

# Province of Newfoundland and Labrador

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Population: 528,700 <sup>1</sup>

Area: Island – 11,169,300 ha; Labrador – 29,319,600 ha

Forests: Island – 5,172,300 ha; Labrador – 18,054,900 ha <sup>2</sup>

Ownership/allocation of forested lands:

Public: 22,298,112 ha (96%)

Private: 929,088 ha (4%)

Productive forest land available or partially available for harvest:

Island: 2,403,612 ha

Labrador: 5,470,500 ha

Public forest land harvested in 2015: 3,757 ha

Parks and protected areas: 1,862,062 ha

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## 1. Description:

The Newfoundland portion of the province is comprised of forests, wetlands, barrens and water. Newfoundland is the insular portion of the province situated in the North Atlantic ocean. The primary commercial species is black spruce (*Picea mariana*) and balsam fir (*Abies balsamea*).

Central Labrador contains the majority of Labrador's closed canopy forest. This heavy to moderately stocked spruce-fir forest is mixed within a diverse mosaic of vegetation types, such as open sphagnum forest, lichen woodlands, mixed hardwoods (birch, aspen and poplar), black spruce bogs, and a variety of other wetland types. Even though a significant portion of western and southeastern Labrador is forested, only sporadic mosaics of commercial forest stands are distributed throughout area. Northern Labrador is comprised of mainly of low volume stands, non-forested and non-productive area. Only approximately 2% of Northern Labrador has a commercially productive forest. Black spruce is the predominant tree species within Labrador, in general forming about 80% of the total volume, while other boreal species make up the remaining 20%. Labrador has numerous lakes, rivers and streams which play a critical role in shaping its ecology. The result is a unique landscape, highlighting an important relationship between climate, topography, hydrology and vegetation.

The province's main forest product exports are pulp, paper and lumber. There is also a nascent wood pellet industry. Newfoundland and Labrador's largest forest product export

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<sup>1</sup> [Statistics Canada, 2017](#)

<sup>2</sup> Source of all forest area information: *Provincial Sustainable Forest Management Strategy, 2014-2024*

markets are the United States (49%), Brazil (32%) and the European Union (14%). Total forest product export sales in 2012 were \$118 million.<sup>3</sup>

## 2. Forest governance:

### Public lands:

### Permits, plans and licences:

Newfoundland and Labrador's Department of Natural Resources (DNR) issues [cutting, operating and fire permits, as well as timber and mill licences](#). Currently, [Corner Brook Pulp and Paper Limited](#) (CBPPL) is the only tenure holder in Newfoundland and Labrador. In 2013, there were 1670 permits and licences issued for both commercial and domestic sawmills with CBPPL being the only operating pulp and paper mill.

[Forest planning](#) is carried out in 18 Forest Management Districts in Newfoundland and Labrador. Each District is responsible for developing a five-year operating plan, an annual operating plan and a past annual report. Each five-year operating plan is required under the [Forestry Act](#) to be developed after gathering input via a series of public/stakeholder meetings. These plans are subject to the province's [Environmental Protection Act](#) and associated regulations, and must be released under the environmental assessment process before operations can begin. In addition to these planning requirements, a provincial wood supply analysis is conducted every five years. This analysis is a key component of the province's 20-year [Sustainable Forest Management Strategy](#). The strategy is updated every ten years, with the next update to be released in 2024.

### Labrador

The cultural character of Labrador consists of a diverse blend of Aboriginal and non-aboriginal peoples. Currently, DNR is working with the Innu Nation under annual forest agreements, to collaborate on forest management and development in central Labrador. The agreements also provide a framework for the sharing of information and funding. The Innu Nation is presently also in the process of negotiating a land claim agreement with federal and provincial governments.

DNR is working with the NunatuKavut Community Council under an annual forest management consultation agreement, to consult on five-year operating plans, pest management, forest sector industrial development, capacity building and harvesting in central and southeastern Labrador.

