



May 5, 2021

The Minister of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF) announced its continued response to the COVID-19 pandemic through the COVID-19 Forestry Futures Trust Incremental Silviculture Cost Program 2021. Ontario is making \$3MM available through the Forestry Futures Trust to assist with incremental costs for protective measures required for the 2021 tree planting program. Incremental COVID-related costs will be paid, at cost, on a \$/1000 tree basis, according to the following scale:

# Trees Planted/MU/Contractor	Maximum Reimbursement
Up to and including 500,000 trees	\$45/1000 trees + 13% HST
Up to and including 750,000 trees	\$40/1000 trees + 13% HST
Up to and including 1,000,000 trees	\$35/1000 trees + 13% HST
Greater than 1,000,000 trees	\$30/1000 trees + 13% HST

The maximum reimbursement rate reflects a reduction in the budget from \$3.5MM in 2020 to \$3MM this year. The varying scale was developed following consultation with SFL Forest Managers and recognizes the economies of scale afforded by large versus small tree-plant operations. Consideration may be granted to requests that exceed the maximum allowable reimbursement under exceptional circumstances and with appropriate documentation.

Eligible applicants are Forest Managers acting for the benefit of Crown forests, and as designated by MNRF, including SFL-holders, MNRF District Offices for Crown-managed Forest Management Units, and the Algonquin Forest Authority

Eligible costs are those incurred in 2021 by Forest Managers and their contracted service providers that are incremental to normal silviculture program costs, as a direct result of actions taken, and expenses incurred in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. All costs, including staff expenses, must be incremental to costs normally borne by the Forest Renewal Trust. A declaration to that effect will be required in claims made to the Program by Forest Managers.

Attached to this letter you will find the following documents:

1. Application_COVID-19 Incremental Silviculture Cost Program 2021
2. Reimbursement Request_COVID-19 Incremental Silviculture Cost Program 2021
3. Incremental Cost Breakdown for 2021 COVID-19 Invoices
4. Federal/Provincial Sick Leave Programs (information regarding sources of income protection in cases of quarantine restrictions)

Separate applications and reimbursement requests will be required for each Forest Management Unit. Incremental Cost Breakdown for 2021 COVID-19 Invoices forms must accompany reimbursement requests.

Forestry Futures Trust Committee

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Contractors participating in this year's Program will be required to prepare in advance a Covid-19 Costing Plan that provides a detailed breakdown of incremental Covid-19 expenses for each plant and management unit with which they have contracts. The Incremental Cost Breakdown Summary form may assist contractors in developing their plans.

The description and summary of expenses provided in the contractor's Costing Plan must be deemed suitable by the relevant Forest Manager, who will provide a copy of it with their Covid-19 application. It is recommended that Forest Managers should randomly audit planting camps within their Forest against the proposed Costing Plans.

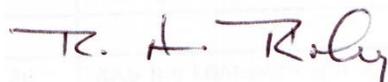
Applications and contractor Costing Plans are due by June 30, 2021. All reimbursement requests must be received by the FFTC office no later than December 15, 2021. To ensure timely reimbursement, it is recommended that contractors submit invoices to the Forest Managers no later than 60 days following the termination of the plant.

Forest Manager claims to the Program must be signed off by an R.P.F. and include copies of contractor invoices. The claim will provide FFTC with adequate information to confirm that costs are new to 2021 and incremental to base costs reimbursable from the Forest Renewal Trust.

Unlike the FFT's regular Silviculture Program, Forest Managers will have the discretion to request the Trustee pay contractors directly. All communications regarding the COVID-19 Forestry Futures Trust Incremental Silviculture Cost Program 2021 and payments will be between the FFTC and the Forest Manager. The FFTC will not communicate directly with contractors.

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact us through Shelley Vescio, FFT Programs Coordinator, directly at shelley.vescio@forestryfutures.com.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "R.A. Riley". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line above the first name.

R.A. Riley, P.Eng., R.P.F. (Hon)
Chair, Forestry Futures Trust Committee