

GROWING

A RESILIENT AND DIVERSE WORKFORCE

2023 ANNUAL REPORT





2023 was another busy year for Project Learning Tree Canada as we work to provide a lifetime of learning through environmental education, forest literacy, and career pathways.

It's so important that Canadians learn and value the benefits that sustainably managed forests bring for the environment, our communities, and the economy. Educators, parents, and professionals can use PLT Canada resources to build forest literacy while engaging students and growing the next generation of environmental stewards. More than ever, we hope that youth are inspired to pursue green careers. Through PLT Canada's career pathways programming, young adults can build their skills by getting trained with PLT Canada's resources, grow their confidence and network through mentorship, and potentially land their first work experience through our Green Jobs program.

We are tremendously proud to have supported 7,600+ Green Jobs since 2018, providing 50% of placements to women and 15% of our placements to Indigenous youth. And in 2023, 30% of our Green Jobs were filled by Indigenous youth. Since 2018, PLT Canada has placed 1,900 young adults facing one or more barriers to employment, such as youth self-identifying as involuntary NEET (not in employment, education, or training), youth living with a disability, and members of the 2SLGBTQIA+ community, into Green Jobs. We also delivered 11 mentorship cohorts with 600+ participants. And I'm so excited that we developed so many environmental education products in 2023, like the *Explore Your Environment: K-8 Activity Guide* and *Forest Quest*.

We have been able to grow our suite of services and programs that meaningfully impact young Canadians and young adults facing barriers to employment thanks to the Government of Canada's support. And we can't wait to continue building on this work with ongoing Green Jobs programs thanks to Youth Employment and Skills Strategy funding from Parks Canada and Natural Resources Canada's Science and Technology Internship Program.

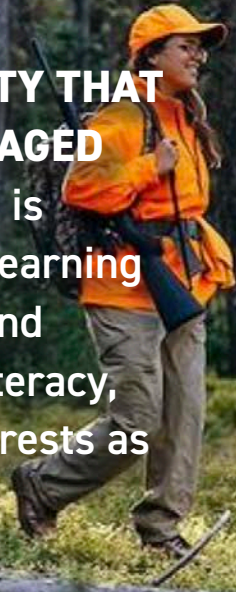
I would also like to thank the 420+ dedicated employers from the Sustainable Forestry Initiative and Canadian Parks Council networks who have supported young adults in rewarding green job experiences, helping grow a diverse and resilient workforce.

We're excited to continue working with you, passionate young people, employers, mentors, educators, students, and valued partners, as PLT Canada's lifetime of learning resources and programs help grow future forest and conservation leaders and ensure our Canadian forests are sustainably managed over the long term.



KATHY ABUSOW
PRESIDENT AND CEO

Project Learning Tree Canada **BELIEVES IN A SOCIETY THAT VALUES AND BENEFITS FROM SUSTAINABLY MANAGED FORESTS AND THE GREAT OUTDOORS.** PLT Canada is committed to using the outdoors to engage youth in learning about the world around them—in rural, Indigenous, and urban communities—and advancing environmental literacy, stewardship, and career pathways using trees and forests as windows on the world.



“In the fight against climate change, Canada has an ally in its sustainably managed vast forests. That is why we have continued to partner with Project Learning Tree Canada. PLT Canada has provided the skills, training and experiences for young leaders to help to ensure that Canada remains competitive when it comes to talent and labour in the global economy, while reducing emissions and ensuring best practices.”

THE HONOURABLE JONATHAN WILKINSON, MINISTER OF ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES



“This year’s record wildfires brought home to Canadians just how critically important sustainable forest management is to deal with the twin crises of climate change and biodiversity loss. Canada’s forests are carbon sinks, nature preserves, economic drivers and refuges for the soul. Organizations such as Project Learning Tree Canada are leading the drive to a green economy through its one-of-a-kind programs and experiences for young Canadians and Indigenous Peoples. Thank you to Project Learning Tree Canada for your work to ensure that the next generation has the passion and skills to help our country grow sustainably.”

