



WOODLANDS

POSITIONS IN THE FOREST PRODUCTS INDUSTRY



HEAVY EQUIPMENT OPERATOR

OTHER JOB TITLES: logging machinery operator, feller-buncher operator, saw-log harvesting operator, backhoe operator, bobcat operator, bulldozer operator.

IF YOU WANT GOOD PAY, OPPORTUNITIES TO LEARN ON THE JOB, A GREAT LIFESTYLE AND THE CHANCE TO WORK IN CANADA'S GREENEST WORKFORCE, THEN THE FOREST PRODUCTS INDUSTRY IS RIGHT FOR YOU.

Why green? The forests are a renewable natural resource and the Canadian forest products industry is known for its world-class environmental credentials, including having the most certified forests in the world, and cutting more than 70% of its greenhouse gas emissions since 1990.

The industry offers something for everyone. It's an industry with a reputation for investing in skills training and career growth, and no matter what part of the forest products industry you work in - on the mill floor as a mechanical engineer, or in the forest as a forestry technician - every job is part of the greenest industry in Canada.

Canadian forest product companies will need to hire 60,000, or more, **new workers by 2020** to meet demand and you could be one of them!

DESCRIPTION

In the forest products industry, heavy equipment operators operate machines like articulated haul trucks, tractor-loader-backhoes, excavators, dozers, loaders and graders. Their duties may include assessing sites and terrain. You may also do material handling work - say, stacking lumber and getting it ready for shipping. Being a heavy equipment operator is a fast-paced, physically demanding job that requires attention to detail and good hand-eye co-ordination.

You could also find yourself driving heavy equipment to perform a combination of operations at logging areas, like harvesting sections of trees for processing in a sawmill. To do this, you would operate a \$300,000-feller-buncher machine on a caterpillar track. Manipulating a powerful, but precise, arm with a saw lets heavy equipment operators practise selective, sustainable harvesting.

KEY RESPONSIBILITIES

Heavy equipment operators perform a wide range of technical functions. On any given day, you might operate heavy equipment to:

- harvest and debark trees
- excavate, move, load and grade earth, rock, gravel or other materials
- clear brush and stumps prior to logging
- build roads at logging sites
- move, load and unload cargo

THIS JOB IS RIGHT FOR YOU IF...

- you want to live an oversized life in one of Canada's beautiful forest communities
- a sense of community is important to you
- you want to make a difference working in a green job
- you like the outdoors
- you are a team player
- you like big machines
- you want to work in work boots, not dress shoes

\$ EARNING POTENTIAL



This is the high end of the Canadian average. In some areas, forestry professionals who have earned extra credentials can make more than \$52 per hour.

+ BENEFITS MAY INCLUDE

- Apprenticeships
- Career growth
- Daycare
- Dental and medical plans
- Employee assistance plans
- Pensions
- Ongoing training

EDUCATION AND TRAINING

Generally, you don't need formal credentials to be a heavy equipment operator. Instead, heavy equipment operators rely on accumulated experience to get and keep jobs. In Nova Scotia, operators must be certified, which involves passing a test. In Quebec, you have to pass four exams. In B.C., you need to complete a specific number of trainee hours to be certified. There are numerous training programs across the country. Here is a complete list of Canadian Universities and Colleges: thegreenestworkforce.ca/education

#LIFE'S BETTER HERE

Dare to Compare. See how much time and money you would save by moving to a forest community. Visit thegreenestworkforce.ca/compare