

IYWEP Assistant Forest Technician

Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry

Ontario Forest Research Institute

Forest Research and Monitoring Section

1235 Queen St E., Sault Ste Marie ON P6A 2E5

Hours per Day: 8 or 10 (compressed schedule)

Hours per Week: 40

Duration: 17 weeks, commencing May 2024

Rate of Pay: \$17.40/hr

MNRF is excited to offer a student **Assistant Forest Technician position as part of the Indigenous Youth Work Exchange Program (IYWEP)**. This position is based at the Ontario Forest Research Institute in Sault Ste Marie, working with the Forest Research and Monitoring Section. This section conducts applied research and monitoring activities and provides advice to help develop forest management policies, practices, and guides to protect Ontario's forests (see Ontario Forest Research Institute at <https://www.ontario.ca/page/forest-research> for details).

To qualify for this position, the candidate must meet the following criteria mandated by IYWEP:

- They must be a student, returning to full-time studies in the fall, or graduated in the past 6 months
- They must be residents of Ontario and eligible to work in Canada.
- They must self-identify as Indigenous. It is not necessary for the participant to be a member of a First Nations community.

The opportunity will include an up to 17 week employee position with the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence (GLSL) program. The GLSL program studies the application of partial harvest silviculture, including selection in tolerant hardwoods and shelterwood in pine, as well as the implications of structural, functional, and taxonomic diversity in forests. We collect overstory and regeneration data from forest experimental sites to address these topics.

Our field-based research takes place across much of central Ontario, including Algonquin Park. This will result in a 14-day cycle with 8 days working away from Sault Ste. Marie, working 10 hours/day and then returning to Sault Ste. Marie for 6 days off. Any field crews are a minimum of 2 people and typically 4-6. Accommodations for field work will be arranged at a variety of motels, cabins or research stations. There will be two weeks where the field crew performs the majority of their work at the OFRI arboretum in Sault Ste. Marie. Lastly, the MNRF will cover the cost of accommodation and food (following Ministry policies) on crew workdays in the field and traveling for locations outside of Sault Ste. Marie.

As an Assistant Forest Technician, you may have the opportunity to work on some or all of the following activities. Assist staff by performing forest-related field, lab, and office work, which may include:

- Identifying tree and other plant species.
- Assessing tree and forest health.
- Establishing studies and trials.
- Collecting and compiling data.
- You will be using technology such as data loggers, Global Positioning System (GPS) units, rangefinders and digital cameras to perform your work.
- Your work will involve outdoor work in inclement weather, often with travel to remote locations.

Note: Mandatory Health and Safety training will be provided.

Requirements and Work Habits for this position include:

Communication and Interpersonal Skills

- You apply your verbal, written, and active listening communication skills to follow directions and seek clarification as required, to record information accurately paying attention to detail, and to prepare a variety of documents (e.g. data records, basic reports).
- You apply your initiative and interpersonal skills to work collaboratively within a team environment.

Technical Skills and Knowledge

- You have some knowledge of tree and plant species in Ontario.
- You have experience reading maps or aerial photographs and navigating with a GPS or compass.
- You apply your knowledge and experience using data loggers and Global Positioning Systems (GPS), as well as Microsoft Office applications, such as Word (word processing) and Excel (spreadsheets) to track, compile, and evaluate information.

Analytical and Organizational Skills

- You apply your organizational and time management skills to plan, organize, and prioritize your work when working independently.

Other Requirements

- You are able to work in an outdoor environment in adverse weather conditions.
- You enjoy being outdoors and are comfortable in the woods.
- You are able to perform work that requires physical activity, including lifting and carrying weighted items in accordance with the Employment Standards Act and Workplace Health and Safety regulations.
- A valid Ontario G2 (or higher) Driver's Licence or equivalent.
- This position requires that you travel to remote locations on multi-day outdoor field trips with shared accommodations.

The deadline to apply is **Monday, March 18, 2023 11:59 pm EDT**. Late applications will not be accepted. **Please send a detailed cover letter indicating how your skills, knowledge, and background qualify you for this position along with your resume to:**

Eric Searle - Research Scientist, eric.searle@ontario.ca

Bridget Trerise – Temperate Forest Research Forester, bridget.trerise@ontario.ca