



SUPPORTING CANADA'S YOUTH FOR A BRIGHTER FUTURE



2025 ANNUAL REPORT



Growing a Brighter Future for Canada through Environmental Education & Career Pathways



In 2025, PLT Canada advanced our work to provide a lifetime of learning through environmental education, forest literacy, and career pathways. This work is critical to grow a skilled and inclusive workforce for Canada's forest and conservation sector, and invest in a forest literate society. Looking back on this year, I am proud of what we have achieved together with our partners across government, industry, Indigenous communities, conservation groups, Parks agencies, educational institutions, and youth organizations. Our work is helping to strengthen the natural resource sector, support climate action, and build economic resilience for communities across the country, especially as the sector faces unprecedented challenges.

When we invest in youth employment, we invest in the future strength of our communities and our natural resource economy. In 2025, we supported 470 Green Jobs, providing 55% of placements to women and 24% to Indigenous youth, thanks to support from the Government of Canada and the Government of Ontario. Thanks to our network of over 470 employers, we have now supported more than 8,700 Green Jobs since 2018. We are especially excited to have launched our first Ontario-specific career pathways program to support the forest products sector, including offering Green Jobs, mentorship, skills training, employer training, and a virtual career fair.

Mentorship continued to be a cornerstone of our workforce strategy. This year, we supported 135 participants in three mentorship cohorts. Mentorship helps young people build confidence, explore career options, and stay connected to meaningful work in the sector. I was also proud to see more than 35 young professionals participate as youth delegates at the Sustainable Forestry Initiative Annual Conference, where they connected with employers, expanded their networks, and explored career paths.

The future of our forests depend on the public understanding the benefits of sustainably managed forests. In 2025, PLT Canada expanded forest education and literacy across Canada. We provided training and resources to over 450 educators in six provinces, helping them bring nature-based learning into classrooms and communities. We are proud to have partnered with several universities to provide training to pre-service teachers, worked with youth-serving organizations, collaborated with leading environmental NGOs through the Nature Education Collective, delivered educator training at schools, including the first Indigenous Charter School in Canada, and more.

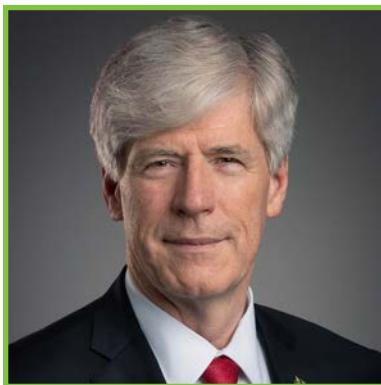
As we look ahead to 2026, PLT Canada will continue building a resilient, inclusive, and future-ready workforce for Canada's forest and conservation sector with our amazing partners. We will support green jobs in forestry, wildfire resilience and climate adaptation, grow Indigenous workforce participation, and build pathways that connect Canadians to forests. Our work will continue to align with national priorities for climate action, reconciliation, and sustainable economic development while delivering measurable value to Canada.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "K. Abusow".

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 education, forest literacy, and career pathways using trees and forests as windows on the world.



“As Canada’s natural resources sector faces unprecedented challenges, it is important to do our part to keep building a strong, resilient workforce and economy. For years, Project Learning Tree Canada programs and resources directly support young people across Canada in accessing meaningful work experiences, while strengthening Canada’s natural resources sector and its economic viability. The Government of Canada is proud to partner with PLT Canada to support careers for young people and continue to ensure that Canada’s forestry sector remains competitive.”

THE HONOURABLE TIM HODGSON
MINISTER OF ENERGY AND NATURAL
RESOURCES

Canada



“Sustainable forest management plays an important role in supporting the Canadian economy and workers, conservation efforts, and the fight against climate change. More than ever, we need to make sure young adults are motivated to enter the forest sector workforce. Organizations such as Project Learning Tree Canada are leading the drive to support young people in accessing meaningful work experiences and skill-building opportunities to support a strong and sustainable Canada.”

