


# When a tree grows in the forest...

Economic Impact Report

*September 2024*





When a tree  
grows in  
the forest...

...it opens up a world  
of possibilities

Ours is a province blessed with an abundant, sustainable, renewable natural resource that benefits the lives of all Albertans. In 2022, Alberta's forestry and forest products industry generated over \$14.1 billion in economic activity as well as \$2.8 billion in labour income, creating opportunities in communities in every region across the province.

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*Alberta Forest Products Association (AFPA) publishes the Economic Impact Report every two years as a snapshot of the industry and its impact on Alberta's economy and communities.*

## Introduction

Forestry and forest products provide a serious economic impact for our province. In addition to that, there's the positive environmental impacts of proper forest management, the good jobs created for Alberta families, and the investment into the communities supported by the forestry and forest products industries.

A recent study by PricewaterhouseCoopers (PwC) highlights that, over the course of one year, Alberta's forestry industry generated over \$14.1 billion in economic activity as well as \$2.8 billion in labour income in the province. The total impact figures found in this summary include the sum of direct, indirect and induced economic impacts on Alberta's economic regions, as well as Alberta and Canada as a whole.

Some 30,500 Albertans rely on the forestry industry for their livelihoods. These include workers in small- and medium-sized businesses, repair shops, restaurants, local hardware suppliers, environmental consultants, service providers, and more.

### About Us

AFPA is a non-profit organization that has represented the province's sustainable forest industry since 1942—raising public awareness of the economic, environmental and social value of our forests. Our members range from small local businesses to large public corporations that manufacture lumber, panelboard, pulp, paper, and secondary manufactured wood products in Alberta.

Working together with our over 40 member companies—and supported by the provincial government's positive policy environment for growing and sustaining a forestry business—our aim is to realize Alberta's potential as a leader in forest management in North America.

To view the full PwC document, visit [tinyurl.com/AFPA-Economic-Report-2024](https://tinyurl.com/AFPA-Economic-Report-2024)

# When a tree grows in the forest...

## ...it supports Alberta's economy

Forestry plays a significant role in Alberta's economy. From Medicine Hat to High Level, and all points in between, there is hardly a community in the province that has not benefitted from forestry.

As one of the province's largest employers, Alberta's forest sector generated over \$14.1 billion in economic activity and \$2.8 billion in labour income.

Alberta's forest sector, as defined by Statistics Canada, consists of three main industries—forestry, logging, and support; wood product manufacturing, and pulp and paper manufacturing. Sub-industries within these industries make up the broader forest sector, ranging from forest conservation and forest maintenance to sawmills and pulp and paper mills.

Of the \$6.9 billion of total GDP contributed and facilitated by the Alberta forest sector, 54 per cent was driven by the wood product manufacturing industry, followed by pulp and paper manufacturing at 25 per cent, and forestry, logging and support at 22 per cent.

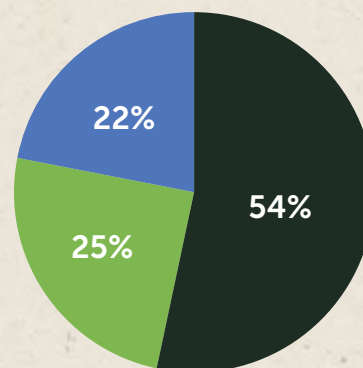
Combining all provincial taxes and royalties, the Alberta forest sector contributed and facilitated over \$803 million to the Alberta provincial government, in addition to over \$150 million paid in dues and levies to the Forest Resource Improvement Association of Alberta.

PEOPLE EMPLOYED (FTE)  
30,532

LABOUR INCOME  
\$2.8B

### GDP CONTRIBUTION BY SECTOR

- Wood Product Manufacturing
- Forestry, Logging, and Support
- Pulp and Paper Manufacturing



### FORESTRY, LOGGING, AND SUPPORT

- \$3.1B In Economic Outputs
- \$1.5B In Provincial GDP
- \$639M In Labour Income
- \$101M In Provincial Taxes
- 7,863 People Employed (FTE)

### PULP AND PAPER MANUFACTURING

- \$3.8B In Economic Outputs
- \$1.7B In Provincial GDP
- \$763M In Labour Income
- \$126M In Provincial Taxes
- 6,936 People Employed (FTE)

### WOOD PRODUCT MANUFACTURING

- \$7.1B In Economic Outputs
- \$3.7B In Provincial GDP
- \$1.4B In Labour Income
- \$240M In Provincial Taxes
- 15,733 People Employed (FTE)

### LOCAL IMPACT

- \$4.8B Contributed by forestry companies to the local economy by using local suppliers in 2017-2022.
- \$2.4B Invested in the future of the sector through capital investments in 2017-2022.
- \$2.8B Invested in repairs and maintenance to forestry infrastructure and machinery in 2017-2022.

We are committed to supporting the communities in which we work. As one of the largest employers in over 70 Alberta communities, the forest sector directly contributes to the local economies through choosing local suppliers, investing in repairs and maintenance of infrastructure, and making capital investments in construction, machinery and equipment expenditures.

