
WHY RTP IS A PUBLIC INTEREST PRIORITY?

What is the “necessity” of the legislation?

Society is demanding more from our forests (more benefits and “services”, with competing values).

- Forestry and forest management is becoming more complex.
- More is expected from forestry practitioners.
- Forestry practitioners need to continually improve their knowledge and practices.
- Forestry practitioners must be accountable, competent, professional, and ethical.

Regulating the practice of professional forestry ensures that only competent individuals practice professional forestry.

A regulated profession provides assurance that projects will be managed according to high standards.

What happens if we do nothing?

Without a regulated profession, there can be significant variation in the qualifications and skills of individuals practicing professional forestry. Unqualified individuals could make decisions that affect forests, the environment, and communities.

- Public opinion of the forestry profession may not significantly improve.
- Forestry practices will not sufficiently improve.
- Accountability of the forestry profession will not improve.

What is the benefit to the public?

RTP legislation ensures that only those with the necessary competency and qualifications practice professional forestry. This promotes consistent, high standards for forest management, ensuring decisions are made by competent forestry professionals.

- RTP will help to ensure forestry practitioners are competent, professional, and ethical.
- RTP will provide a mechanism to hold forestry practitioners accountable.
- RTP provides an independent body to investigate complaints about the actions of forestry practitioners.
- RTP assures the conduct, proficiency, competency and integrity of those who practice forestry in New Brunswick on public (crown) and private land.
- RTP will improve the practice of forestry in the NB and encourage a wider understanding of sustainable forest management.
- RTP promotes continuous improvement of professional forestry practices.
- RTP adheres to Labour mobility legislation of professionals within Canada in keeping with AIT of Internationally Trained Foresters.
- All provinces west of New Brunswick (except Manitoba) have already regulated the Practice of Professional Forestry.

Is it constitutional?

- Yes. RTP is consistent with 42 other regulated professions in New Brunswick (doctors, dentists, nurses, engineers, electricians, etc).
- The practice of professional forestry is already regulated in most other Canadian provinces (Quebec, Ontario, Saskatchewan, Alberta, British Columbia).

Is it fair?

- 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.
- Forestry practitioners that do not meet the academic requirements to be a "Registered" member, may apply for a "Restricted" license to practice.

How can/will it be enforced?

- After the legislation is enacted a reasonable period of grace will be provided to forestry practitioners to enable them to be fully aware of the regulatory implications and to become appropriately licensed as necessary.
- Investigations and enforcement will be a result of complaints from the public or a member.
- Investigation of complaints and enforcement will be impartially and professionally administered by the Association.
- After investigation, the Complaints Committee may dismiss the complaint, or require the member take additional training, etc., or refer the matter to the Disciplinary Committee.
- The Disciplinary Committee must hold a hearing for any allegations.
- 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.

What are potential unintended consequences?

- We are expecting no or minimal unintended consequences.
- There is some financial risk. The association will need to carefully manage its resources and only resort to litigation when absolutely necessary and clearly in the public interest.

Has there been collaboration with stakeholders?

Extensive consultation with a broad range of stakeholder groups guided the development of the proposed legislation package.

There is strong support for this initiative from all major stakeholder categories including forestry practitioners, woodlot owners, the forest industry.

Has there been notification or consultation or collaboration with First Nations?

This still needs to be initiated.

Is there full transparency?

We will provide public notification before legislation is brought forward in the legislature (media briefings, etc).

How RTP could affect the following interest groups.

- **University graduate BSc in Forestry or FE:** Must register with AFPNB to continue to work in the practice of professional forestry.
- **College graduate Forest Technicians and Technologist:** Must register with AFPNB to continue to work in the practice of professional forestry.
- **Forest Operations Contractors** (harvest, roads, silviculture): No effect on most operations. Some may need to be licensed depending on their scope of practice.
- **Forest Products Companies:** Should make sure University graduate foresters and forest technicians are registered with AFPNB, and others practicing an aspect of professional forestry within their scope of training and competence would need to obtain a "Restricted License". Otherwise, no effect.
- **General Public:** Obtains greater assurance of the conduct, proficiency, competency and integrity of those who practice professional forestry in New Brunswick on public (crown) and private land. This should result in an improvement in the practice of forestry in NB and a wider understanding of sustainable forest management; RTP will promote and increase the knowledge, skill and proficiency of those practicing professional forestry.
- **Private Woodlot Owners:** No effect when they themselves carry out functions on their own land. If they want to work or advise other landowners, they need to be competent and obtain a license or hire a registered or licensed member (technician or forester).