



Spring 2025

# Investing in B.C.'s Forests Now and for Future Generations

Working with our partners to fund and invest in projects that help create healthier, more resilient forests for the future.



**LENNY JOE**  
CEO, BC First Nations Forestry Council

Forestry is very important. It's in our backyard. It creates employment. And we want healthy workplaces to create healthy people and healthy families who create healthy communities. Climate change and its effects are pressuring all of us. There's a long way to go, but I don't think it will take as long as we think. It will just take the right people. Everything is truly connected.

**64 Newly Funded Projects**  
Working to Achieve These Outcomes

**10,700+** TRUCK LOADS

An estimated 10,728 truck loads of wood fibre is being utilized instead of piled and burned in slash piles.

**34,356** PASSENGER VEHICLES OFF THE ROAD

The average passenger vehicle in North America emits 4.29 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub>e / year<sup>1</sup>. The greenhouse gas emissions avoided by these projects is approximately the same as the emissions generated by 34,356 passenger vehicles in one year.

**159,000** AVOIDED EMISSIONS

By making use of fibre that would have been open burned, FESBC proponents' projects have led to the avoidance of approximately 159,000 tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent, or CO<sub>2</sub>e, associated with their forestry operations.

<sup>1</sup> United States Environmental Protection Agency, Greenhouse Gas Equivalencies Calculator

## Everything is Connected:

Strong relationships drive better results.

We don't get to choose our present or our past, but we have the ability to **shape the future**. Although this accomplishments report is, by its nature, looking at things we have already done, it is also showing us a **path forward**. By launching this report at the BC First Nations Forestry Council conference, we wanted to take the opportunity to highlight the theme of the conference, **'Everything is Connected'** and acknowledge the importance of connection in the forestry sector.

The BC First Nations Forestry Council and the Forest Enhancement Society of BC believe that the collaboration between Indigenous and non-Indigenous foresters, licensees, and communities described within this document is a **testament to the power of connection** and a blueprint for responsible forest investment for generations to come.

In this update, we invite you to read about completed projects and projects that are just getting started. We hope you will be **inspired** by what is already happening so you feel empowered to reach out and make new connections, plot new courses, and invest in a better future for B.C.'s forests.

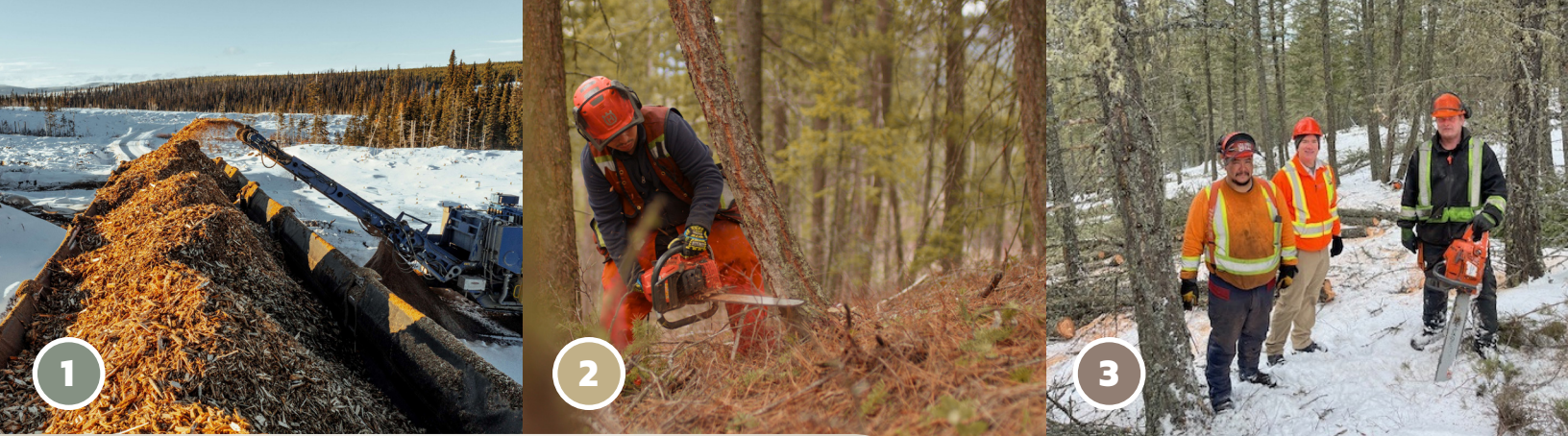
**Investments into projects that connect the environment and the economy.**



Forest Enhancement Society of BC

Learn more about forest enhancement projects led by First Nations throughout B.C.





