



A Guide to Good **PRIVATE FOREST** *Management*

YOU ARE A PRIVATE FOREST LAND OWNER AND YOU WOULD LIKE TO MAINTAIN IT WHILE BENEFITING FROM FINANCIAL ADVANTAGES AND TAX BENEFITS ?

Here are the steps to follow:

STEP 1 Consult a Forestry Qualified Professional

The **forestry engineers** can provide technical assistance to private woodlot owners to assess the state of their forest and to propose sustainable forest management strategies. Some work in private practices, others for companies or for common resources management organizations. For a list of the forest consultants in the Laurentian region, contact the “*Agence régionale de mise en valeur des forêts privées des Laurentides*”, by email: info@foret-privee-laurentides.qc.ca, by phone : **819-623-3427**. The information is also available on the “*Alliance des propriétaires forestiers Laurentides-Outaouais*” website: www.apflo.ca, by phone: **819-623-2228** or **1-866-623-2228** (toll free). To learn more about the various professionals and their respective roles in the forest industry, refer to our “Government and Forestry Agencies” section.



STEP 2 Enhance Your Forest by Planning its Development

That planning takes the form of a forest management plan. The information contained in this plan will give you a good knowledge of your woodlot to fully exploit its potential. This plan will allow you to make sustainable development decisions according to your interests and your objectives.

» FOREST MANAGEMENT PLAN CONTENT

- The owner's objectives
- A description of the forest composition
- A property scale mapping, identifying
 - Forest stands
 - Sensitive components
- Silvicultural intervention suggestions according to your woodlot potentials and your objectives



STEP 3 Achieve Recognized Forestry Producer Status

Once the forest management plan is done, all you need to do is complete and submit your registration form to obtain the recognized forestry producer status delivered by the Quebec government. That status will give you access to tax incentives and financial assistance programs to carry out your forestry projects (refer to our "*Forest Management Support Programs*" section). The forest engineer who has produced your forest management plan can guide you through this process.

» REQUIREMENTS TO BECOME A RECOGNIZED FORESTRY PRODUCER

- To have a valid forest management plan designed by a forest engineer
- To own **at least 4 hectares** (9,9 acres) of woodland
- To have your land register as a forestry land and to obtain the forestry producer certificate (www.mffp.gouv.qc.ca).



USING SOUND SILVICULTURE PRACTICES TO EFFECTIVELY MANAGE YOUR WOODLAND ALLOWS FOR :

Ex. : Cutting down mature trees and diseased trees.

- Continuously improve the **quality** and the **health** of your forest thus increasing its **value**
- Insure the continued **sustainability** and **productivity** of your forest
- Allow for more light and room to promote the growth of young trees
- Rejuvenating your forest and increasing its **Carbon Capture** capacity

In Quebec, as in the Laurentians, the forest is a natural resource which must be protected and fostered. In addition to providing majestic landscapes, it provides habitat for wildlife and plants. It creates a chain of wealth for the regional economy, generating revenue not only to the woodland owner, but also to forestry workers, timber carriers, wood-processing plants workers, furniture manufacturers, distributors and retailers, all this through the use of a renewable material.

Furthermore, an increased use of wood when building in Quebec is a significant contribution towards the fight against the greenhouse effect. The environmental impacts of a house built out of concrete or steel will contribute to respectively generate 26 % and 31 % of greenhouse gases into the atmosphere.

The Environmental Performance of Renewable Materials in the Context of Residential Building Construction. (CORRIM) (2005).

Wood is a renewable resource sustainably managed in Quebec and at its end-of-life could be re-used for new buildings or recycled into by-products (wood fibreboard, mulch or bioenergy production).



GOVERNMENT AND FORESTRY AGENCIES

ORGANISMS	PRESENTATION	SERVICES PROVIDED
Minister of Forests, Wildlife and Parks (MFFP) www.mffp.gouv.qc.ca	Provincial ministry administrator of the forest, wildlife resources and the Quebec national parks	Contribute financially to the development and to the protection of the private forest through various assistance programs.
Laurentian Private Forest Regional Development Agency (ARMVFPL) www.foret-privee-laurentides.qc.ca	Non-profit organization dedicated to the development of the private forests	- Development, implementation and monitoring of sustainable private forest protection and enhancement plans for the region. - Financial and technical support to improve private woodland.
Forestry Engineers and/or Licensed Forestry Advisers	Expert consultants in private forests management	Professional forest management services.
Forestry Group Ventures or Forestry Cooperatives.	Common resources management organizations specialized in private forests management	Technical support and silvicultural work for the woodland owners
Woodland Contractors	Private harvest operation and forestry roadworks companies	Silvicultural works and forestry roadworks, working with or without forestry engineers or licensed forestry advisers.
Alliance des propriétaires forestiers Laurentides-Outaouais www.apflo.ca	Non-profit organization in wood marketing which represents, defines and promotes woodland owners economic and social interests	Negotiates collectively all the marketing conditions for forestry products.

