

MACKENZIE REGION OF NORTHWEST ALBERTA, FORESTRY CAPITAL OF CANADA FOR 2024!

At the September 2023 Canadian Institute of Forestry (CIF) national awards ceremony, the Mackenzie Region of Northwest Alberta was awarded the designation of Forestry Capital of Canada for 2024. Photographs were provided by the Canadian Institute of Forestry.

The Forest Capital of Canada Designation was established in 1979, and focuses on the valuable role forests play in the socio-economic and environmental health of our communities – past, present and future. Originally delivered by the Canadian Forestry Association, the CIF-IFC now administers the legacy program, and designates a community or region to host a celebration of its forest resources for a period of 12-24 months. The

Mackenzie Region is 80,000 square kilometres within the boreal forest of Northwest Alberta, and everything they do is connected to the forest or the land in some way. Their land mass is substantial, about the size of New Brunswick, and over 70 per cent of the region's citizens are involved with, rely on, or work in the forest in some capacity. The Mackenzie Region is made up of forestry, energy, agriculture, trapping, tourism, and a whole lot of history and vibrant cultures.

1. L to R: Doug Reid, outgoing president of the Canadian Institute of Forestry; and Lisa Wardley, Councilor Mackenzie County, and chair of the application committee; Nanaimo, B.C.; September 25, 2023

2. L to R: Doug Reid, outgoing president of the Canadian Institute of Forestry; Josh Knelsen, Reeve, Mackenzie County; Lisa Wardley, Councilor, Mackenzie County, and chair of the application committee; and Allan Bell, chief forester, Tolko; Nanaimo, B.C.; September 25, 2023