**THE HONOURABLE STEVEN
GUILBEAULT**
MINISTER OF CANADIAN IDENTITY AND CULTURE
AND MINISTER RESPONSIBLE FOR OFFICIAL
LANGUAGES

Canada



“Project Learning Tree Canada’s Ontario Green Career Pathways Program will have a transformative impact on Ontario by creating meaningful, sustainable career opportunities for youth in the region. By equipping young adults, including women, Indigenous youth, and those from underrepresented communities, with the skills and mentorship needed for success in the forest products sector, we are not only strengthening the local economy but also fostering long-term environmental stewardship and community resilience in Ontario.”

THE HONOURABLE KEVIN HOLLAND
ASSOCIATE MINISTER OF FORESTRY AND FOREST
PRODUCTS, ONTARIO

Ontario

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.

FACILITATOR/EDUCATOR TRAINING

Since 2018,
PLT CANADA HAS
TRAINED MORE THAN

1,300+
EDUCATORS
ACROSS
6 PROVINCES

450+
EDUCATORS
in 2025

Through partnerships we supported pre-service teacher training in land-based education—ensuring the next generation of teachers is prepared to teach, lead, and inspire through nature.

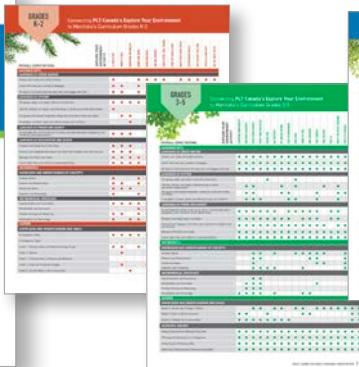
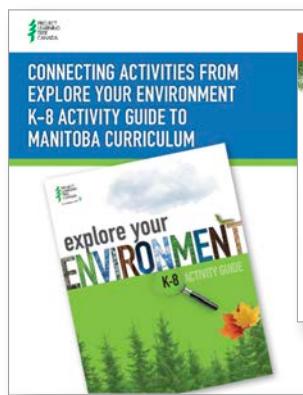
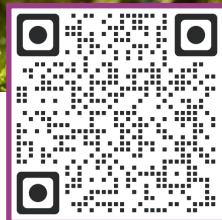




ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION

Nurturing Canadian ambition for forests begins with environmental education and forest literacy. Exposure to forestry through PLT Canada's resources can inspire young people to pursue these careers and contribute to national unity on the role of forests for a strong Canadian economy.

VISIT OUR
RESOURCE PAGE



Committed to supporting educators in providing instruction that helps students meet curriculum goals, PLT Canada has connected activities from *Explore Your Environment: K-8 Activity Guide* to curriculums in four provinces: Alberta, British Columbia, Manitoba, and Ontario.

"I loved how hands on and engaging this professional development was. I appreciated that we went through several different activities that can be applied to many different subjects that I can immediately use in my classroom. I look forward to doing many of these activities in my grade 9 and 10 science classes."

JESSICA CARTER
SECONDARY SCHOOL TEACHER (ONTARIO)

"Awesome professional development session. I learned a lot of strategies and activities to use with my classes to improve their knowledge of forests and ecology that I can also use with math, sciences and geography."

KATE LEALE
SECONDARY SCHOOL TEACHER (ONTARIO)



PLT CANADA'S CAREER PATHWAYS

Green Jobs allow youth to **GAIN VALUABLE WORK EXPERIENCE** that will help them pursue careers in forest management, climate smart practices, fire resilience and awareness, biodiversity and conservation, Indigenous relations, research and technology, and much more.

PLT CANADA HAS PLACED YOUNG ADULTS IN

8,700+
GREEN JOBS

since 2018

470+
GREEN JOBS

filled in 2025

In 2025
55% OF GREEN JOBS
WERE FILLED BY
YOUNG WOMEN

In 2025
24% OF GREEN JOBS
WERE FILLED BY
INDIGENOUS YOUTH



"I am extremely grateful to have had this opportunity because I was able to simultaneously use skills I acquired in my MSc, and gather new skills and knowledge that I can apply in the future. This experience has taught me a lot about myself, including what I need and want most in a career, and has encouraged me to seek other jobs like this one."

