

Forests Ontario's Annual Conference Addresses Challenges and Opportunities Facing Canada's Forests

- [Forests Ontario](#), together with its national division [Forest Recovery Canada](#), is dedicated to the creation, restoration and maintenance of forest and grassland habitats.
- Tickets are now on sale for Forests Ontario's [Annual Conference](#) on February 28, featuring expert speakers, informative discussions, and valuable networking opportunities.

Barrie, Ont. (January 18, 2024) – Canada's forests are facing extraordinary challenges, including climate change, increased fires, biodiversity loss, and invasive species. As the largest conference in the province about the importance of healthy, resilient forests, Forests Ontario's 2024 Annual Conference will provide opportunities to meet, learn from, and be inspired by those most passionate about our forests.

"Our natural world is facing some of its greatest challenges, including the unprecedented wildfires that raged through Canada's forests last summer. We know there are smart, sustainable, nature-based solutions that support healthy communities and healthy economies. We want people who come to our conference to feel energized and excited by what they can all accomplish together," Jess Kaknevicus, CEO of Forests Ontario and Forest Recovery Canada, says.

The in-person event on February 28, 2024, from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. at [Universal Eventspace](#) in Vaughan. Topics will include hearing and learning from diverse youth perspectives on career development, new forest health tactics for landowners and forest managers, updates on the 2 Billion Trees program and insights into this year's unprecedented forest fires.

While the discussions will appeal to those interested in managing, restoring and conserving our natural environment, as well as everyone who cares about resilient, healthy forests that sustain biodiversity, healthy people and a healthy economy, the real highlight is the diverse and engaging lineup of speakers, including:

- Elder Garry Sault, Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation (Opening session)
- Susy Domenicano, Senior Manager: Policy, Reporting and Outreach for 2 Billion Trees program, Natural Resources Canada (2 Billion Trees: Seeds of Change session)
- Jabee Wu, Fire Crew Leader, Parks Canada (A Cruel Summer session)
- Phil Green, CEO, First Resource Management Group Inc. (Fire and a Wildly Changing Climate session)
- Catherine Langille, Indigenous Relations Coordinator, Sustainable Forestry Initiative (The Power of Youth – Breaking Barriers and Carving New Pathways session)
- Ken Farr, Manager – Science Integration, Natural Resources Canada, and author of "The Forests of Canada" (The Forest's History session)
- Chris Kornacki, President, Wild Hog Farming Company (Calling all Landowners & Forest Managers session)
- To see the full agenda of sessions and speakers, go to [Forests Ontario website](#).

"One of the most unique aspects of this Annual Conference will be our youth session, which will explore diverse perspectives on career development in the forestry sector," Kaknevicus says. "The discussion will focus on barriers faced and what appeals to youth about the sector, including integrating Indigenous perspectives and strategies to engage Indigenous youth."

New for 2024 is a pre-event Evening Social of networking and laughter with comedian Graham Chittenden on February 27 from 6:00 to 9:00 p.m.

Tickets for the 2024 Forests Ontario Annual Conference are available on the [Forests Ontario website](#), with Early Pricing in effect until January 22, 2024.

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For more information or to arrange an interview, please contact:

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About Forests Ontario & Forest Recovery Canada

Forests Ontario is the province's leading charity dedicated to the creation, preservation, and maintenance of forest and grassland habitats. Our ambitious, large-scale tree planting initiatives, extensive educational programs, and decades of community outreach result in millions of trees being planted each year.

Together with our national division, **Forest Recovery Canada**, we work with our many partners across the country to plant native trees and ensure our efforts today thrive and grow into tomorrow's diverse, healthy, and resilient forests.

Visit www.forestsontario.ca or follow us on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [Instagram](#), or [LinkedIn](#) to find out more.

Photo options (continued on next page)



Caption: Parks Canada Fire Crew Leader Jabee Wu, who will be sharing a photographic journey of this past summer's unprecedented wildfires at Forests Ontario's 2024 Annual Conference.



Caption: Chris Kornacki, President, Wild Hog Farming Company (with wife Brandi and their family), who will be talking about integrating strategic tree plantings into actively grazed pastures at Forests Ontario's 2024 Annual Conference.



Caption: Susy Domenicano, Senior Manager: Policy, Reporting and Outreach for 2 Billion Trees program, Natural Resources Canada, who will be discussing the successes and challenges of the Government of Canada's 2 Billion Trees program at Forests Ontario's 2024 Annual Conference.