Between 2017 and 2022, Alberta forest companies spent an average of \$480 million per year on capital expenditures and \$560 million per year on repair expenditures.

ECONOMIC OUTPUTS  
\$14.1B

PROVINCIAL TAXES  
\$803M

# When a tree grows in the forest...

## ...it creates jobs for Albertans

Good jobs. Well paying jobs. Jobs that support Albertans and their families. Jobs that help build communities. Forestry contributed directly or indirectly to over 30,500 Alberta jobs (FTEs).

### EMPLOYMENT HIGHLIGHTS

**30,532** TOTAL JOBS

**16,603** EMPLOYED DIRECTLY

**13,929** JOBS SUPPORTED INDIRECTLY OR INDUCED BY FORESTRY

### EMPLOYEE AVERAGE ANNUAL EARNINGS

Sources: Statistics Canada, PwC analysis

#### PAPER MANUFACTURING

CANADA: \$79,159

ALBERTA: \$92,586

#### FORESTRY, LOGGING + SUPPORT

CANADA: \$68,324

ALBERTA: \$77,123

#### WOOD PRODUCT MANUFACTURING

CANADA: \$59,843

ALBERTA: \$65,935

Companies across Alberta's forest sector continue to invest in their people to ensure a thriving industry in the future. This includes providing apprenticeship opportunities, programs to encourage career advancement, and enrolment in accredited training programs.

What attracts workers to the industry? A chance for a good life. For a meaningful, challenging career. Alberta forestry companies provided higher average annual compensation compared to the average compensation those industries provide on a Canada-wide basis.

Alberta forest sector companies employed at least 720 young workers in 2022, providing an average annual compensation of approximately \$62,613 to those under 25, exceeding the Canadian industrial aggregate of \$60,595. The Registered Apprenticeship Program (RAP), Power Engineering Internship Program, Post-Secondary Engineering Co-op and Outland Youth Employment Program (OYEP), are all aimed at providing youth with the skills needed to build a career.

### Powered by People

It takes people from all kinds of backgrounds and with all types of expertise to keep the forest industry running. Across different professions, credentials, locations, and backgrounds, we're united by our pride in our work and our responsibility to future generations.

We believe forestry is for everyone and Alberta's forest sector is committed to diversity, equity, and inclusion. Through inclusion networks, committees, recruitment initiatives to attract talent from underrepresented groups, and more, meaningful steps have been taken to increase support for equity-seeking groups.

### Jobs Supported Directly by Forestry

- Forest Planning
- Engineering
- Researchers
- Chemists
- Administration
- Biologists
- Operations
- Management
- Tradespeople
- Accounting
- Human Resources
- IT
- Logistics
- Marketing
- Communications
- Indigenous Relations
- Health and Safety
- Materials Management

### Jobs Supported Indirectly or Induced by Forestry

- Transportation
- Food Services
- Building Material Sales
- Garden Equipment Dealers
- Suppliers
- Motor Vehicle and Parts Dealers
- Restaurants
- Electric Power Generation
- Banking



# When a tree grows in the forest...

The work we do has implications for everyone, and we want everyone to have a say.



## ...it supports Alberta's communities

Forestry is one of Alberta's oldest industries, one that has helped and continues to shape our province, our economy, and our very nature. Our industry is deeply tied to the communities we work in.

The forest industry is one of the largest employers in over 70 Alberta communities. Many of those villages, towns, and cities actually formed around forest industry operations, meaning that our work is woven into the history and social fabric there. In all communities, we connect with the people who live where we work through public engagement and by building lasting relationships.

### Determining Regional Economic Impact

To get a more in-depth view of the forest sector's contribution to Alberta's economy, we divided the province into eight economic regions.

The majority of the Alberta forest sector's direct economic footprint is concentrated in the Athabasca-Grande Prairie-Peace River region. The Calgary and Edmonton regions made a significant contribution due to the presence of the forest sector's supply chain. Less densely populated regions had generally lower economic footprints within the Alberta forest sector.

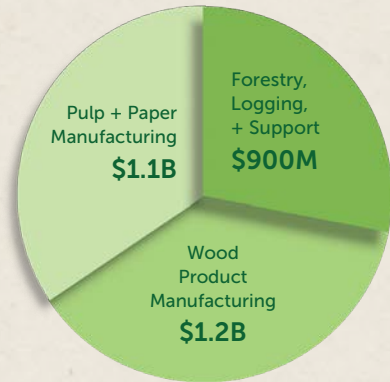
## REGIONAL HIGHLIGHTS AT A GLANCE

All regional impact figures are reported as the sum of direct, indirect and induced impact channels.

### Athabasca-Grande Prairie-Peace River Region

With 57 per cent of the province's forestry operations based in this region it accounts for the majority of the sector's economic output. This region contains the city of Grande Prairie and several communities including Athabasca, Whitecourt, Slave Lake, High Level, Grande Cache, and Peace River.