ROISIN KIERSTEAD

Green Jobs Youth, Atlantic Canada Conservation Data Centre





THANKS TO
FUNDING FROM



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



**3,500+ YOUNG
ADULTS**

FACING BARRIERS

WERE PLACED IN GREEN JOBS
since 2018

including →

INDIGENOUS
**LIVING WITH A VISIBLE OR
NON-VISIBLE DISABILITY**
VISIBLE MINORITY
**MEMBER OF THE 2SLGBTQIA+
COMMUNITY**
NEW CANADIAN

PLT CANADA WOULD
LIKE TO THANK OUR

470+ EMPLOYERS

for providing these young adults
with green job experiences



“I appreciated the opportunity to develop skills on the job. While my prior experience was valuable in my position, many of the technical skills I needed were new to me. My employer readily taught these skills as needed, preparing me for future work.”



**FREDERICK MACDONALD-
FRANCIS, HE/HIM**
Green Jobs Youth
Saint Mary's University - Biology
(Haughian Lab)

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

**135 MENTORS
AND MENTEES IN 2025**

SINCE 2020, PLT CANADA
HAS SUPPORTED

**820+ MENTORSHIP
PARTICIPANTS
IN 15 DIFFERENT COHORTS**

PLT CANADA/TOLKO GREEN MENTOR PROGRAM

PLT Canada hosted another successful Green Mentor program with Tolko. Five Indigenous youth were placed in summer jobs at Tolko's High Prairie Mill and matched with Tolko employees as mentors for a custom 8-week mentorship program while on the job.



“As a new Registered Professional Forester, I’m proud to say PLT Canada’s Green Mentor Program has helped me take

root, branch out, and keep growing tall. The support and conversations with my mentor have strengthened my confidence as I start out my career in sustainable forest management, helped me navigate networking, and clarified my values that will shape my green career path one ring at a time!”

EDIE RUSSELL, RPF
Planning Forester
Mazinaw-Lanark Forest Inc.
First Resource Management Group



FPAC YOUTH DELEGATE PROGRAM



For the first time, PLT Canada delivered a Youth Delegate program at the Forest Products Association of Canada (FPAC) National Policy Conference in Ottawa. Our Youth Delegate program was adapted to support the recipients of FPAC's Skills Awards for Indigenous Excellence with career programming, speech writing, and direct coaching throughout the week.



35+ YOUTH DELEGATES

were sponsored by PLT Canada and SFI to attend the 2025 SFI Annual Conference

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.

SINCE 2023

125+ YOUTH DELEGATES

have been sponsored to attend SFI Annual Conference

100%

of 2025 respondents said the CONFERENCE MET OR EXCEEDED EXPECTATIONS

94%

of 2025 respondents said they felt THE EXPERIENCE HELPED GROW THEIR CAREER PATHWAY



"Attending the SFI Annual Conference was an incredible experience that gave me the opportunity to connect with passionate professionals and other youth who share a commitment to sustainability and forest

stewardship. I gained valuable insights into the forestry sector, expanded my network, and left feeling confident and motivated to contribute meaningfully to the future of sustainable forestry. Overall, I had an amazing experience and truly enjoyed being part of this mentorship program!"

STEPHANIE HORSFIELD, RPF

Forestry Field Engineer,
Capacity Forest Management Ltd.
(SFI-Certified Organization)



PLT CANADA'S PARTNERSHIPS

GROWING EDUCATOR CAPACITY

PLT CANADA GREW

in the National Capital Region

BY DELIVERING A WORKSHOP TO **25 HIGH SCHOOL TEACHERS**

→ PARTNERING WITH



TO TRAIN **15 CAMP STAFF**

→ SUPPORTED BY



TD Friends of the Environment Foundation

DELIVERING OUTDOOR EDUCATION for **115 STUDENTS**

FALL INTO NATURE WITH PLT CANADA AND YMCA OF THE NATIONAL CAPITAL REGION



MONDAY, OCTOBER 20, 2025 (RAIN OR SHINE)

Location: YMCA Camp Ottawa

Time: 9:30 am - 3:00 pm (Subject to school schedules)

PLT Canada uses tree and forests as windows on the world to enhance environmental education, forest literacy and career pathways for educators, students and young professionals across Canada.

PLT Canada has partnered with the YMCA of the National Capital Region and TD Friends of the Environment to host a full day of outdoor education for grade 7 and 8 students to get into nature and learn!