## Linking Actions, Sharing Benefits: \$20 Million Invested in 64 Newly Funded Forest Enhancement Projects

Since inception, the Forest Enhancement Society of BC has invested **\$330 million** of provincial funding into **420+ projects** supporting an estimated **2,700 direct and indirect jobs** and generating **\$430 million** in economic opportunity. First Nations organizations led or participated in over 30 per cent of the projects.

This spring, we announced another **64 projects** to receive investments for wood waste utilization and/or wildfire risk reduction. These newly funded projects represent nearly \$20 million in investments allocated to projects throughout B.C. that will either **boost fibre supply and reduce greenhouse gas emissions** by utilizing uneconomic wood waste or reduce wildfire risk to **better protect communities and important infrastructure**.

Projects will help create or sustain good family support jobs, and many have additional benefits such as taking action on climate change and enhancing wildlife habitat.

We received so many excellent applications from interested parties across the province looking to invest in the future of B.C.'s forests. After careful review, we were pleased to be able to support a **portfolio of projects** that will make **forests more resilient and communities safer**, while unlocking the value of wood waste generated through forest management activities.

Of the 64 total new projects to receive investments from FESBC throughout the province, 31 projects are led by Indigenous organizations and an additional 14 projects have significant Indigenous participation.



**JASON FISHER**  
Executive Director,  
Forest Enhancement  
Society of BC

### Forest Enhancement Projects Led by First Nations Throughout B.C.

#### 1 PROJECT: Enhanced Fibre Utilization in the Omineca

PROJECT LOCATION: Fort St. James

The project focuses on grinding residual logging debris into feedstock for BioNorth Energy, a 40-megawatt biomass power generation plant in Fort St. James.

"The opportunity to invest in a clean energy project within the traditional territory of Nak'azdli Whut'en aligns with stewardship values while providing a long-term equity source that will benefit the community today and for future generations."

—**JOHN-PAUL WENGER**, Chief Executive Officer | Nak'azdli Development Corporation

#### 2 PROJECT: Wildfire Risk Reduction in the Thompson-Okanagan

PROJECT LOCATION: West Kelowna

Various wildfire risk reduction projects have enabled the treatment of approximately 300 hectares around the communities of West Kelowna and Peachland over the past decade, with more projects planned in the immediate future.

"We removed surface fuels and pruned the trees to remove the ladder fuels, but we didn't realize it would be tested so soon. When the Mount Law fire came through the area, the intensity of the fire just dropped. The 'roar' went out of the fire as soon as it hit the area we had treated, immediately showing us how impactful the work we were doing was."

—**DAVE GILL**, General Manager | Ntityix Resources LP

Watch a video on the work of Ntityix here



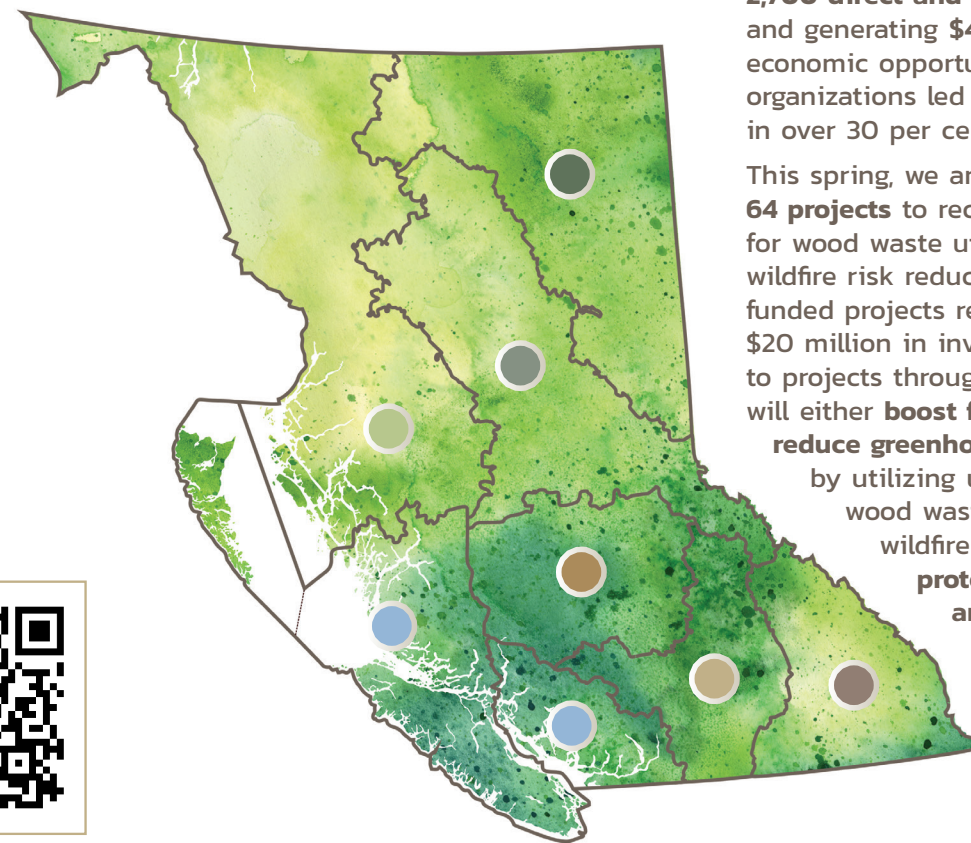
#### 3 PROJECT: Wildfire Risk Reduction in the Kootenay-Boundary

