

# Media Release

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## ***CAREERS IN FORESTRY VIDEO, 2004*** National Aboriginal Forestry Association

As First Nations gain increased control over an enlarged forested land base, the need for professionals in sustainable forest management becomes more critical. Recognizing this need for increased Aboriginal land managers in Canada, NAFA has undertaken the design of a video which showcases the myriad of career opportunities available to Aboriginal students.

The forest products industry is Canada's leading manufacturing sector. It provides direct and indirect employment for more than 800,000 workers. According to the Canadian Institute of Forestry (CIF) there are approximately 12,000 practising foresters in Canada of which 8,500 have achieved Registered Professional Forester (RPF) status. Of that, NAFA estimates that only 80 are of Aboriginal descent and only 17 have the RPF designation.

Regarding Aboriginal interests, forest companies are beginning to view Aboriginal communities as long term partners in forestry operations resulting in joint ventures. These ongoing processes, as they advance, will result in increased opportunities for forest management responsibility for First Nations and other Aboriginal communities.

The need for trained professionals is critical in order to ensure communities are able to secure access to forests in traditional territories. This is essential in order to carry out traditional activities such as hunting and fishing as well as to maintain the fundamental connection to the land, that is the basis for traditional knowledge, Aboriginal cultures and economies.

This video can be used by educators, community leaders, and industry to create awareness amongst Aboriginal youth, about the opportunities available locally, nationally and internationally.

This video entitled '*Careers in Forestry*' was created by NAFA to help influence Aboriginal students in obtaining a career in forest management. Aboriginal Business Canada (ABC) and the First Nations Forestry Program (FNFP) supported NAFA by funding the project.

NAFA members may view the *Careers in Forestry* video in digital format on our website at [www.nafaforestry.org](http://www.nafaforestry.org). The video is also available for purchase at NAFA for \$25 per copy.

**For more information, please contact:**



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