

# “Regulating Professional Forestry”

Update for  
ARPFNB/NBFTA  
Members

March 2025

RTP SUBCOMMITTEE

NBFTA | ARPFNB



**We need your  
feedback  
and support for this  
important initiative.**

# Background Information:

Over the past three years, a joint Committee of the Association of Registered Professional Foresters of New Brunswick (ARPFNB) and the New Brunswick Forest Technicians Association (NBFTA) have been engaged in discussions working towards “Regulating the Practice of Professional Forestry” (RTP) legislation for forest professionals in New Brunswick.



As part of RTP, the ARPFNB and NBFTA will merge into a new  
“**Association of New Brunswick Forestry Professionals**”  
(ANBFP).

We estimate there are more than 1,000 forestry practitioners  
working in New Brunswick practicing some aspect of professional  
forestry who should be members of this new Association.

# What will it cost to be a member of the new Association?

**We intend to maintain differential dues rates (for foresters vs forest technicians/ technologists).**

**We expect to be able to cover increased costs by increasing the number of members.**



# Why it is important and beneficial to be a member of the Association of New Brunswick Forestry Professionals?

- It will be a legal requirement to be licensed by the Association to practice professional forestry.
- To demonstrate leadership, professionalism, integrity, and a commitment to the profession.
- The Association provides opportunities for members to train, network, consult with colleagues, and mentor new entrants joining the profession.
- Membership in the Association provides improved labour mobility opportunities.

# Why is it necessary to regulate the practice (RTP)?

- **THE PROBLEM:** Providing forestry services in New Brunswick is presently unregulated. Forestry practitioners are not presently required to be professionally registered, or certified, or licensed.

RTP will provide the public with improved credibility and confidence in forest practitioners.

- RTP will help to ensure forest practitioners are competent, ethical, and professional.
- RTP will ensure any complaints are professionally investigated and resolved.
- RTP will require anyone practicing any aspect of professional forestry to be licensed.



# RTP Value Proposition:

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- Provides assurances and improved confidence when hiring and/or engaging with forestry practitioners.
- Provides a cost-effective and credible 3<sup>rd</sup> party mechanism to deal with complaints about practitioners.
- Provides improved assurances to the public regarding forest practitioners.
- Provides a preferred alternative to prescriptive Government regulations.

# Our Progress to Date:

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- ✓ We have a draft “Act to Incorporate the Association of New Brunswick Forestry Professionals”.
- ✓ We have draft By-Laws for the new Association.
- ✓ We have draft Code of Ethics for the new Association.
- ✓ We have draft “Guiding Principles” regarding what types of activities and who is affected by the proposed legislation.
- ✓ We have draft documentation regarding the process to apply for and issue “Restricted” Licenses to unregistered and non-members wanting to practice professional forestry.
- ✓ We have met with many Stakeholder groups to get their input and advice.

Current Draft documents can be reviewed at this link on the ARPFNB Website: <https://arpfnb.ca/regulating-the-profession.php>



# We have met with these Stakeholder Groups:

- Senior NBDNRED staff
- New Brunswick Woodlot Owners Federation
- Carlton-Victoria Wood Producers & Marketing Board
- South-Eastern New Brunswick Forest Products Marketing Board
- The Association of Professional Engineers and Geoscientists of New Brunswick (APEGNB)
- Forest NB - Industry Association
- J.D. Irving, Limited – Woodlands
- Tim Fox – NB Forest Products Commission
- Steve Ginnish (to discuss getting First Nations input)

# What we heard from Stakeholders:

- Dislike of the term “Special License”.
- Concerns about “Special” (now termed “Restricted”) licensing.
- Concerns about assessing “competency” of practitioners.
- Concerns about the scope of the definition of “professional forestry”.
- Clarify what is within scope of RTP (regulating practitioners, not practices).
- Clarify what level of supervision must be licensed.
- Licensing must be expedient and not hold up the hiring process.
- Better communicate why RTP is needed.
- Concerns about the complaint process (confidentiality, professionalism, fairness).
- Need to work on “win-win” opportunities with First Nations communities.

