

# NOVA SCOTIA'S THRIVING FORESTS

## About the program

Nova Scotia's Thriving Forests program supports the province's contribution to Canada's efforts to tackle climate change, promote biodiversity and secure healthy forest ecosystems for future generations.

The province aims to plant up to 21 million trees by 2031 on private and public lands—part of a joint investment announced in August 2024—with funding from the Government of Canada's [2 Billion Trees](#) program.

Thriving Forests, a program administered by Clean Foundation, works with landowners, land stewards, forestry professionals and other contractors to help ensure the right trees are planted in the right spaces. A key focus is leading planning and coordination efforts for organizations and individuals with qualifying projects to receive fully funded trees and planting services.

## Who is eligible to apply?

We welcome expressions of interest on a rolling basis from individuals and organizations who own or care for at least 2.5 hectares of suitable land (about six acres) in Nova Scotia. This includes:

- Private landowners
- Governments (Indigenous, federal, provincial and municipal)
- Organizations and companies (not-for-profit and for-profit)
- Indigenous organizations and communities
- Community land trusts

## **What types of projects are we looking for?**

All projects must take place on at least 2.5 hectares (about six acres) of suitable land that would benefit from having additional trees planted. Projects cannot take place on land where the primary use is timber production.

Eligible projects will focus on afforestation, reforestation, and/or forest restoration for specific habitat goals. Projects will be reviewed, built and scored with criteria and key performance indicators—including but not limited to those listed below.

### 1. Reduction of GHG emissions

- cumulative total number of incremental trees planted;
- cumulative total area planted with incremental trees;
  - annual GHG emission reduction; and,
  - projected long-term GHG emission reduction.

### 2. Achieving environmental co-benefits

- cumulative total area planted that contributes to habitat restoration and conservation related to species at risk and other species of conservation interest; and,
- cumulative total area and number of species planted that contribute to increased forest resilience to climate change.

### 3. Achieving human well-being co-benefits

- number of aggregate direct, indirect and induced jobs created;
- percent of large and medium organization funding recipients that have diversity and inclusion plans; and,
- percent of under-represented groups in the tree planning and related activity workforce of funding recipients.

## **How does the expression of interest work?**

Once we receive an expression of interest (EOI), you will be contacted to discuss your potential project. With the support of our team, projects will continue to be developed and refined. They will then be reviewed for approval by a provincial forestry panel. Submitting an expression of interest does not guarantee funding. To aid in successful applications, projects may be matched together based on regionality.

Qualifying projects will be fully funded to receive trees and planting. Our team will support the sourcing of trees and labour for interested landowners and organizations.

## What are the next steps once an EOI has been submitted?

All applicants will be contacted to discuss their potential project. During this discussion, we will collect more information about your project, such as:

- What is the current state of the proposed planting area(s)?
- What is the long-term plan for the proposed areas?
- Do you have a sustainable forest management plan in place? Are you willing to develop one?
- How will you/we ensure long-term survival of planted trees?
- How will you/we ensure access to sites to monitor their development?

We accept expressions of interest on a rolling basis, with projects being planned 1-2 years in advance of planting.

### Forestry Service Providers and Suppliers

The support of forestry professionals is vital to program success. This includes service providers like tree planting personnel, site preparation services and suppliers of materials and seed stock.

If your organization can support tree planting projects under Nova Scotia's Thriving Forests program, we invite you to join our registry by [submitting your business information here](#).

By joining our registry, your organization can receive new business opportunities to support upcoming planting projects in your service area.

## Contact us

For general inquiries about Nova Scotia's Thriving Forests, please contact:

**Email:** [thrivingforests@cleanfoundation.ca](mailto:thrivingforests@cleanfoundation.ca)

**Website:** <https://cleanfoundation.ca/thriving-forests/>

**Nova Scotia's Thriving Forests is supported by:**