FOREST MANAGEMENT SUPPORT PROGRAMS

PROGRAMS	AGENCIES RESPONSIBLE	DELIVERY AGENT	BENEFICIARIES	PROGRAM GOALS
Managing Private Forests Assistance Program	MFFP* and/or Agency**	Licensed Forestry Advisers	Forest producers (Foresters)	Enhancement of private forest by silvicultural works
Property Tax Refund Program (municipal taxes)	MFFP*	Forestry Engineers or Licensed Forestry Advisers	Forest producers (Foresters)	Enhancement of private forest by silvicultural works
Forestry Funding Program	La Financière agricole du Québec	La Financière agricole du Québec	Forest producers (Foresters)	Forest producers (Foresters) Support financially the forest producers during the acquisition of woodlots and machineries
“Fauna-Forest” Program	Fondation de la faune du Québec	Licensed Forestry Advisers and Wildlife Habitat Conservation Organizations Working in Private Forest	Forest producers (Foresters) and Forest owners	Support the forest owners who wish to protect and to fit out wildlife habitats on their forest and to integrate silvicultural procedures to preserved its biodiversity
Income Averaging Measure (for forest producer)	Owners and Personal accounting services	Revenu Quebec	Forest producers (Foresters)	Have a portion of the net income from certified forestry commercial activities averaged over a period not exceeding seven years.
Fuel Tax Refund	Owners and Personal accounting services	Revenu Quebec	Forest producers (Foresters)	Apply for a refund of tax paid on fuel (gasoline or fuel oil) used to operate a motor vehicle that is used for farming, forest or mining operations and that is registered for use exclusively on private roads.
Forest Operation Tax Exemption	Owners and Personal accounting services	Revenu Quebec	Forest producers (Foresters)	Provincial and federal (10%) tax exemption on net incomes resulting from forest operations up to 65 000 \$

* MFFP: Ministry of Forests, Fauna and Parks

** Agency: Laurentian Private Forest Regional Development Agency

FOREST MANAGEMENT SUPPORT PROGRAMS

» MANAGING PRIVATE FORESTS ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

Managed by the regional forest agencies, this program aims to protect and enhance area of land dedicated to forestry. Assistance is offered to the forest producers recognized for conducting forest operations on private land. To obtain financial support, the forest producer must use the professional services of a forestry engineers or licensed forestry advisers.

Activities financed :

- Technical assistant for silvicultural works ;
- Silvicultural work

Contact the Laurentian Private Forest Regional Development Agency (ARMVFPL) : **819 623-3427** (www.foret-privee-laurentides.qc.ca) or a forestry engineer/licensed forestry adviser.

» PROPERTY TAX REFUND PROGRAM REGULATION

It is a refundable tax credit for registered forest owners who did development work or had development work done, which work has been attested by the report of a forestry engineer and whose value is equal or superior to the amount of the property tax (municipal tax). This program allows to recover up to **85% of the municipal and school taxes** for the woody part of its lots. There is a one-year carry-back of any unused portion of the credit..

For more information, visit the Quebec Minister of Forests, Wildlife and Parks (www.mffp.gouv.qc.ca) website or contact a forestry engineer/licensed forestry adviser

» « FAUNA-FOREST » PROGRAM

Managed by the “*Fondation de la faune du Québec*” (Quebec Fauna Foundation), the «Fauna-Forest» program provides information, technical support and financial assistance to private woodland owners about wildlife resource management and preservation on their property. To benefit from this program, the owners must use the services of an eligible organization.

Examples of financed activities:

- Incorporating a wildlife component to the forest development plan
- Providing winter habitats for the deer in eligible area
- Voluntary preservation of wetlands or other sensitive natural habitats
- Improvement or restoration of wildlife habitats

Go to the “*Fondation de la faune du Québec*” (Quebec Fauna Foundation) website: : **www.fondationdelafaune.qc.ca**

» FORESTRY FUNDING PROGRAM

This program jointly developed with the **Minister of Forests, Wildlife and Parks** and administered by “*La Financière Agricole du Québec*” aims to provide financial support to forest producers when woodlots are acquired.

Examples of financed activities:

- Guidance in the elaboration of a business plan and financial analysis of your project
- Purchase plans for private woodlot / forestry companies
- Machinery / forest equipment acquisition
- Buildings construction / renovation
- Realization of silvicultural work

Contact “*La Financière agricole du Québec*” at **1-800-749-3646** or visit their website: (**www.fadq.qc.ca**)



» OTHER TAX PROGRAMS

The **Income Averaging Measure** offer the possibility to have a portion of the net income, from certified forestry commercial activities, averaged over a period not exceeding seven years.

The **Forest Operation Tax Exemption** is a Provincial and federal (10 %) tax exemption on net incomes resulting from forest operations, making the tax exemption threshold passed from \$10 000 to \$65 000.

The **Fuel Tax Refund** gives a refund of tax paid on fuel (gasoline or fuel oil) used to operate a motor vehicle that is used for farming, forest or mining operations and that is registered for use exclusively on private roads.

<http://www.revenuquebec.ca/fr/entreprises/obligationsparticulieres/operationsforestieres/default.aspx>

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