



Reconciliation

Reconciliation is at the core of shared prosperity in BC forestry

First Nations play a vital role in land stewardship in BC. Indigenous ownership of forest management and manufacturing operations can also create significant social, economic and employment benefits to Indigenous communities. The BC Council of Forest Industries (COFI) and its members are committed to upholding and implementing the principles of BC's Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act (DRIPA) through meaningful relationships, collaborative opportunities, partnerships, and increased revenue sharing.

4,800 Indigenous people are **directly employed** by the sector in BC

\$326M was spent with 220 Indigenous-affiliated vendors, representing 5% of the supply chain expenditures

9.4% of the BC forestry workforce are Indigenous

Partnerships

COFI members are proud to partner with First Nations across BC

Equity participation

In 2023, the Tlowitsis, We Wai Kai, Wei Wai Kum and K'ómoks First Nations signed an historic agreement with Western Forest Products for the Nations to acquire a 34% interest in a newly formed Limited Partnership known as La-kwa sa muqw or 'the wood of four' on Vancouver Island.



Bio-Economy Partnerships

In Prince George, Arbios Biotech, a joint venture of Canfor and Licella, will use cutting-edge technology to convert wood residues and biomass into renewable biofuels. Arbios and Lheidli T'enneh First Nation are working in close partnership to develop the renewable biofuels facility, which was named Arbios Biotech Chuntoh Ghuna, meaning "The Forest Lives".

Value-Added Partnerships

Through the Forest Enhancement Society of BC, Kruger Products is collaborating with Simpcw First Nation and Arrow City Fibre to utilize wildfire salvage and slash pile wood at the Kamloops pulp mill. This partnership increases sustainability and local participation in the forest-based economy by using wood that would otherwise not be economically feasible.

Stewardship



Shared Values

Forest Landscape Plans (FLPs) play a key role in advancing sustainable forest management practices in BC. These plans prioritize inclusive decision-making, ensuring alignment with DRIPA and incorporating social and Indigenous values in forestry planning. By integrating carbon and wildfire science with traditional ecological knowledge, FLPs promote ecosystem resilience and sustainable land use practices across the province.

*References for data points are available at cofi.org/forest-facts



1. 4,800 Indigenous people are directly employed by the sector in BC

- COFI - [2024 Economic Impact Study, Executive Summary](#)

2. Approximately \$325.9M was spent with ~220 Indigenous-affiliated Vendors contributing 5.0% of B.C.'s total Forest Products supply chain in 2022

- COFI - 2024 Supply Chain and Community Impact Study

3. 9.4% of BC forestry workforce are Indigenous

- COFI - [Economic Impact Technical Report](#) (Statistics Canada - Labour Force Survey, Custom Extract)

4. Tlowitsis, We Wai Kai, Wei Wai Kum and K'ómoks First Nations, and Western Forest Products partnership agreement for the Nations to acquire a 34% interest

- Western Forest Products - [Landmark Forestry Agreement Announced](#)

5. Arbios Biotech Chuntoh Ghuna

- Arbios Biotech - [Chuntoh Ghuna Prince George](#)

6. Simpcw partnership with Kruger

- Clearwater Times - [Simpco First Nation invests in whole-log chipping facility in Kamloops](#)

7. Forest Landscape Plans

- Government of BC - [Forest Landscape Plans: An Information Bulletin](#)