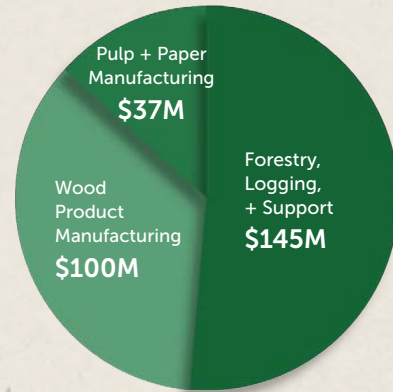
- \$3.3B** Economic Output
- \$1.5B** GDP
- \$659M** Labour Income
- 6,209** Jobs (FTE)



### Wood Buffalo-Cold Lake Region

This region contains Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo and Fort McMurray, the city of Cold Lake, several towns including Bonnyville, Smoky Lake, St. Paul and Elk Point, as well as Wood Buffalo National Park.

- \$284M** Economic Output
- \$144M** GDP
- \$55M** Labour Income
- 664** Jobs (FTE)



### Edmonton Region

This region contains the major urban centre and provincial capital, Edmonton, as well as several other cities including Fort Saskatchewan, St. Albert, Spruce Grove, Beaumont, Leduc and Wetaskiwin. This region also contains several towns including Legal, Redwater, Bon Accord, Gibbons, Morinville, Stony Plain, Devon, Calmar, Drayton Valley, and Millet.

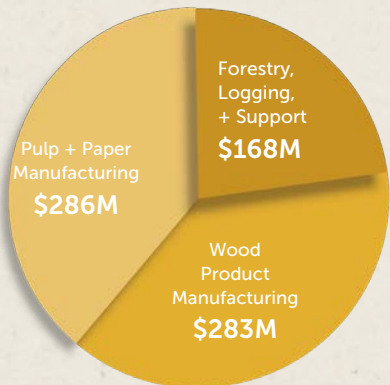
- \$4.3B** Economic Output
- \$2.1B** GDP
- \$875M** Labour Income
- 9,766** Jobs (FTE)



### Banff-Jasper Region

This region contains several towns including Banff, Canmore, Hinton and Edson, as well as Jasper National Park.

- \$738M** Economic Output
- \$346M** GDP
- \$143M** Labour Income
- 1,342** Jobs (FTE)

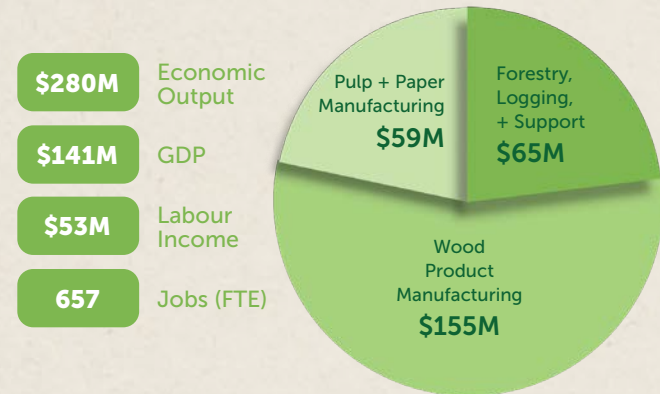


## REGIONAL HIGHLIGHTS AT A GLANCE

All regional impact figures are reported as the sum of direct, indirect and induced impact channels.

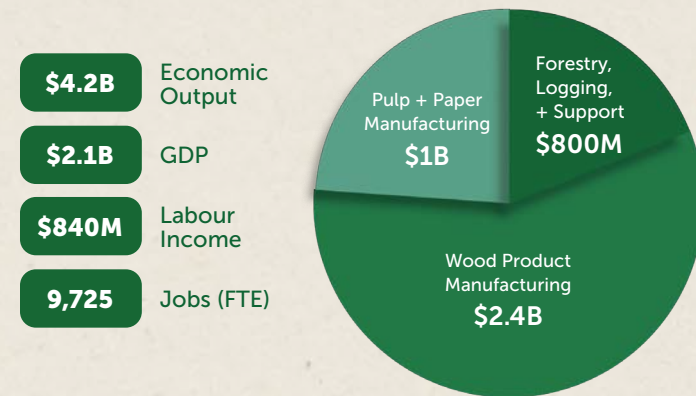
### Red Deer Region

This region contains the medium-sized city of Red Deer, the city of Lacombe and several towns including Rimbey, Ponoka, Eckville, Bentley, Sylvan Lake, Innisfail, and Penhold.