THE HONOURABLE STEVEN GUILBEAULT, MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE CHANGE AND MINISTER RESPONSIBLE FOR PARKS CANADA



PLT CANADA'S LIFETIME OF LEARNING

PLT Canada offers educational resources to connect children and young people to the outdoors, grow forest literacy, and share diverse and exciting career opportunities in Canada's green sector.

VISIT OUR
RESOURCE PAGE



FOREST LITERACY



FOREST QUEST Ages 14+

Forest Quest is a fun, interactive online experience to help youth explore and learn about the forest and green careers with the different people they meet along the way. And when you complete your Forest Quest journey, you'll earn a digital badge showing you've completed the fundamentals of forest literacy!



ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION



K-8 GUIDE Grades K-8

PLT Canada's *Explore Your Environment: K-8 Activity Guide* includes 50 field-tested, hands-on activities that integrate investigations of nature with science, math, English language arts, and social studies. It is

designed to bolster STEM learning, promote civic engagement, and help young people acquire the skills they'll need to be creative problem solvers.

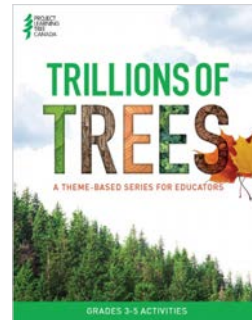
These activities integrate teaching about the environment into a multitude of subjects using hands-on classroom studies and outdoor field investigations. The activities are organized by grade level, and aligned with key sustainability themes and learning outcomes.

CLIMATE CHANGE & FORESTS: FROM SEED TO CARBON SINK Grades 9-12



High school students can explore climate change, how forests contribute to climate change mitigation and adaptation, how green jobs help address climate change, and more, in PLT Canada's new *Climate Change & Forests* online course.

TRILLIONS OF TREES Grades 3-5



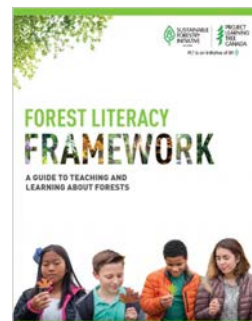
Trillions of Trees invites learners in grades 3-5 to investigate different tree species and discover how best to plan, plant, and care for trees in their communities.

NATURE OF FIRE Grades 6-8



Nature of Fire is the second resource in a theme-based series for educators. It features three activities for students in grades 6-8 that invite learners to investigate wildland fire and ecosystem change.

FOREST LITERACY FRAMEWORK Grades K-12



PLT Canada's *Framework* translates the language of forests and sustainable forest management into concepts for everyone at any age. Developed as a framework for learning to build consistency in language and ideas across the professional and educational landscapes.

"PLT Canada is a tremendous resource for educators when it comes to teaching environmental education in a cross-curricular manner. Each activity and lesson are carefully designed to align with multiple curriculum areas such as science, language arts, social studies, arts education, and more. It helps me as a teacher to seamlessly integrate environmental education into my daily lessons and enrich the learning experience for students."

JANET L. TEACHER (BRITISH COLUMBIA)



PLT CANADA'S CAREER PATHWAYS GREEN JOBS

Green Jobs allow youth to **GAIN VALUABLE WORK EXPERIENCE** that will help them pursue careers as foresters, wildlife biologists, Indigenous knowledge coordinators, park rangers, and much more.

