

# Forestry Initiatives Program

August 2019

The City of Quesnel created the Forestry Initiatives Program in January 2019 as a grassroots response to the transition that the community is experiencing. The Forestry Initiatives Program is working to reinvent the forest sector from the ground-up by collaborating with other orders of government (Provincial, First Nation, Federal, and Regional), industry, academia and various other organisations.

Through various collaborations, we are working to map-out where to make immediate investments in the forest sector, both in land management and manufacturing. Investments may include: research and development into landscape level restoration and fuel management, identifying different milling or remanufacturing opportunities, job creation in the bio-economy, or advancements in other value-added wood-based products.

The intention of the Forestry Initiatives Program is to foster innovative ways to utilize the available wood-fibre and types of manufacturing potential already in the area; allowing Quesnel to continue to do what it does well – forestry.

Since the inception of the program, the City of Quesnel's Forestry Initiatives Program continues to:

- Collaborate with project partners on the landscape level analysis and restoration pilot project;

- Enable diversification of local wood manufacturing, including solid wood, bio-digesting, and engineered products as well as pre-fabricated technologies;
- Implement the Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP), to help protect our community from flood and fire events as well as contribute to the best practices in fuel management and FireSmart;
- Advocate for an interface community forest, to allow for management of the multiple resources and values on the land (timber and non-timber products, trails, recreation, riparian values, etc.), while ensuring the continued protection and restoration through an ecosystem-based management approach.
- Position Quesnel as a research hub to contribute to the community of practice for landscape level prescriptions, interface fuel management, FireSmart best practices, and innovation in wood manufacturing.
- Convene various interested parties to advance innovation in forestry, fuel management, and manufacturing of wood products.

## LANDSCAPE ANALYSIS AND RESTORATION PILOT PROJECT

Forestry Initiatives staff continue to work with the Ministry of Forests Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development on the landscape level analysis and restoration pilot project. The pilot project is being guided by a Technical Advisory Committee (TAC), who are working to determine the types of technical information needed to create landscape level prescriptions. The TAC is also working to iden-

tify what gaps need to be closed to develop an analysis tool with the ability to simulate and assess an array of ecological and resource related variables and measure impacts on the land base. The TAC is made up of industry, government (First Nation, municipal, and provincial) non-profits, and academia.

## COMMUNITY WILDFIRE PROTECTION

Using Forest Enhancement Society BC (FESBC) funds, the City of Quesnel is currently conducting prescription development for fuel management work at the following locations: the lands adjacent to the Quesnel airport, Dragon Mountain communications tower site, Ten Mile Lake Provincial Park, Hangman Pit, Marsh Road, Pinnacles Park and surrounding

area, Garner Road, West Fraser Road, Bouchie Lake area, Sugarloaf Park, and the South Hills neighbourhood.

On the ground work for many of these sites will begin in the fall of 2019

Learn more at: [www.quesnel.ca/forestry-initiatives-program](http://www.quesnel.ca/forestry-initiatives-program).

## FIRESMART REBATE PROGRAM

Funded by the Community Resilience Investment Program (CRI), the City is offering a limited number of \$500 rebates to residents who take steps to FireSmart their homes or property.

### 2019 FireSmart Events

- The City held Wildfire Preparedness Day on June 8, to encourage neighbours to help neighbours by assisting each other in making their homes and neighbourhoods less vulnerable to wildfires. An information booth was set up at Spirit Stage to help residents with any FireSmart questions.
- The City hosted 4 Community Champion workshops in June. These 4-hour workshops provided local residents with a framework for planning and implementing locally

adapted solutions to fire mitigation.

- City staff were also on-hand at the Farmers Markets in May and June to provide FireSmart education and answer questions about how to best protect homes and neighbourhoods from wildfire.

### 2019 FireSmart Community Assessment

In the summer of 2019, a Local FireSmart Representative will conduct site visits and conduct risk assessments for publicly owned lands, and publicly owned buildings, while a Registered Professional Forester will conduct a risk assessment on public parks, trails and any other City owned forested areas.

Learn more about FireSmart at: [firesmartbc.ca](http://firesmartbc.ca).

## FORESTRY INNOVATION CENTRE

Located on the second floor of City Hall in Quesnel, the Forestry Innovation Centre was completed in July 2019 and will celebrate its grand opening in August 2019. The goal of the Forestry Innovation Centre is to showcase local wood products alongside research and development in innovative local natural resource management and manufacturing practices.

The Centre has 3 permanent offices and space for 5 itinerant researchers as well as a board room. The space has

been designed as a flexible work environment to foster innovation and collaboration, as well as showcase locally made structural and finishing wood products, local artisan furniture and art installations. There is also an interpretive centre that disseminates knowledge about landscape level management, fuel management and the future of forestry. Tours of the Forestry Innovation Centre can be booked by contacting Erin Robinson, City of Quesnel Forestry Initiatives Manager at [erobinson@quesnel.ca](mailto:erobinson@quesnel.ca).

## FUTURE OF FORESTRY THINK TANK

The City of Quesnel, along with our project partners, is hosting a follow up Future of Forestry Think Tank in September 2019 at the Northern Community Campus in Quesnel.

This session will be guided by the question: "If this is the future of forestry, what does our plan for the workforce need to be?" The intention is to continue the proactive work of Quesnel's first Future of Forestry Think Tank, by responding to changes in natural resource management, fuel management, and manufacturing to ensure ecological, social, and economic resiliency.

During the 2-day session, participants will discuss the education, training, and curriculum development that will be required for future work-force readiness in the fields of: forestry, natural resource management, landscape analysis and ecological restoration, as well as, fuel management methods, secondary wood products, pre-fabricated products, and bio-composites (lignin, cellulose filaments, nano-crystalline cellulose etc.).

Funded by the City of Quesnel, Government of Canada and Province of British Columbia.