What is included: School Bus costs, programming, resources

What is not included: Lunches, snacks, release time for teachers.

CONTACT

Contact Ellen Long for additional information:
Ellen.Long@forests.org

PLT Canada and YMCA will be providing knowledge building tools from the forest and environmental sectors as well as hands-on activities to set your students up for success as future environmental stewards.

As educators you will also get the opportunity to receive professional development at the end of the event and leave with a complimentary copy of PLT Canada's resources.



ROOTS OF RESILIENCE CHARTER SCHOOL AND WEYERHAEUSER

PLT Canada partnered with the first Indigenous Charter School in Canada



ROOTS OF RESILIENCE
CHARTER SCHOOL

and



This partnership will strengthen PLT Canada's footprint in Alberta and increase connections with Indigenous communities.

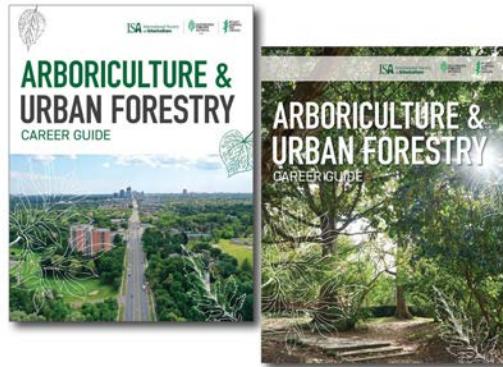
TO DELIVER A DAY OF TRAINING TO **19 HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS AND TEACHERS**
in Drayton Valley, AB



INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY OF ARBORICULTURE (ISA)

PLT Canada is thrilled to partner with the International Society of Arboriculture (ISA) to develop the *Arboriculture & Urban Forestry Career Guide*, a global career resource. The guide will highlight professionals in arboriculture and urban forestry, sharing their career journeys, educational backgrounds, and advice for newcomers. It will also include fact sheets detailing key skills and pathways to ISA credentials.

MOCK-UP DESIGNS OF GUIDE



PLT CANADA'S PARTNERSHIPS

ONTARIO MINISTRY OF NATURAL RESOURCES (OMNR)

With support from OMNR, we offered 6 workshops to pre- and in-service teachers. Students at the University of Ottawa and the University of Toronto will be able to embed PLT Canada throughout their careers.

In-service teachers from Ottawa Carleton District School Board, Ottawa Catholic School Board, Keewatin Patricia District School Board, and the Council of Outdoor Educators of Ontario all increased their knowledge of Environmental Education through PLT Canada.



ONTARIO SKILLS DEVELOPMENT FUND (SDF) TRAINING STREAM

PLT Canada received funding from the Ontario SDF Training Stream to help young adults from underrepresented communities pursue careers in Ontario's forest-products sector. The careers program combines work experiences, mentorship, career readiness training, and employer engagement to promote inclusive workplaces and prepare participants for in-demand roles in forestry and manufacturing.

Part of the program included the *Green Jobs Grow in Ontario: PLT Canada Virtual Career Fair* for young people interested in Ontario's forest sector.



This Employment Ontario project is funded in part by the Government of Canada and the Government of Ontario.