PLT CANADA HAS PLACED
YOUNG ADULTS IN

7,600+
GREEN JOBS

since 2018

400+
GREEN JOBS

approved in 2023



Since 2018

50%+ YOUNG
WOMEN

WERE PLACED IN
IN GREEN JOBS

Since 2018

15% INDIGENOUS
YOUTH

WERE PLACED IN
IN GREEN JOBS

and

30% in 2023

THANKS TO
FUNDING FROM



Canada

Funded in part by the Government of Canada under the Youth Employment and Skills Strategy



1,900+ YOUNG ADULTS
FACING BARRIERS
WERE PLACED IN GREEN JOBS
since 2018

- INDIGENOUS
- LIVING WITH A VISIBLE OR NON-VISIBLE DISABILITY
- VISIBLE MINORITY
- MEMBER OF THE 2SLGBTQIA+ COMMUNITY
- OFFICIAL LANGUAGE MINORITY
- NEW CANADIAN
- INVOLUNTARY NEET (NOT IN EMPLOYMENT, EDUCATION, OR TRAINING)

PLT CANADA WOULD
LIKE TO THANK OUR

420+ EMPLOYERS

for providing these young adults
with green job experiences

INCLUDING

- 60 CONSERVATION ORGANIZATIONS
- 49 SFI-CERTIFIED ORGANIZATIONS
- 41 INDIGENOUS EMPLOYERS
- 26 SFI PARTNERS
- 11 CANADIAN PARKS COUNCIL AGENCIES



PLT CANADA'S MENTORSHIP

Mentorship can help inspire and support this and future generations in choosing a green career in the forest and conservation sector.

PLT CANADA REACHED
60 MENTORS
AND MENTEES IN 2023



SINCE 2018, PLT CANADA
HAS SUPPORTED
600+ MENTORSHIP
PARTICIPANTS
IN **11** DIFFERENT COHORTS
with more to come!

PLT CANADA/TOLKO GREEN MENTOR PROGRAM

For the second time, PLT Canada hosted a Green Mentor program with Tolko

Local Indigenous youth were placed in PLT Canada Green Jobs matched with Tolko employees as mentors for a custom 8-week mentorship program while on the job.

100%

of respondents said the activities in PLT Canada's Career Pathway Plan PROVIDED VALUE TO THEIR PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

100%

of respondents said they felt like **THEY AND THEIR PARTNER WORKED TOWARDS THE GOALS THEY SET FOR THE PROGRAM**

"Project Learning Tree Canada has provided the Indigenous Youth in the Lesser Slave Lake area who worked for 8 weeks the summer of 2023 at the High Prairie TOLKO industry's mill, the opportunity to create an effective communication with mentors at the mill.

Each week the mentees met with their mentor and established a foundation of learning techniques that the mentees are able to carry forward in their future employments."

JOLENE LABOUCAN

Indigenous Youth Works Program Coordinator
Tolko

**MOST POPULAR SKILLS
GAINED OR IMPROVED:**

CONFIDENCE
CAREER PLANNING



40+ YOUTH DELEGATES

were sponsored by PLT Canada and SFI to attend the 2023 SFI Annual Conference in Vancouver, BC

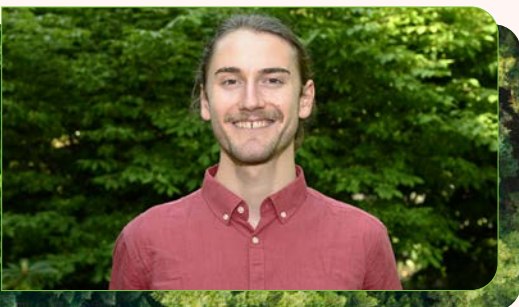
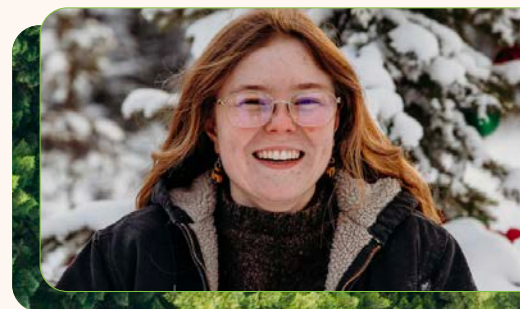
Attendees went through a career readiness bootcamp, heard from some of the foremost thought leaders in the forest and conservation sector, and advanced their career pathways with networking opportunities.

