

NEWS RELEASE

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BC Community Forest Association Celebrates a Decade of Measuring the Benefits of Community Forestry

VICTORIA and the Traditional Territory of the Lekwungen Peoples – The BC Community Forest Association (BCCFA) proudly marks the 10-year anniversary of its annual *Indicators Report*, “Measuring the Benefits of Community Forestry”.

Community forests in British Columbia have consistently demonstrated leadership in managing for multiple values on the land base. Operated as long-term, area-based tenures held by local communities and First Nations, community forests play a crucial role in promoting ecologically responsible forest management and supporting resilient communities and economies.

Representing over 90 rural and Indigenous communities, the BCCFA serves as a network dedicated to fostering sustainable forest stewardship across the province. Since 2014, the BCCFA’s *Community Forest Indicators Report* has documented the many benefits of community forestry. The 2024 report draws on survey data collected from 32 community forests across BC, analyzing 18 indicators that illustrate the broad range of positive impacts provided by these area-based tenures. This year’s report features a special retrospective analysis showcasing a decade of data collection, offering compelling evidence of the community forest program’s success and its long-term contributions to forest management and to First Nations and rural communities.

“The *Indicators Report* is a valuable tool for measuring and communicating the successes of community forests. We are incredibly proud of the progress and achievements over the last decade.” - Randy Spkysma, BCCFA President

The past 10 years of data highlight increased investments in community priorities such as education and recreation, strong partnerships with First Nations, job creation surpassing industry averages, and significant wildfire risk reduction efforts. Amid the many challenges facing the forest sector, community forests continue to drive positive transformation through sustainable practices, active community engagement, and maximizing the value of forest resources.

“Community forests are showing how local ingenuity, collaborative partnerships, and a commitment to long-term forest stewardship can lead to lasting benefits. Through their dedication, they are proving that a new way of doing things in the forest sector is possible.” - Jennifer Gunter, BCCFA Executive Director

“The *Indicators Report* is essential reading for anyone interested in understanding the vital role of community forestry in BC. Congratulations to the BCCFA for 10 years of data driven analysis and for promoting the significant benefits that community forests provide.” - Bruce Ralston, Minister of Forests

The BC Community Forest Association looks forward to continuing its work in supporting sustainable forest management, fostering strong community partnerships, and contributing to the resiliency of rural and Indigenous communities in British Columbia.

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To read or download the *Community Forest Indicators 2024 – Measuring the Benefits of Community Forestry* report, visit <https://bccfa.ca/indicators-report/>

For more information on the BC Community Forest Association visit www.bccfa.ca