



Benefits of RPFANS Membership:

This is intended to provide members, and prospective members, with an outline of the benefits that they can expect as a result of their membership in RPFANS.

1. **Professional Recognition:** In the forestry profession, as in other professions, there are those who present themselves to the public as professionals. However they lack the qualifications that the profession considers as essential, to provide professional advice to the public. Only members of RPFANS can legally use the identification as a “Registered Professional Forester”, or its abbreviations, as a professional designation, and thus be recognized by the public as true professionals.
2. **Authority to use a Professional Seal:** Many types of professionals show that they stand behind the quality of their work; and that they are members of a recognized professional association by affixing a seal to the products of their work. As a full active member of RPFANS, you are authorized to use a professional seal on the products of your work. The use of this seal further distinguishes you from all other, less trained individual who may call themselves “foresters”.
3. **Annual Recognition by the Association:** Annually RPFANS places an advertisement which lists all of RPFANS members in a local publication. The association also maintains a list of members on its website. These lists indicate graduate foresters who recognize the need to remain current with the science of the profession, and who are bound by a Code of Ethics to provide, to the best of their ability, their clients with accurate and up to date information regarding the practice of professional forestry.
4. **Inter Provincial Recognition:** The Agreement on Internal Trade establishes mutual recognition, subject to limited limitations, of members of RPFANS by all of the other RPF associations in Canada. If you are not a member of RPFANS and move to a province which licenses its professional foresters (BC, AB, ON, PQ), or you eventually wish to join an association in another province (SK, NB, NL), you will have to go through the entry process, (a review of courses taken, marks achieved, character references, and a period of mentorship and training), just the same as a new graduate would have to do. Being a member of RPFANS now, will avoid you having to undergo the basic entry process at a later date.
5. **Participation in the Canadian Forest Accreditation Board (CFAB):** The forestry program offered by the universities must meet certain standards to receive accreditation. These standards are set by the CFAB, and each university wishing to have a program accredited, must meet these standards. The programs are monitored annually and receive an intensive review every 6 years. RPFANS is

a member of CFAB and thus has direct input to the content, and quality, of forestry programs in Canada.

6. **Participation in the Canadian Federation of Professional Forestry Associations (CFPFA)**. The CFPFA has one member from each of the professional associations in Canada. The CFPFA provides an opportunity for the interchange of ideas and the building of a consensus regarding professional forestry in Canada, including guidance to CFAB. The CFPFA recently completed the Certification Standards for the Practice of Professional Forestry in Canada. This standard will be used to evaluate the capability of individuals to undertake professional forestry activity in Canada. The Standard is intended to be a living document, and thus subject to revision, as the requirements for the profession change. Members of RPFANS can contribute to future versions of this document through their CFPFA representative.
7. **Continuing Education (CFE)**: Your graduation from university was only one step towards you becoming a professional forester. The knowledge and tools required to perform as a professional do not remain constant. The RPFANS, in cooperation with CIF, both sponsors and notifies you of opportunities to participate in continuing education activities. “Word of mouth” may work for some of these events, but just as equally you may miss the event that will have a real impact on your job performance.
8. **Reduced Fees for CFE Events**: While the fees to participate in most CFE events are not high, we all appreciate the opportunity to save. Thus RPFANS and CIF-NS sponsored events are made available to members at a reduced rate. If your employer does not pay for your participation in these events, you will appreciate this benefit.
9. **RPFANS Provides an Established Code of Ethics**. Have you recently thought about “what is ethical conduct in your professional role”? If the answer is yes, this is a good start. But do you know what the profession’s ethical stance would be; and what would other people expect as an ethical response? Membership in RPFANS will help you solve this dilemma, as RPFANS has established a Code of Ethics for all members.
10. **Eligibility for Selected Work**: Over the last number of years a number of forest land owners or managers have been seeking out professional foresters who are members of RPFANS as the only eligible suppliers of professional advice. They have chosen to do this because they know that as a member of RPFANS, you have committed to comply with our “code of ethics”; and that you are participating in a continuing forest education program.
11. **Access to Jobs which require work to be done by a Professional Forester**. While registration and membership in RPFANS is not compulsory in Nova Scotia, there are an increasing number of employers posting contracts, and jobs in which the R.P.F. designation has become either a requirement to bid on the job, or a minimum desirable quality for applicants.
12. **Professional Errors and Omissions Insurance**: The RPFANS has negotiated a package that provides our members with excellent rates on their errors and omissions insurance. This insurance rate is only available to RPFANS members

- because they have demonstrated that they have appropriate qualifications, abide by a code of ethics, and undertake a program of continuing education.
13. **Interaction with Other Professional Foresters.** Membership in RPFANS provides you with easy access to the contact information of other Professional Foresters. Thus if you have questions or need advice relating to a forestry activity, there is a cadre of experienced professionals to whom you can turn for assistance. This interaction is also achieved by the member's participation in CFE events, and frequent emails on matters of interest to foresters from the Executive Director. Further interaction can be obtained by your participation on various committees and by submitting items of interest to RPFANS. These types of interactions all contribute to the development of improved forestry practices in the Province.
 14. **Interaction with Members in Other Specialties.** When times were simpler, a forester would have a pretty good idea how to handle most problems. This is becoming less true every day as the tasks of the profession become more complex and specialized. Today we have foresters with expertise in private land, crown land and industrial land management; foresters with expertise in inventory; soils; law; extension techniques; fire behavior; ecology; and environmental interactions, to mention a few. You cannot be expected to be on top of all of these specialties; but through RPFANS you can tap into the expertise of other RPFANS members.
 15. **Advancement is not only what you know, but also who you know.** Participation in annual meetings and other RPFANS sponsored events will enable you to network with others in your field. This networking is important as it enables others to gain a measure of you; and for you to obtain a measure of them and their employer.
 16. **Notices of Job Vacancies.** Frequently RPFANS will be requested to let members know of vacant positions. These are posted on our website www.rpfans.ca and members are advised of the posting by an email.
 17. **Forestry News.** In our positions it is important to keep up with news that has a bearing on the sector. Some of this is in the local paper, some on the web, some in journals, some from the employer, and some from NGO's. When RPFANS is made aware of news that is pertinent to foresters in the Province, it is circulated to members via email.
 18. **Provincial Legislation and Policies.** RPFANS maintains a section of the "members only" portion of our website that contains most of the provincial legislation, and forest related policies, that govern the practice of forestry in the Province. (always check with local authorities to ensure that the information is up to date)
 19. **Income Tax Legislation.** The Federal Income Tax Act details a number of criteria which must be met to fulfill the requirements of a "prescribed forest management plan". As a member of RPFANS, you will have the entrance requirements of the Association to back up the requirement in the Act, that authors of such plans, must have graduated from a forestry program accredited by the Canadian Forest Accreditation Board.
 20. **Leave a Heritage.** When we were young fresh graduates from university, we thought that we knew it all. Surprise! When we got out in the workforce, we

found that we learned a lot more from “the old guys”. As a new, and younger member of RPFANS, you will be teamed up with a RPFANS mentor who will assist you in obtaining the practical tips required to make the job easier. As an experienced RPFANS member, you will have the opportunity to leave at least a part of your knowledge to the next generation of professional foresters so that they can advance the management of our forests in harmony with nature.

WHY JOIN AN ASSOCIATION

(author: unknown)

You don't buy a newspaper
you buy the news
You don't buy insurance
you buy security
You don't buy glasses
you buy vision
You don't buy awnings
you buy shade
You don't buy membership in an
association....
you buy cooperation of people in
your profession
with whom you can join hands
to do the things you can't do alone