PROJECT LOCATION: Windermere

The project is conducting a wildfire risk reduction treatment east of the ʔakisq̓nuq Reserve and two kilometres north of Fairmont Hot Springs.

"Through the funding made available by the Forest Enhancement Society of BC, we have been able to interact with the forests in a manner that reduces fuel loading, increases the health of trees and grasslands, and imitates natural forest succession. The added benefits include residential fire safety and mental wellness."

—**CHIEF DONALD SAM** | ʔakisq̓nuq First Nation



#### Overview of Newly Funded Projects

|  | FOREST REGIONS     |                   |                   |                |                |              |                |              | TOTALS     |
|--|--------------------|-------------------|-------------------|----------------|----------------|--------------|----------------|--------------|------------|
|  | South & West Coast | Thompson-Okanagan | Kootenay-Boundary | Cariboo        | Northeast      | Omineca      | Skeena         | Provincial   |            |
| Total Number of Projects                 | 7                  | 18                | 9                 | 18             | 2              | 1            | 8              | 1            | 64         |
| Total FESBC Funds Allocated              | \$1,819,600.00     | \$5,778,207       | \$1,881,272.00    | \$5,107,822.00 | \$1,190,000.00 | \$400,000.00 | \$2,970,285.00 | \$700,000.00 | 19,847,186 |
| Total Fibre Utilized in cubic metres     | 94,010             | 181,565           | -                 | 68,197         | 39,000         | 15,043       | 101,767        | -            | 499,582    |
| Total Fibre Utilized in truck loads      | 1,959              | 4,102             | -                 | 1,421          | 813            | 313          | 2,120          | -            | 10,728     |
| Total Avoided Emissions (tonnes of CO2e) | 52,700             | 24,000            | -                 | 13,900         | 17,000         | 6,500        | 44,900         | -            | 159,000    |
| Total Number of Hectares Treated         | 33                 | 331               | 238               | 670            | 110            | -            | 184            | 70           | 1,654      |
| Total Number of Hectares Planned         | 67                 | 508               | 319               | 772            | -              | -            | 800            | -            | 2,465      |
| Projects Led by First Nations            | 3                  | 10                | -                 | 11             | 2              | -            | 5              | -            | 31         |
| Projects that Involve First Nations      | 1                  | 6                 | -                 | 4              | -              | 1            | 2              | -            | 14         |



An aerial view of a Ntityix Resources LP project. Photo Credit: Living with Fire video.



**RAVI PARMAR**

Minister of Forests and  
Deputy Government House Leader

“The Forest Enhancement Society of BC is on the ground, working everyday to protect, strengthen, and steward our forests. The 64 new projects we are investing in throughout B.C. will create new jobs, more fibre to our mills and will support our efforts to protect communities from the intensity of wildfires. These projects will help support workers, companies, and organizations as they develop the new and innovative forest practices B.C. is renowned for world-wide.”



**JENNIFER GUNTER**

Executive Director  
BC Community Forest Association

“FESBC has played a vital role in supporting community forests across the province to complete work that prioritizes local values, including wildfire risk reduction, utilizing wood waste, and enhancing forest resiliency in rural areas. By partnering with local stakeholders such as community forest managers, they help ensure that their initiatives align with the unique needs and priorities of each community. This collaborative approach not only promotes sustainable forest management but also creates important economic and social opportunities.”

Jason Fisher  
FESBC Executive Director  
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FESBC would like to gratefully acknowledge the financial support of the Province of British Columbia through the Ministry of Forests.

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## Coming this Fall

The **Forest Enhancement Society of BC** and the **BC First Nations Forestry Council** are excited **to collaborate on a more comprehensive Accomplishments Report** that will be available in print and digital copies. To receive more information, please email [communications@fesbc.ca](mailto:communications@fesbc.ca)