# Progress & Changes to our Draft legislation over the past year:

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- Numerous Stakeholder Consultations.
- Developed a Draft Code of Ethics for the new Association.
- Any person practicing any aspect of professional forestry will require a license:
  - ✓ Registered Members will have an auto-renewing “Unrestricted License”.
  - ✓ Other practitioners may apply for a “Restricted License” and may use the title “Affiliated Forestry Practitioner” (“AFP”).
- We updated our documents on the ARPFNB website.
- We are in the process of translating our draft documents to be available on the ARPFNB website in French.

# We plan to meet with these Stakeholder Groups over the next few months:

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- NB Timber Licensees
- NB Forestry Schools (UNB, UdeM, MCFT)
- Forest Contractors at the CWF Woodlands Forum in April 2025
- NB Forest Products Commission
- Indigenous Councils (Mi'gmawe'l Tplu'taqnn (MTI) , Wolastoqey Nation in New Brunswick (WNNB), and the Peskotomuhkati First Nation)\
- Conservation focused groups (Nature Conservancy, Nature Trust, Conservation Council, Watershed Groups, Community Forests International, Atlantic Salmon Federation, Miramichi Salmon Association).
- **Can you help us arrange a meeting with your employer?**

# What does “Regulating the Practice” mean?

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**From Section 25 of the DRAFT Act to Incorporate the Association of New Brunswick Forestry Professionals:**

“No person shall practice **professional forestry** in New Brunswick, either privately or employed by another, unless registered to practice under the provisions of the proposed new “Act to Incorporate the Association of New Brunswick Forest Professionals” and its by-laws”.



# The definition of “Professional Forestry” under the proposed new Act: (page 1 of 2)

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The provision of services or undertakings which, because of their scope and implications respecting forests, forest lands, forest resources and forest ecosystems, require the specialized education, knowledge, training and experience of a registered member, and includes

(a): designing, planning, directing or advising with respect to:

(i): the inventory, classification, appraisal, evaluation, and certification of forests and forest lands,

(ii); silviculture prescriptions and treatments of forest stands, including the harvesting of timber,

(iii); planning, locating and approving forest transportation systems, including forest roads,

(iv); conservation, reclamation, and renewal of forests and forest lands, and

(v); the protection of forests and forest lands;

# The definition of “Professional Forestry” under the proposed new Act: (page 2 of 2)

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The provision of services or undertakings which, because of their scope and implications respecting forests, forest lands, forest resources and forest ecosystems, require the specialized education, knowledge, training and experience of a registered member, and includes:

(b): the preparation, review, amendment and approval of forest management and operating plans and administration of forest lands;

(c): assessing the impact of planned activities on forests, forest lands and forest ecosystems;

(d): auditing, examining and verifying the results of planned activities on forests, forest lands and forest ecosystems;

(e); assessing, estimating and analyzing the capability of forests, forest lands, and forest ecosystems to yield a flow of timber;

(f); teaching core forestry subjects as defined in the by-laws at a college, technical institute or university.

# What activities does RTP legislation affect?

- Any activity that is considered “**professional forestry**”.
- Planning and implementation of any forest management or silviculture prescription must be directly overseen/ supervised/ monitored by a forestry professional who is registered or licensed.
- Any harvesting, forest road, or silviculture activity must be directly overseen/ supervised/ monitored by a forestry professional who is registered or licensed.
- No member of the ANBFP is ever permitted to abdicate or defer their professional work responsibilities (competency, ethics, integrity) related to any task they undertake or directly oversee/supervise.





# RTP legislation will not set new forest management standards, nor will it define new “Best Practices”.

- The ANBFP will not advocate or lobby for a particular forest management policy, activity, or outcome. The determination of provincial forest policy is the responsibility of the government.
- RTP will not regulate forestry practices, but it will regulate people who practice any aspect of professional forestry.
- RTP will require anyone practicing any aspect of professional forestry to be licensed.
- RTP will help to ensure forest practitioners are competent, and meeting legal, ethical and professional standards.