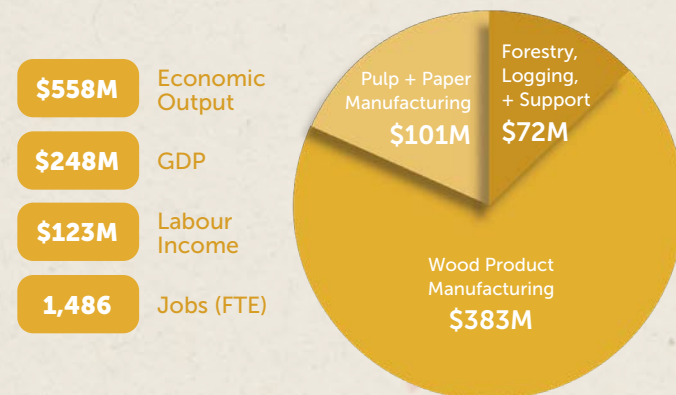
### Calgary Region

This region contains the major urban centre of Calgary, the cities of Airdrie and Chestermere, and several towns including Sundre, Olds, Didsbury, Carstairs, Crossfield, Cochrane, Diamond Valley, and Okotoks.



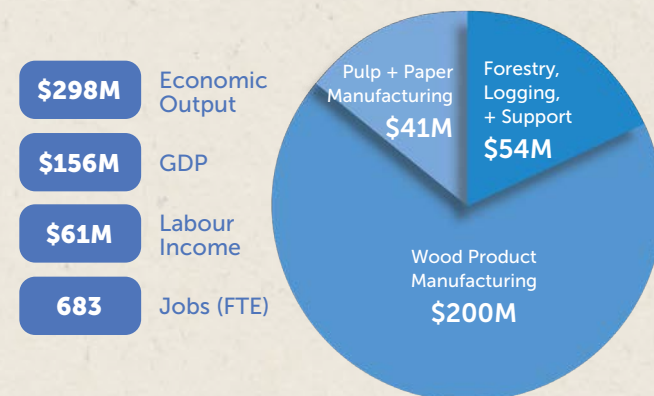
### Lethbridge-Medicine Hat

This region contains the medium-sized cities of Lethbridge and Medicine Hat, the city of Brooks, and several towns including Bassano, Redcliff, Bow Island, Vauxhall, Taber, Picture Butte, Coaldale, Coalhurst, Raymond, Milk River, Magrath, Cardston, Pincher Creek, Nanton, Stavely, and Claresholm.



### Camrose-Drumheller Region

This region contains the cities of Camrose and Lloydminster, and several towns including Vermilion, Viking, Daysland, Sedgewick, Wainwright, Stettler, Three Hills, Trochu, Provost, Hanna, Drumheller, Strathmore, Vulcan, and Oyen.





# When a tree grows in the forest...

...it makes a difference in people's lives

Alberta forest sector contributions to local communities extend beyond solely providing employment opportunities and include community engagements and educational opportunities. Initiatives for supporting local communities include emergency relief efforts, education or sports programs, local infrastructure investments and partnerships with small and medium-sized businesses in Alberta.

## Community Engagement and Enhancement

- Sponsoring sports teams and community events.
- Encouraging employee volunteering in the community.
- Providing financial support for non-profit organizations enhancing green spaces and biodiversity in the community.
- Providing donations to local senior societies, humanitarian relief community funds, lower income families, humane societies, and other causes supporting community members most in need.

## Education

- Donating to non-profit organizations that support STEM education, skills development, and employability.
- Providing public tours and classroom visits to educate industry, educational, and community groups about pulping processes and environmental technologies.

- Establishing endowed scholarships to support local youth in post-secondary education.
- Establishing an outdoor forest learning centre where visitors can learn about natural resources and stewardship through self-guided tours and field-based education programs.

## Local Environmental & Forest Education Initiatives

The forestry industry provides support for environmental sciences and forest education through scholarships and partnering with local outdoor and forest education programs. We also partner with other organizations to establish interpretive forest education centres and fund elementary school programs that provide teachers and students with forest management education programs.

From 2017 to 2022, Alberta forest companies donated \$24 million to community causes and organizations.



## CENTRES OF IMPACT

With 57 per cent of Alberta’s forestry industry based in the Athabasca-Grande Prairie-Peace River region, the area has a considerable impact on the province’s economy. Within the region, the city of Grande Prairie and the towns of Whitecourt and Slave Lake account for 5,233 forest sector jobs and over \$555 million in direct, indirect, and induced labour income.

## FOREST SECTOR JOBS (FTE)

### GRANDE PRAIRIE

**2,513**

### WHITECOURT

**1,706**

### SLAVE LAKE

**1,015**



## Grande Prairie

Grande Prairie is a thriving northwestern Alberta community where the opportunity to live, work, and play is all within reach. As a regional service centre to over 300,000 people, the city plays a key role to the success of the forest industry in the region and the forest industry in turn supports the community through many charitable endeavours.

International Paper Grande Prairie has been one of Grande Prairie’s cornerstone industries for over 50 years. The company invests between \$200-300,000 yearly in local initiatives, including a new post-secondary bursary program administered by the Northwestern Alberta Foundation (NAF), providing financial support and assistance in purchasing specialized equipment to help STARS respond where they’re needed most, and annual contributions to the United Way.