100% of respondents said the **CONFERENCE MET OR EXCEEDED EXPECTATIONS**

100% of respondents said they felt **THE EXPERIENCE HELPED GROW THEIR CAREER PATHWAY**

“I am so grateful to have been able to take part in SFI’s Annual Conference! It was the first time at an event I was able to see myself represented as someone who is Metis with the stories, people, and my mentor that I was matched with for the conference! The memories and friends made at this conference will be with me for a lifetime!”

RIANA SMITH
Undergraduate student, Environmental and Sustainability Studies,
University of Northern British Columbia



“This conference was absolutely incredible for someone like me who’s just starting out in their professional journey. It pushed me outside my comfort zone multiple times, and I can’t express enough how grateful I am for that opportunity. Witnessing organizations and experienced professionals taking an interest in us, the youth, is truly inspiring. Sometimes, all we need is a little support to achieve great things, and this conference provided just that. The chance to connect and have meaningful conversations with people from diverse backgrounds and unique experiences was

invaluable. I firmly believe that these interactions will leave a lasting impact on my career. They’ve motivated me to explore new career pathways I never even knew existed.”

BENJAMIN STRELKOV
Graduate Student, Faculty of Agriculture, Life and Environmental Sciences (ALES)
University of Alberta



PLT CANADA'S SKILL-BUILDING EVENTS

PLT CANADA HOSTED

9 ONLINE
EVENTS
FOR

500+
REGISTRANTS in 2023

WEBINARS

PLT CANADA
**NATURE OF FIRE
WEBINAR SERIES**
OCTOBER 3, 2023 3 PM PT / 6 PM ET
OCTOBER 10, 2023 3 PM PT / 6 PM ET
OCTOBER 17, 2023 3 PM PT / 6 PM ET

PLT CANADA & DUCKS UNLIMITED CANADA
**NEIGHBOURHOOD
NATURALISTS
WEBINAR**
SEPTEMBER 19, 2023
10:30-11:30 AM PT / 1:30-2:30 PM ET

PLT CANADA
**GREEN
WORKFORCE PANEL**
FEBRUARY 22, 2023
12:00 p.m. - 1:15 p.m. PT / 3:00 p.m. - 4:15 p.m. ET

PLT CANADA & THE OUTDOOR LEARNING STORE
**FROM SEED TO CARBON SINK:
EXPLORING CLIMATE CHANGE
AND FORESTS WEBINAR**
SEPTEMBER 13, 2023
4 PM PT / 7 PM ET

OUTLAND YOUTH EMPLOYMENT PROGRAM

PLT Canada provided a two-day forest week for 24 Indigenous youth at the Mink Lake OYEP camp, funded in part by Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry.

They connected with the forest with a Tree ID/Scavenger hunt and fun PLT activities like *Monitoring Forest Health*; *We All Need Trees*; *Have Seeds, Will Travel*; and *Who Works in a Forest*. Youth discovered exciting green jobs and participated in skill-building activities, reviewing how to maximize their job search, networking strategies, and elevator pitches.



94% of respondents said they felt that it **HELPED GROW THEIR CAREER PATHWAY KNOWLEDGE**

94% of respondents said they felt that it **INCREASED THEIR FOREST LITERACY**

LIFETIME OF LEARNING VIDEO

Project Learning Tree Canada provides a lifetime of learning through environmental education, forest literacy, and career pathways.

Through our resources and programs, we are helping grow future forest and conservation leaders and ensuring our forests are kept sustainable over the long term.

Watch: https://youtu.be/AQ_46Za9BKg



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ABOUT PLT CANADA

Project Learning Tree Canada (PLT Canada) is committed to advancing environmental education, forest literacy, and green career pathways, using trees and forests as windows on the world. Our award-winning resources offer a lifetime of learning from early childhood through adulthood. Our wide and diverse network provides professional development for educators and opportunities for young people to explore nature and the diversity of green careers in the forest and conservation sector. Together, we are growing future forest and conservation leaders.

PLT Canada is a non-profit charitable organization.



Funded in part by the Government
of Canada under the Youth
Employment and Skills Strategy

