

FOREST CERTIFICATION

FOR INDIGENOUS COMMUNITIES AND BUSINESSES

At the Sustainable Forestry Initiative, we believe that sustainable forests are critical to our collective future. As an independent, non-profit organization, we collaborate with our diverse network to create forest-focused solutions to local and global sustainability challenges.

SFI'S MISSION:

To advance sustainability through forest-focused collaboration.

SFI'S VISION:

A world that values and benefits from sustainably managed forests.

SFI'S INDIGENOUS RELATIONS COMMITMENT:

SFI is committed to building and promoting forest-focused collaborations rooted in recognition and respect for Indigenous Peoples' Rights and Traditional Knowledge. Every day, we strive to cocreate meaningful change alongside our community partners, while also listening, learning, and growing as an organization to become the best possible partner we can be.

SFI HAS
PARTNERED WITH
AND/OR INVESTED
IN OVER

180
INDIGENOUS
COMMUNITIES

CONTACT SFI'S INDIGENOUS RELATIONS TEAM



KEN PRICE, RFT
SFI Forest Certification
Consultant for First Nations

Contact **Ken Price** for
inquiries about certification.
Ken.Price@forests.org.



ELAINA COX
Coordinator,
Indigenous Relations

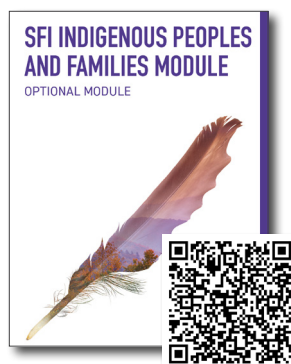
Contact **Elaina Cox** for all
other inquiries.
Elaina.Cox@forests.org.

AUGUST 2025

CERTIFICATION SOLUTIONS FOR FORESTS OF ALL SIZES

SFI INDIGENOUS PEOPLES AND FAMILIES MODULE

The SFI Indigenous Peoples and Families Module offers a pathway for small Indigenous community and family forests to obtain a leading, globally recognized third-party forest certification using requirements that are tailored to their unique needs. The module is built from the SFI Forest Management Standard, but scaled down to focus on requirements that are more relevant to land managers with smaller tenures, making it more accessible for individuals or smaller organizations.



ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS:

To be eligible to certification under the SFI Indigenous Peoples and Families Module, a forest must:

- Be in Canada;
- Not exceed 20,000 hectares under active management for timber production**;
- Be under the management of a resource professional, such as a forester;
- Undergo independent audits by a competent and accredited certification body.

**Small, volume-based tenures and group certifications of multiple small forest tenures are also eligible for certification.

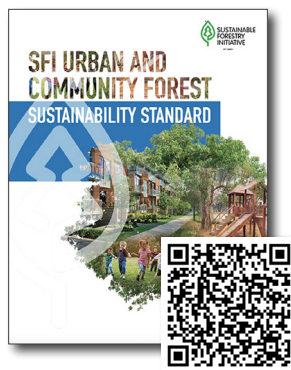


SFI URBAN AND COMMUNITY FOREST SUSTAINABILITY STANDARD

The SFI Urban and Community Forest Sustainability Standard is the first urban forest management certification standard in North America. Through its 16 Objectives, its requirements address the environmental, social, and governance issues that will help ensure the sustainability of our urban and community forests.



The standard offers the option to pursue 4 priority-based thematic certifications. Thematic certifications allow organizations to focus on what is important for them and their community, and increases the accessibility of urban and community forest certification by reducing the requirements compared to certification to the entire standard, and can offer a measured path to full certification.



ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS:

To be eligible for certification under the SFI Urban and Community Forest Sustainability Standard, a forest must:

- Be under the management of a resource professional, such as a forester;
- Undergo independent audits by a competent and accredited certification body.

SFI FOREST MANAGEMENT STANDARD

The SFI Forest Management Standard promotes sustainable forestry practices based on 13 Principles, 17 Objectives, 41 Performance Measures and 141 Indicators. These requirements include measures to protect water quality, biodiversity, wildlife habitat, species at risk, and forests with exceptional conservation value.

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS:

To be eligible to certification under the SFI Forest Management Standard, a forest must:

- Exceed 20,000 hectares under active management for timber production*;
- Be under the management of a resource professional, such as a forester;
- Undergo independent audits by a competent and accredited certification body.

*Large, volume-based tenures are also eligible for certification.

SFI 2022 FOREST MANAGEMENT STANDARD

SECTION 2



THE SFI FOOTPRINT

150+ MILLION CERTIFIED TO THE SFI FOREST
HECTARES MANAGEMENT STANDARD

AND MILLIONS MORE POSITIVELY INFLUENCED BY
THE SFI FIBER SOURCING STANDARD

“Certification puts checks and balances in place for others to measure a company’s ability to be sustainable from an environmental perspective, but with SFI, it’s not just environmental, there’s considerations for First Nations values, and more.”

CHIEF LINDSAY TIGHE

GENERAL MANAGER

STUWIX RESOURCES JOINT VENTURE



NOVEMBER 2025

BENEFITS OF SFI CERTIFICATION & JOINING THE SFI NETWORK



SFI Certification supports holistic approaches to sustainable forest management and the implementation of many Indigenous priorities and values. It includes measures to protect water quality, biodiversity, wildlife habitat, cultural values, and more.

ADVANCING INDIGENOUS PEOPLES' SELF-DETERMINED PRIORITIES

- Certification can be a mechanism to advance Indigenous Communities and businesses' self-determined priorities by developing processes to address key objectives, and then training, reporting, and continuous improvement.
- Standards provide structure while enabling Indigenous Communities and businesses to develop their own processes to manage special sites, cultural values, water, or other values.

SFI CLIMATE SMART FORESTRY INITIATIVE

SFI has funding to support the development and implementation of Indigenous-led climate smart forestry practices and strategies thanks to a \$4.7 million grant from Environment and Climate Change Canada, of which \$2 million is direct flow-through funding to Indigenous Communities and businesses managing forests.

Learn more at forests.org/climate-smart-forestry.

GAINING MARKET ACCESS AND REPRESENTATION

- Many retailers and brands only sell certified products, so certification can provide greater market access through mills and supply chains. Certification's third-party audits and measurable indicators enhance credibility.
- Many carbon registries strongly recommend certification, especially for projects involving improved forest management. Certification adds credibility and trust to carbon offset projects and makes them more attractive to buyers and investors in the voluntary carbon market.
- SFI-certified organizations also belong to regional SFI Implementation Committees that respond to local needs and collaborate with each other, professional associations, universities, government agencies, landowner groups, conservation groups, and many others to discuss best practices and meet Standard Objectives.

BUILDING CAPACITY

- Forest management can create jobs and skill development opportunities for community members.
- Mechanisms to train community members on all the different values that need to be managed and supported when responsibly managing a forest can be implemented.
- Getting youth in the forest can engage them and get them excited about careers in forestry.

Project Learning Tree Canada, an initiative of SFI, offers wage match funds, mentorship, skills training, and networking opportunities for Indigenous young adults (ages 15-30).

Learn more at pltcanda.org.

