

Resources for Forestry Workers & Rural Communities

The BC Government has developed a suite of supports for workers, communities and First Nations to offset economic impacts from changes in the forest sector.



Ministry of
Jobs, Economic Development
and Innovation



Support for Forestry Workers & Contractors

Program	Description	Who Can Access?	Available Funding	Link
WorkBC Employment Services	WorkBC Centres are located across the province to provide individualized employment services. Services and supports include personal employment planning, job search services and supports, job placement, wage subsidies, skills training and self-employment.	Job seekers in British Columbia	N/A	www.workbc.ca/employment-services Find a WorkBC Centre close to you: https://www.workbc.ca/Employment-Services/WorkBC-Centres/WorkBC-Centres-Listing.aspx
Bridging to Retirement Program	Supports eligible workers willing to voluntarily retire, who have an employer who supports their participation in the program.	Full-time mill workers, forestry-dependent contractors and their employees Aged 55 and older*. Assets to support sector development, and investment attraction.	Up to \$75,000 per worker	www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/industry/forestry/supports-for-forestry-workers/retirement-bridging-program

Support for Skills Training & Development

Program	Description	Who Can Access?	Available Funding	Link
Skills Training for Employment (STE) Program	Provides skills training and employment supports to help unemployed and precariously employed people overcome barriers and obtain sustainable employment. Specifically, the Impacted Workers stream provides skills training and supports to assist individuals impacted by mill closures and shift reductions. The Older Workers 55+ stream assists with training to support older workers overcome barriers to employment.	Unemployed and precariously employed people*	Varies by program. Financial supports may include counselling, mentoring, child-care, transportation, disability supports, work experience, wage subsidies or equipment.	Impacted workers: https://www.workbc.ca/explore-training-and-education/skills-training-and-supports/skills-training-employment-program-0 Broader STE Programs: https://www.workbc.ca/explore-training-and-education/skills-training-and-supports/skills-training-employment-program
Community Workforce Response Grant	Provides funding to communities and sectors to support in-demand occupational skills training in cohorts of 3 or more leading to secure and sustainable employment. The Community Response stream specifically, is dedicated to meet the immediate skills training needs of communities impacted by downturns in the forest sector due to old-growth deferrals, changes in forest management practices, mill closures and curtailments, or other forestry-related issues.	Funding dependent on meeting eligibility requirements.	Up to \$300,000	www.workbc.ca/Employment-Services/Community-Workforce-Response-Grant.aspx

Employer Training Grant	Provides employers with funding to support skills training for employees, including possible new hires. Provides additional flexibility for workers directly or indirectly impacted by a downturn in the forest sector. Employers looking to adapt to new lines of business are eligible for funding to reskill themselves or their employees. Employers can also access funding to train and hire workers from other companies when those workers are at risk of losing their jobs.	Employers in British Columbia (including self-employed workers and contractors)	Covers 80% of the cost of training, up to \$10,000 per employee, with a maximum annual amount of \$300,000 per employer.	www.workbc.ca/Employer-Resources/BC-Employer-Training-Grant/What-is-the-B-C-Employer-Training-Grant.aspx
--------------------------------	--	---	--	--

Support for Communities or Businesses

Program	Description	Who Can Benefit?	Available Funding	Link
BC Manufacturing Jobs Fund	Help manufacturing companies modernize, innovate, and grow by providing grants for capital projects in regional and Indigenous communities (outside of Metro Vancouver and the Capital Regional District)	Businesses, for-profit organizations, entities with for-profit manufacturing operations, including Indigenous and First Nation-owned enterprises.	Business and Project Planning: Up to \$50,000 Capital Projects: Up to \$10,000,000 with an average contribution of 20% of total eligible project costs	gov.bc.ca/ManufacturingJobsFund
Rural Economic Diversification & Infrastructure Program (REDIP)	Supports rural economic development projects that promote economic capacity building, resilience, clean economy opportunities and infrastructure development. REDIP funds projects that strengthen communities, build capacity and diversify rural and remote economies in B.C.	Rural Indigenous and non-Indigenous governments and organizations	Up to \$1,000,000	gov.bc.ca/REDIP
Rural Business and Community Recovery Initiative	Delivered through the Economic Trust of the Southern Interior, Island Coastal Economic Trust and Northern Development Initiative Trust. Recovery advisors support rural businesses and communities and support strategic decision making.	Rural businesses and communities	Varies	www.etsi-bc.ca www.islandcoastaltrust.ca www.northerndevlopment.bc.ca
Community Transition Rapid Response Teams	Deliver on-the-ground economic development and community support services to help with community transition responses.	Local governments Indigenous governments and organizations Non-governmental organizations Private sector organizations	N/A	gov.bc.ca/regionaleconomicoperations

