



# Forestry Initiatives Program 2020 Annual Report

## Summary of Achievements

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE	GOAL ACHIEVED IN 2020
<b>Community Forest</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Establish a Partner Group and a Technical Working Group</li> <li>✓ Assist Lhtako Dene to secure a NRFL to pay for the Application phase (early 2021)</li> <li>✓ Draft a Project Charter and Participation Agreement</li> </ul>
<b>FireSmart and Community Wildfire Protection Plan</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Treat all shelf-ready prescriptions</li> <li>✓ Assess &gt;1,000 hectares for fuel prescriptions</li> <li>✓ Reach at least 6,000 residents - FireSmart</li> </ul>
<b>Landscape Management and Ecosystem Restoration</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Secure landscape management research opportunities</li> <li>✓ Support Provincial Forest Landscape Planning Pilot</li> </ul>
<b>Labour Force Re-Development</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Develop a fuel mitigation hand treatment course</li> <li>✓ Develop a machine operator training course proposal with academic and industry partners</li> </ul>
<b>Manufacturing Analysis and Business Case Development</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Produce two technical reports on wood products (solid wood &amp; bioproducts) manufacturing</li> <li>✓ Work with Nazko and Lhtako First Nations to help advance potential forestry business opportunities to the capital approval stage</li> </ul>
<b>Increasing Forestry Initiatives Program Strength and Resilience</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Distribute quarterly newsletters (reach &gt;2,000 each)</li> <li>✓ Attract new academic partnerships</li> <li>✓ Participate in Provincial and Federal level discussions on the innovation of the Forestry sector</li> </ul>

## Financial Summary

GRANT	PROJECT	AMOUNT	SPENT	% SPENT	DURATION
Rural Dividend	Manufacturing	\$360,000	\$300,000	83%	2019-2021
FESBC	CWPP	\$1,000,000	\$850,000	85%	2019-2021
FESBC	CWPP	\$700,000	\$0	0%	2020-2022
UBCM (CRI)	CWPP, FireSmart	\$100,000	\$100,000	100%	2019-2021
UBCM (CRI)	CWPP, FireSmart	\$275,000	\$235,000	85%	2019-2021
Red Cross	FireSmart	\$280,000	\$94,000	34%	2019-2021
FEP	Fuel Mitigation	\$130,000	\$130,000	100%	2020
NDIT	FIC Upgrades	\$17,000	\$17,000	100%	2020
C2C	CFA Planning	\$5,000	\$5,000	100%	2020
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$2,874,000</b>	<b>\$1,731,000</b>	<b>60%</b>	---



## The Forestry Innovation Center

The Forestry Innovation Center (FIC) was utilized for over 135 hours of meetings, with 75 of those hours being in person (limited due to Covid), and was rented for community training. Over \$17,000 of funding was secured from the Northern Development Trust for upgrades, including a new HP map plotter, a SMARTBoard (same as the Fraser Room), five office chairs and three whiteboards. Several multi-party meetings were convened in the FIC, including Premier Horgan’s visit in January 2020 and Community Forest planning meetings.

## Employment Enabled

The FIP program enabled over **~11,600 hours** of community employment (not including FIP staff) in 2020 through: a FireSmart contractor (200 hours), the Forest Employment Program (1,700 hours), and the extensive CWPP fuel mitigation work (~9,700 hours).

## The Initiatives

### Community Forest

- Six multi-party meetings were convened; facilitated by the BC Community Forest Association and FIP Manager Erin Robinson
- Appointed a Partner Group and Technical Working Group
- Drafted a Project Charter and Participation Agreement

**2021:** NRFL has been direct awarded to Lhtako First Nation to fund the application phase.

### FireSmart and Community Wildfire Protection Plan

#### **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, 112 hectares have been treated, with an additional 76 hectares planned for 2021 and 163 hectares of shelf-ready prescriptions for Dragon Mountain Road, Dragon Mountain Bluffs, and Claymine Trails.
- The FIP has assessed 1,016 of the 1,381 hectares (74%) under the City’s responsibility.

BOUNDARY	HECTARES (AS OF DEC 2020)
CWPP Area of Interest (AOI)	88,572
CWPP Area to be Assessed	2,723
Area under COQ’s responsibility	1,381
Area under other licensee’s responsibility	1,342
COQ’s Area that has been assessed	1,016
COQ’s Area that has been prescribed	351
COQ’s Area that has been treated	112

\*Note that once a Community Forest Agreement is in place, the area each licensee is responsible for is subject to change.

**2021:** FIP to convene multi-party meeting to advance landscape level fuel management strategy. Additional funding will need to be secured to continue this work past 2022.



## **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 2020, FIP attended four Farmer's Markets and hosted one FIC Open House with BCWS to distribute FireSmart information (public events limited due to Covid).
- 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.

## 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. The next meeting is to be held **March 2021**.

### **FPINNOVATIONS WILDFIRE OPERATIONS RESEARCH**

The FIP applied an innovative selective harvesting technique on a 29 hectare parcel adjacent to the Quesnel airport as a fuel treatment. FPInnovations measured machine productivity to evaluate the cost-effectiveness of the operation and established a pre-treatment fuel loading baseline ([report](#)). There is a long-term research opportunity to monitor the maintenance of fuel management treatments (post-treatment fuel loading) over time.

### **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. The kick-off meeting was held January 2021.

## 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).

### **FOREST EMPLOYMENT PROGRAM (FEP)**

Provincial FEP funding was used to employ local contractors effected by mill closures to complete two projects: building a multi-use trail system on the airport fuel management site, and brushing and thinning trails within the municipality to reduce wildfire risk.

### **UBC FORESTRY FIELD TRIP**

The City of Quesnel, CNC and UNBC hosted a group of master's students, researchers and faculty members from UBC Forestry in October to engage with local industry and to learn how the community is adapting to challenges in the sector (view the newspaper [article](#)). New



research opportunities are being explored, including a PhD intern starting in the spring of 2021 (MiTACS).

## Manufacturing Analysis and Business Case Development

### **REPORTS: SOLID WOOD PRODUCTS & BIOPRODUCTS IN QUESNEL**

FIP hired consultants to complete two manufacturing reports which will be used to explore economic opportunities in Quesnel and to develop further market research.

- Forest-based bio-products: A review of potential pathways for the City of Quesnel, by Tom Browne
- Wood Technology Solutions – Report for Quesnel, by Guido Wimmers

### **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, are leading a new Biomass Utilization Scoping Study (see [joint press release](#)). The objective is to identify and rank biomass-based business opportunities in the Quesnel area for First Nations and community partners.

**2021:** Develop a work plan to advance preferred opportunity(s) to obtain project financing.

### **UBC FORESTRY MITACS INTERN**

A joint research proposal (FIP and UBC) was submitted to bring a PhD intern to Quesnel, with the purpose of gaining a deep understanding of the relationships between actors of the Quesnel forest industry and to identify conditions that foster learning and innovation.

**2021:** Application has been approved and the intern will start in the spring.

## 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.

### **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.

**2021:** Invite ADM Beth MacNeil to visit the FIC (pending Covid).