Canfor’s Joint Occupational Health and Safety Committee in Grande Prairie proudly supported the Bandaged Paws Animal Rescue Association, a local animal shelter that has seen an influx of displaced animals needing shelter due to the wildfire evacuations. A total of \$3,500 was donated by team members and the company’s Good Things Come From Trees Foundation, as well around \$1,400 worth of supplies for the animals including food, toys, beds, and more.

Through the Weyerhaeuser Giving Fund, the company has renewed the naming rights for the Weyerhaeuser North Arena in Grande Prairie, helping provide funding for the upkeep and maintenance of the arena.

The City of Grande Prairie signed a new five-year naming rights agreement with West Fraser for the fieldhouse located at the Eastlink Centre. The facility, now renamed the West Fraser Fieldhouse, provides health and wellness opportunities for community members and plays host to dozens of local and provincial events and tournaments each year.

## Whitecourt

Whitecourt is committed to enhancing residents’ quality of life through parks and recreation. During the summer, the lush forests are perfect for fishermen, mountain bikers, hikers, and ATV enthusiasts. In the winter, Whitecourt is the Snowmobile Capital of Alberta and also offers cross-country skiing, ice fishing, and hunting.

The forest industry has provided Whitecourt with years of steady growth and a stable economy, through long-range forestation plans, new technologies and diversification, community partnership projects, and by bringing a highly skilled workforce and investment to the area which benefits all industries in the region.

Whitecourt’s annual Party in the Park event at Festival Park is sponsored by Canfor, Millar Western Forest Products, and West Fraser.

## Slave Lake

Nestled within the heart of the Canadian Boreal Forest, Slave Lake provides a great work/life balance offering a wide range of outdoor adventure activities, job and business opportunities, cultural experiences, and peaceful retreats. The forestry industry provides significant support for community programming like free public swims and skates, as well as providing free admission for seniors to the Town of Slave Lake walking track.

The Town of Slave Lake is home to many of the employees of the regional mills, and their families, and the forestry industry contributes significantly to the quality of life in the community.

The forestry industry is a regular and frequent sponsor of community events, programming, and non-profit organizations in the Slave Lake area. This includes sponsoring some of Slave Lake’s signature events that bring tourists to the region and drive the visitor economy like the annual Beach Fest and Riverboat Daze.



## Indigenous Partnerships

Indigenous communities are vital to the forestry industry—as owners, business and stewardship partners, neighbours and employees. The Alberta Forest Products Association (AFPA) and its members have a strong commitment to reconciliation with Indigenous Peoples, rooted in respect, understanding, and partnership.

Beyond meeting legal obligations, AFPA members aim to engage in meaningful collaboration with Indigenous communities, honouring their cultural traditions and valuable contributions. It is important to acknowledge that our members operate on the traditional territories of many Indigenous communities and peoples who have lived with and managed the land, its forests, and wildlife.

AFPA members have relationships with Indigenous communities that go beyond consultation and view legal obligation as the bare minimum. AFPA members actively seek opportunities to support Indigenous communities with their priorities, including:

- AFPA members aim to build strong relationships with Indigenous communities through joint ventures, contracts, employment and supporting community projects and initiatives. Some companies have set Indigenous procurement strategies and contractor targets to further strengthen these partnerships.
- Many AFPA members bring community staff, Elders, or leaders for field visits to walk the land together and answer community questions about future harvesting, replanting, and regeneration plans.

- Providing Indigenous cultural awareness training and e-learning for employees.
- Providing scholarships to support Indigenous students pursuing upgrading and/or post-secondary studies.
- Providing funding for programs and initiatives aimed at working to attract and retain Indigenous youth within forestry in a number of creative and innovative ways across the province, including the Outland Youth Employment Program.
- Establishing employment and training programs tailored to recruit and develop Indigenous employees in the sector.

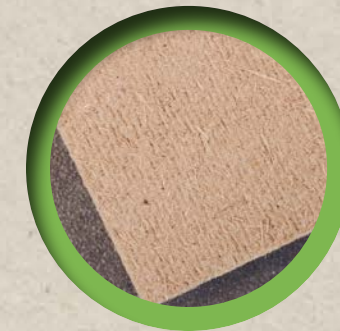
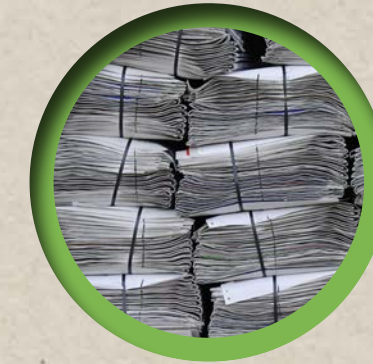
**AFPA and its members recognize the path to reconciliation is multifaceted, involving education, awareness, support, and the forging of new relationships with Indigenous communities and organizations.**

# When a tree grows in the forest...

...it provides a wide range of products

Thanks to our cold climate, Alberta wood products are some of the best in the world. Our trees are exceptionally strong and have longer than average fibres—making them ideal for building homes, decks, and furniture that last, and for producing high-quality pulp used in paper products.