# Will RTP legislation impose limitations on who can practice forestry in NB?

- The intent of the legislation is not to impose strict limitations on who can practice professional forestry, but rather to ensure that anyone practicing is *competent, acting ethically, with integrity and professionalism*, complying with all legal requirements.
- The legislation provides for “**Exclusions**” allowing people to carry out forestry activities on their own lands, recognizing Indigenous rights, and not interfering with related professions (engineers, surveyors, agrologists, etc).
- The legislation includes provisions for “**Restricted Licenses**” for practitioners who might not otherwise meet the requirements for full membership in the Association (normally graduation from an accredited school).



# What is a "Restricted" License?

- Council may grant "Restricted" licenses, with or without terms and conditions, to persons who are not registered members, or to persons that do not have the academic credentials to qualify to be registered members.
- The Applicant must have at least 5 years forestry "experience". At least 2 years must be current (within the last 5 years). Time spent taking forest-related post-secondary education qualifies as "experience".
- Two ANBFP members who are familiar with the applicant and his/her work/expertise must vouch for the Applicant.
- The Applicant must confirm they are willing to abide by the Association's Code of Ethics.
- The Applicant may be required to pass an examination or take training regarding local legislation.
- "Restricted" Licenses are generally restricted with respect to the aspect of "professional forestry", the geographic area, and the time duration.
- Multiple year "Restricted" Licenses may be issued, subject to the Licensee remaining in good standing with the ANBFP (no disciplinary actions and paying annual fees).
- Restricted License holders may use the title "Affiliated Forestry Practitioner" ("AFP").

# What types of membership will be possible in the new Association?

Two “categories” of membership:

Technician/  
technologists

Foresters

Restricted License Holders

Five “classes” of membership:

Registered Members

In-Training Members

Associate Members (non-resident, non-practicing, insufficient CFEs)

Life (Retired) Members

# Enforcement. How will that be handled?

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## For Members – complaint driven

- Any complaints received from another member or from the public would be referred to the **Complaints Committee**.
- After investigation, the **Complaints Committee** may refer the matter to the **Disciplinary Committee**.
- The **Disciplinary Committee** must hold a hearing for any allegations.
- The **Disciplinary Committee** could dismiss the complaint, or reprimand the member, and/or impose a fine and/or impose temporary or permanent limitations on the member's right to practice.
- Any party to proceedings of the Disciplinary Committee has the right to appeal the decision to the **Court of King's Bench of New Brunswick**.

## For Non-Members – complaint driven

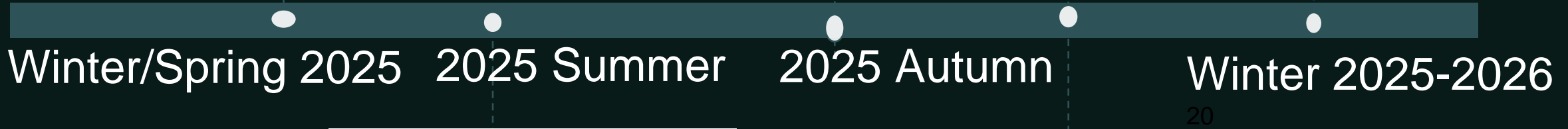
- Any complaints received from a member or from the public would be referred to the **Complaints Committee**.
- After investigation, the **Complaints Committee** may recommend a remedy or sanction to the non-member.
- If a non-member refused to cooperate with the Association's investigation and decision pertaining to a violation; that offence could be referred to the **Court of King's Bench**.

# Next Steps

Consult with First Nations, Woodlot Owners, Employers, Government, non-member foresters and technicians, natural resource schools, municipalities, other related professions and professional associations.

Seek formal feedback from stakeholder groups.

Apply to have our Legislation enacted.



Revise proposed legislation based on feedback from members, First Nations, stakeholders, public, government.

Seek membership final approval before any proposed legislation is brought to New Brunswick Legislature.

# Thank you

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Questions ?

Comments email:

[executivedirector@arpfnb.ca](mailto:executivedirector@arpfnb.ca)

[www.arpfnb.ca](http://www.arpfnb.ca)

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We need your support for  
this important initiative.