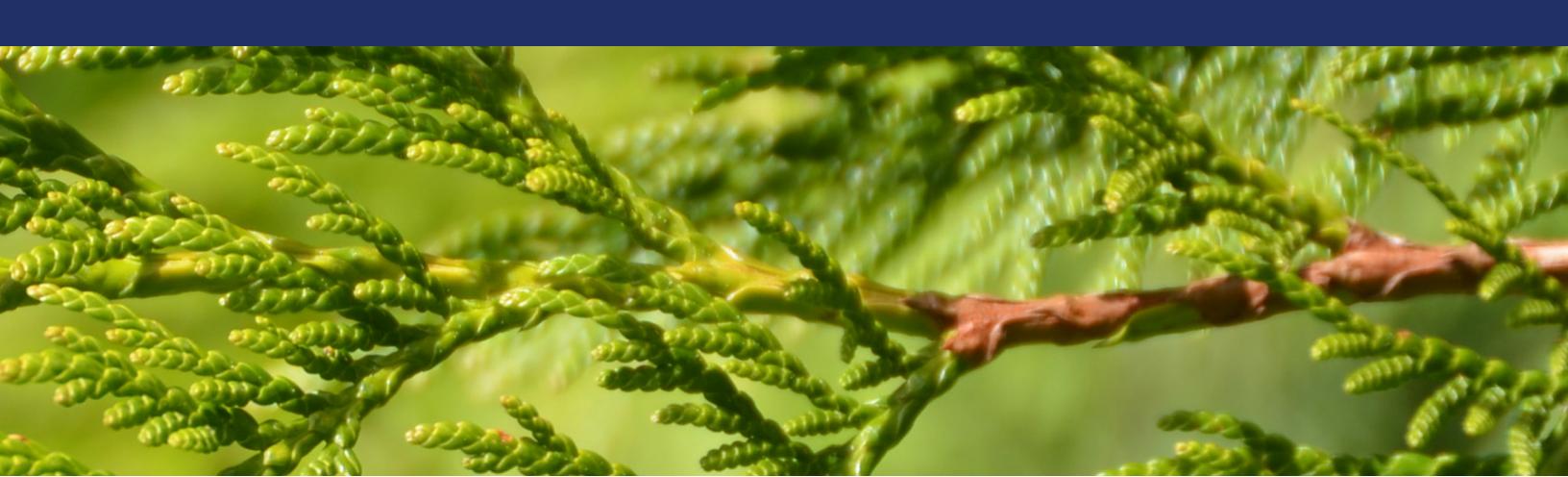
26 EMPLOYERS
HOSTED A BOOTH

270+ REGISTRANTS

"This was a great event, well organized, great hosts, and a great turnout of candidates. Look forward to participating again in the future."

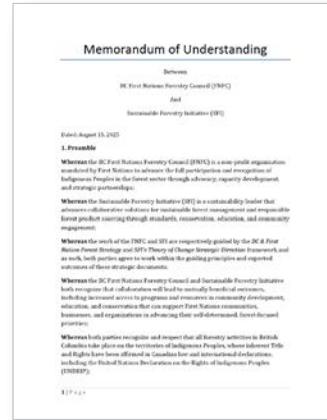
MATTHEW SMITH
Supervisor, Talent Acquisition
GreenFirst Forest Products
Produits Forestiers GreenFirst
(SFI-Certified Organization)





BC FIRST NATIONS FORESTRY COUNCIL

The BC First Nations Forestry Council and the Sustainable Forestry Initiative signed a Memorandum of Understanding to increase Indigenous leadership and participation in sustainable forest management. PLT Canada, an initiative of SFI, will collaborate with the BC First Nations Forestry Council on capacity development and supporting training, mentorship, and workforce development opportunities.



OUTLAND YOUTH EMPLOYMENT PROGRAM



PLT Canada also worked with OYEP in both Ontario and British Columbia to deliver Forest Week Programming to 30 Indigenous youth. BC First Nations Forestry Council partnered with PLT Canada to deliver the program to the BC camp for the first time. Youth discovered exciting green jobs and participated in skill-building activities, reviewing how to maximize their job search, networking strategies, and elevator pitches.

FOREST WEEK PROGRAM
DELIVERED TO
30 INDIGENOUS
YOUTH
in Ontario and
British Columbia



PLT CANADA'S PARTNERSHIPS

NATURE EDUCATION COLLECTIVE



As part of the Nature Education Collective (NEC), PLT Canada, Canadian Wildlife Federation, Ducks Unlimited Canada, Earth Rangers, and Outward Bound Canada, developed and delivered two 3-day lead teacher trainings in Winnipeg and Calgary.

THE NEC HOSTED **40** EDUCATORS → AT **2** RETREATS

AND SUPPORTED MORE THAN
→ **100** STUDENTS
on nature-based
education field trips



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INVEST IN PLT CANADA'S FUTURE

PLT Canada is a non-profit charitable organization and relies on funding from governments, private sector, foundations and other donors. Consider investing with us to advance environmental education, forest literacy, and career pathways in your community. We invite you to reach out to explore opportunities to partner with PLT Canada.

DONATE NOW



ABOUT PLT CANADA

Project Learning Tree Canada (PLT Canada) is committed to advancing environmental education, forest literacy, and 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.



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