Alberta's environmental regulations around forest industry activity are some of the strongest in the world.



Here are just a few of the forest products made in Alberta:

- Lumber
- Plywood
- Pulp (used for paper products, packaging, and industrial, and medical materials)
- Wood pellets
- Newsprint
- Renewable energy from manufacturing byproducts (e.g., black liquor used to produce electricity)
- Glue Laminated Lumber (Glulam)
- Laminated Veneer Lumber (LVL)
- Medium Density Fiberboard (MDF)
- Oriented Strand Board (OSB)

In addition to making paper, Alberta pulp is used to make HDTV screens. Cosmetics, diapers, and other everyday consumer goods use ingredients from trees as well. Our goal is to use the whole tree with zero waste. Material left over from producing pulp, lumber and other primary products is used to create carbon neutral energy, agricultural fertilizer, garden mulch, and renewable components for other kinds of manufacturing, such as wood pellets for smokers and barbecues.

## Timber Salvage Operations Maximize Resource Usage

Weyerhaeuser is committed to sustainable forest management in good times and in bad. The company holds two of the 21 forest management agreements (FMA) in Alberta—allowing Weyerhaeuser to grow and harvest Crown timber on publicly-owned land consistent with sustainable forest management principles and practices. Along with managing some two million hectares of Alberta forests, they operate sawmills in Drayton Valley and Grande Prairie, and an OSB plant in Edson.

In 2023, we saw the largest wildfire season on record in Alberta, in fact in all of Canada. Fire impacted approximately 20 per cent of Weyerhaeuser's Pembina forest management area in the province, and forced the evacuation of the communities of Drayton Valley and Edson in May and June of 2023. Fortunately the mill was spared and salvage and recovery plans began immediately as much of the burned timber could be used.

Work began immediately on the regulatory processes and by July of 2023, Weyerhaeuser began harvesting trees killed by fire, which they've continued to do well into 2024. Being able to go forward with fire

salvage operations this quickly was due, in large part, to the Government of Alberta being expedient in approving the plans. The sooner Weyerhaeuser could begin salvaging timber, the sooner they could get back to creating value for communities impacted by the wildfires.

If left untouched, the burned timber would eventually dry out and check, becoming susceptible to insect damage and rot. The dead, fire-damaged coniferous trees were topped, delimbed, debarked, and milled into dimensional lumber ranging from 2x4s to 2x10s at the Drayton Valley Sawmill. The deciduous trees went to the Edson OSB plant. All of the byproducts from the company's two operations, were sent to pulp and paper plants or used as feedstock to make pellets to be used overseas as biofuel for power generation.

Despite the challenging circumstances created by the 2023 wildfires, Weyerhaeuser was able to maximize the utilization of the burnt timber, create value for communities, and improve the recovery of the forests we manage.



# When a tree grows in the forest...

## ...it creates opportunities for innovation

While the principle of managing our forests responsibly hasn't changed in over 100 years, we are constantly improving how we do it through new discoveries, technologies, and insights.

Research, science, and technology are key to the operation of modern forestry companies. Planners use sophisticated digital models to help them synthesize environmental data and map when and where harvesting will take place to cause the least disturbance.

AI and machine learning are integrated into mill operations, and byproducts from lumber and paper production are used to create green energy, or to make plastics that are wood-based instead of fossil fuel-based.

**\$108M**  
INVESTED BY ALBERTA FOREST COMPANIES IN R&D

**47%**  
OF COMPANIES MADE USE OF PROVINCIAL OR FEDERAL GOVERNMENT FUNDING

The majority of R&D in the Alberta forest sector tends to be focused on Innovative manufacturing processes such as:

- Implementation of bioenergy-powered chipper technology to enhance resource efficiency.
- Increased use of machine learning and robotics.
- Adoption of artificial-intelligence driven pulp expert system which will reduce energy consumption and improve product quality and consistency in the pulping process.

We conduct significant research into how forests and forest ecosystems work, and plan carefully to minimize impacts.

New and innovative forest products were also developed including:

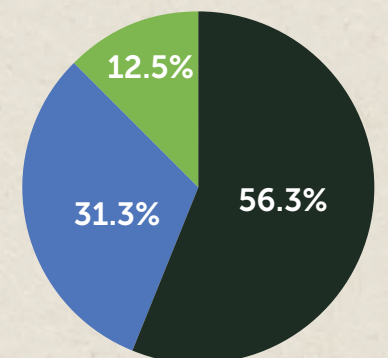
- A project to complete an enhanced forest inventory based on recently acquired high resolution LiDAR.
- Production of wood-based bio-methanol as a sustainable alternative to fossil fuels that can be used in a variety of applications including transportation and the production of chemicals and plastics.

Other areas of innovation undertaken by Alberta forest companies included:

- The utilization of heat recovery on boiler flue stack to offset energy demands within the mill.
- Tree improvement initiatives and realized gain trials to validate tree improvement gains and increase regeneration productivity.
- Conducting mill experiments to reduce rapid fouling during the initial stages of equipment operation.

