Ontario Forest Policy & Legislative Framework Requirement Policy

The Local Knowledge Assessment (as per our Bylaws) requirement, also called the Ontario Forest Policy and Legislative Framework, is required for all those applying for Full (R.P.F.) Membership and may be required for those applying for Associate (Associate R.P.F.) Membership depending on their prescribed scope of practice. Applicants will be informed of what, if any, training modules they will be required to complete as determined by our Registration Committee.

The Ontario Forest Policy and Legislative Framework are self-directed training modules which are completed online through Lakehead University and consist of two modules. You can register for the modules here:

Module 1 – Development of a Forestry Policy in Canada and Ontario
Module 2 – Application and Implementation of Forest Policy in Ontario
A short follow-up interview will be conducted by the OPFA after the completion of the required module(s).

The Ontario Forest Policy and Legislative Framework <u>will not be required for:</u>

- Past Full or Associate OPFA Members who practiced within the past five (5) years;
- Graduates from a CFAB (Canadian Forestry Accreditation Board) accredited forestry program <u>in Ontario</u> who graduated within the past five (5) years.

<u>Applicants for Full Membership</u>

Module 2 only of the Ontario Forest Policy and Legislative Framework is required for:

- Current Registered Professional Foresters in Canada who are transferring to the OPFA;
- Past R.P.F.s from other Canadian provinces who last practiced less than fifteen (15) years ago;
- Past OPFA Full Members who last practiced more than five (5) years ago but less than 15 years ago;
- Graduates from a CFAB accredited forestry program who graduated more than five (5) years ago, but less than fifteen (15) years ago.
- Graduates from a CFAB accredited program outside Ontario who graduated within the past five (5) years.

All Modules (1 & 2) of the Ontario Forest Policy and Legislative Framework are required for:

- Applicants who have graduated from a program which is not accredited by the CFAB.
- Past Registered Professional Foresters in Canada who last practiced more than fifteen (15) years ago;
- Past OPFA Full Members who last practiced more than fifteen (15) years ago;
- Graduates from a CFAB accredited forestry program who graduated more than fifteen (15) years ago.

Applicants for Associate Membership

When approved as Provisional Members, applicants for Associate Membership will be informed that they are required to complete modules 1 & 2 of the Ontario Forest Policy and Legislative Framework Bridge Training. This includes past OPFA Associate Members who are reapplying for practicing membership who last practiced more than five (5) years ago.

If applicants wish to work within a limited scope of practice, they are able to request an exemption from modules that they do not consider relevant to their scope of practice. In this case, applicants are required to provide information on the legislation and policies relevant to their prescribed scope of practice, and their qualifications and experience in these areas. This document will be provided to the Registration Committee who will consider the request on a case-by-case basis and determine which modules (1 & 2) of the Ontario Forest Policy and Legislative Framework Bridge Training are required, according to the prescribed scope of practice and applicant's experience.

Ontario Forest Policy & Legislative Framework Screening Test

If you already feel you have extensive experience and knowledge in Ontario forest policy & legislative framework and feel you can demonstrate your competency in this area, you may complete the Ontario Forest Policy & Legislative Framework Screening Test. There is no cost to complete this screening test, and an 80% passing grade is required. If you successfully pass the screening test, you will then be required to complete a short follow-up interview.
After passing both the screening test and follow-up interview you will be consider competent and will not be required to complete the required bridge training module(s).
If you do not pass either the screening test or follow-up interview you will be required to complete the required bridge training module(s).

For access to this screening test, please contact the Registration Manager at registration.manager@opfa.ca.