) compared to this year (April – Sept 2021) went up 86%

CANADIAN FOREST SERVICE THINK TANK ON RESILIENCE

The FIP and Mayor Simpson participated in a 3-month Think Tank along with a diverse group of experts representing industry, academia, consulting, R&D, and municipal and federal governments. The purpose was to identify and explore insights from the COVID-19 pandemic, in order to build forest sector resilience through adaptability and transformative action.

2021: Canadian Forest Service to produce the final report on discussions and recommendations, and present to their senior management (FIP and Mayor Simpson to attend).

CANADIAN NATURAL RESOURCE MEETINGS

Two meetings were held with Mayor Simpson and Minister O'Regan to discuss the need to create a roadmap for the reinvention of the forest sector. It was recommended that Quesnel could be used to work through sector hurdles at a scale that is manageable, so that lessons learned could be rolled up to other level of government.

2022: Invite ADM Beth MacNeil to visit the FIC (pending Covid).