### R&D FOCUS AREAS OF ALBERTA FOREST SECTOR COMPANIES

- Innovation in Manufacturing
- New Forest Products
- Other Innovations

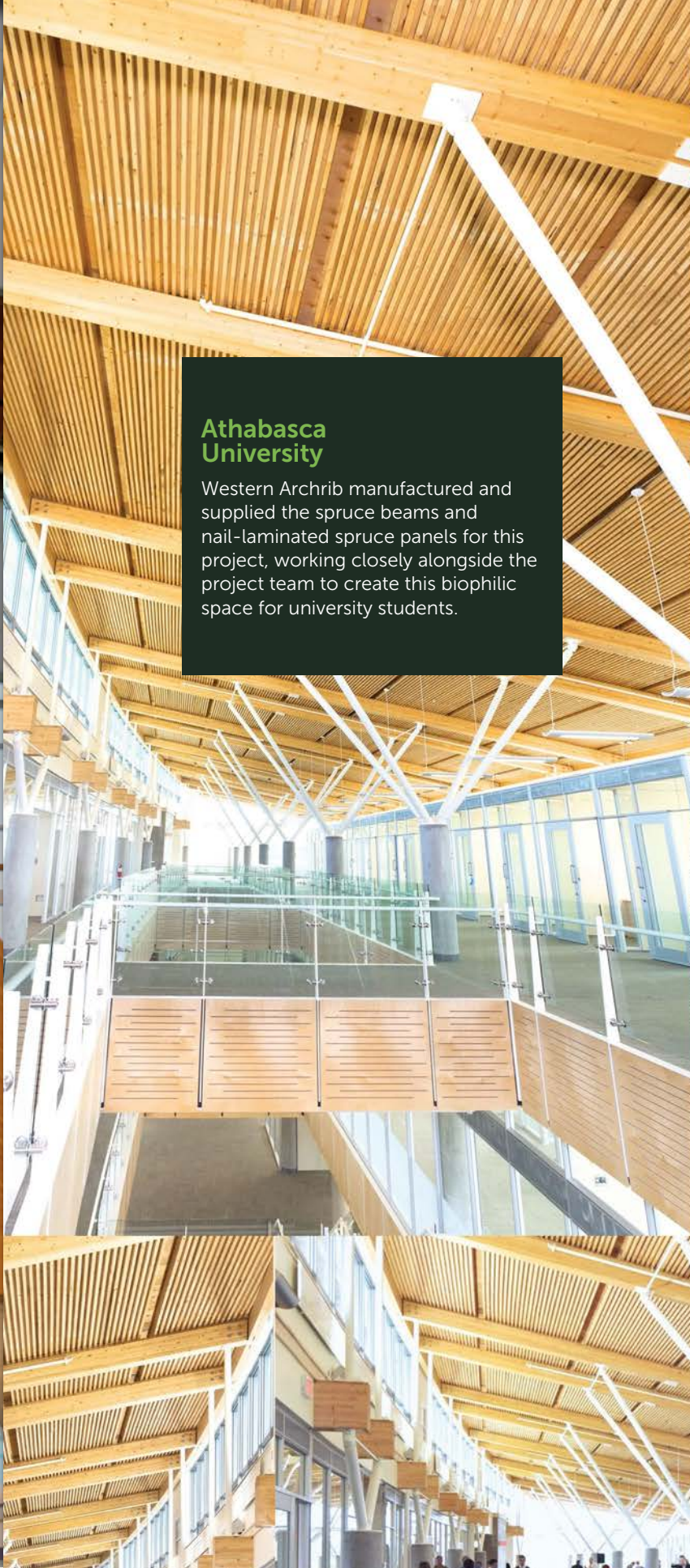


From studying complex ecosystems to developing new processes and technologies, people in the forest industry drive knowledge and innovation forward.



### West Vancouver Aquatic Centre

The award-winning facility features Western Archrib-manufactured curved glulam beams and purlins, and a glulam-framed curtain wall glazing system.



### Athabasca University

Western Archrib manufactured and supplied the spruce beams and nail-laminated spruce panels for this project, working closely alongside the project team to create this biophilic space for university students.



## Building a Brighter Future

Innovation comes in many forms, and together Western Archrib and Northland Forest Products are helping transform the mass timber industry. Their innovation is rooted in a secure, sustainable supply chain that delivers premium structural beams, columns and panels for community infrastructure.

Sustainability at Western Archrib starts with Alberta's natural resources, from seedling to structure. Spruce is a renewable, locally-sourced wood known for its bright appearance and versatility in creating functional, beautiful spaces. Supplied by Northland Forest Products in Fort McMurray, the spruce used in the glulam beams and panels creates outstanding architectural infrastructure.

Whether used in curved or straight glue-laminated beams up to 150 feet in length, Western Archrib's Westlam Spruce is the

brightest choice for construction—adding natural beauty to every project. It also offers key advantages for smaller communities, where skilled labour is often readily available. By utilizing local expertise, municipalities can simplify contractor selection, reduce construction costs, and strengthen their local economies—creating a lasting impact while promoting sustainable building practices.

As part of the family-owned, Alberta-based Northland Group of Companies, Western Archrib is well-positioned to serve projects of all sizes across North America. With three production facilities, including a new industry-leading facility under way in Sturgeon County, Western Archrib continues to be a leader in sustainable, innovative wood solutions.



### The Lodge at Métis Crossing

Relaxing and reconnecting on the banks of history, this 40-room boutique luxury lodge overlooks the North Saskatchewan River and sits adjacent to the Métis Crossing Cultural Gathering Centre.

# When a tree grows in the forest...

...it is part of an ongoing cycle

Forestry is Alberta's original sustainable, renewable resource industry. By looking at the big picture we will ensure it stays that way. That requires a plan. Actually, more like a well thought out 200 year plan focused on sustainability and creating optimal conditions for forest regeneration by incorporating sound forest management strategies and best practices.

Alberta's sustainability efforts encompass a range of initiatives to combat climate change, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, minimize water usage, adopt biofuels, enhance fibre utilization, and reduce overall environmental impact.

From 2017-2022, Alberta forest companies invested over \$381 million in tree planting and reforestation initiatives. These companies are also committed to harvesting from certified sustainably managed forests, with over 689,000 hectares harvested over that time period.

**Any area that's harvested needs to be regenerated. The company that's doing the harvesting is responsible for regenerating the site. These new, regenerated forests are expected to show the same level of biodiversity as a forest that grew without human involvement.**

Over 100 million seedlings are planted every year.

## A Growth Industry

Located in Medicine Hat, Chinook Greenhouse has been growing tree seedlings for the forest industry since 1985 and their upcoming expansion will have them growing even more. By 2025, Chinook will have over 800,000 square feet of production area in its two facilities, with separate ranges with dividing walls and doors allowing for specific environmental control for various species of seedlings.

The company estimates its expanded capacity to be some 25 million containerized seedlings—primarily White Spruce, Lodgepole Pine, and Douglas Fir, along with Black Spruce, Larch, and Poplar. Chinook employs 13 full-time managers and staff and up to 65 seasonal workers, with those numbers expected to rise when the expansion is completed.

Chinook Greenhouse is a member of Coast to Coast Reforestation, a co-op of forest nurseries and cold storage facilities offering Alberta-grown transplant seedlings in both coniferous and deciduous stock. With five nurseries and five cold storage facilities located across the province, Coast to Coast is Alberta's largest producer of tree seedlings for reforestation and reclamation.





### Forest Management Life Cycle

Alberta's forest management practices are based on the natural cycle of growth and disturbance in our forests. Careful planning, monitoring and adapting plans as needed are built into each stage of the cycle.

1. Site preparation
2. Planting seedlings
3. Management of young forest to promote healthy growth
4. Cone and seed collection for future seedlings
5. Forest monitoring to ensure growth continues
6. Research for future planning
7. Data collection and surveys
8. Managing forests in coordination with other land users to minimize footprint
9. Adaptive Management
  - *Monitoring growth and disturbances and adapting management techniques to help maintain the health of our forests*
10. Sustainable Harvesting
  - *Retain structures for wildlife*
  - *Protect water flow and quality*
  - *Protect soil*

### SUSTAINABILITY INITIATIVES

#### Tracking and Reporting Emissions

- Monitoring and documenting annual Scope 1, 2 and 3 GHG emissions associated with operations and setting carbon negative or reduction target goals to reduce emissions in practical areas of production.
- Ensuring that forest management and procurement activities are certified by the Sustainable Forestry Initiative.
- Conducting regular third-party audits of manufacturing facilities to assess environmental performance as part of continuous improvement initiatives.

#### Improving Production Efficiency

- Using AI-driven technologies to cut natural gas consumption in the refining process and achieve heat recovery from mill processes.
- Establishing facilities to transform pulp waste streams into bioenergy for powering and heating mill operations and reducing reliance on fossil fuels, minimizing freshwater consumption, and enhancing water quality.
- Recovering wood fibres, waste and residual materials to manufacture value-added byproducts.

#### Environmental Protections

- Utilizing ecosystem-based management and collaborative partnerships, with a focus on species-at-risk, to develop and implement comprehensive management programs across all woodlands.
- Protect water quality and fish habitats through the implementation of best management practices and offering erosion and sediment control training at all operational sites.

**Forest companies grow three trees for every one harvested. Over the past 20 years, we've planted over one billion trees.**

# When a tree grows in the forest...

## ...all Albertans benefit

Our forests are one of the most important resources Alberta has, a resource that powerfully shapes Alberta's unique sense of place, its culture, its economy, and its future. AFPA and its member companies work together to raise public awareness of the economic, environmental and social value of our forests. It's all about seeing the forest for more than the trees.

Learn more at [albertaforestproducts.ca](http://albertaforestproducts.ca)





**AFPA**