Labrador Inuit have a signed land claims agreement with provincial and federal governments which claims aboriginal rights and title to northern Labrador and northeastern Québec. The Labrador Inuit Settlement Area (LISA) totals about 72,500 km<sup>2</sup> in northern Labrador and 48,690 km<sup>2</sup> of ocean area. Within the Settlement Area, Labrador Inuit own 15,800 km<sup>2</sup> designated as Labrador Inuit Lands (LIL). Within the remainder of LISA, outside of Labrador Inuit Land, Labrador Inuit have special rights related to traditional land use and resources. The LIL claims agreement also provides for the establishment of the Torngat Mountains National Park Reserve, consisting of about 9,600 km<sup>2</sup> of land within

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<sup>3</sup> Statistics Canada, 2012. Trade data accessed via the World Trade Atlas, March 2013. Includes Harmonized System codes 44, 47 and 48.

LISA<sup>4</sup>. There are five communities (Nain, Hopedale, Postville, Makkovik and Rigolet) within the settlement area and more than 5,500 Inuit beneficiaries who benefit from the land claims agreement.

In 2010, Canada and the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador announced a commitment to establish a 10,700 km<sup>2</sup> national park reserve in the wilderness area of the Mealy Mountains between central Labrador and the south Labrador coast. Once agreements are reached between both levels of government and Aboriginal groups, this national park will be the largest protected area in Atlantic Canada.

### Parks and Protected Areas

In addition to the two national parks discussed above, there are a variety of other parks and natural areas in Newfoundland and Labrador. The total area in various categories of protected lands includes:

- National Parks: 1,190,490 ha
- Provincial Parks: 36,686 ha
- National Historic Sites: 3,840 ha
- Private Protected Areas: 2,669 ha
- Wilderness, Ecological, Public and Wildlife Reserves: 623,462 ha
- Special Management Areas: 4,913 ha

### Private lands:

Less than four percent of the forest in Newfoundland and Labrador is privately owned. The harvesting of timber from parcels of private land larger than 102 hectares requires that a management plan be approved by government before harvesting takes place. Only three small landholders are subject to this requirement, representing less than one percent of the total forested land base. In addition, municipalities have authority to direct and approve harvesting on privately owned lands within a municipal water supply area.

## **3. Forest management legislation and regulations:**

### Public lands:

Forest management in Newfoundland and Labrador is governed by the *Forestry Act* and associated regulations.

- [Forestry Act](#)
  - [Cutting of Timber Regulations](#)
  - [Directed Sale of Timber Regulations](#)
  - [Forest Land Management and Taxation Regulations](#)
  - [Forest Fire Regulations](#)

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<sup>4</sup> Source: Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development, 2004

- [Forest Fire Liability and Compensation Regulations](#)

### Parks and Protected Areas

The Government of Newfoundland and Labrador establishes and manages six types of [protected areas](#) in the province. Each type is designed to fulfill different conservation and recreation purposes. The legislation and subordinate regulations used to establish these protected areas are listed below.

- [Wilderness and Ecological Reserves Act](#)
  - [Botanical Ecological Reserve Regulations](#)
  - [Fossil Ecological Reserve Regulations](#)
  - [Seabird Ecological Reserve Regulations](#)
  - [Wilderness Reserve Regulations](#)
  - [Little Grand Lake Provisional Ecological Reserve Regulations](#)
- [Provincial Parks Act](#)
  - [Provincial Parks Regulations](#)
  - [Commercial Leasing Designation Regulations](#)
- [Wild Life Act](#)
  - [Wild Life Reserve Big Barasway, Burgeo Regulations](#)
  - [Little Grand Lake Wild Life Reserve Regulations](#)
  - [Wild Life Middle Ridge Reserve Regulations](#)
- [Lands Act](#)
  - [Glover Island Public Reserve Regulations](#)
  - [Main River Special Management Area Regulations](#)
  - [Torngat Mountains Special Management Area Regulations](#)

### Compliance Monitoring, Enforcement and Penalties

The responsibility of enforcing the province's forestry regulations lies with the DNR. Successful forestry management includes adequate enforcement and protection programs. These programs help ensure that the public understands and are aware of the various requirements in using forestry resources in a responsible and sustainable manner.

To carry out enforcement of the legislation and regulations, the DNR has approximately 100 Conservation Officers located at various regional and district forestry and wildlife offices throughout the province. In addition to enforcing the *Forestry Act* and association regulations, Conservation Officers are authorized to enforce provisions of the [Motorized Snow Vehicles and All-Terrain Vehicles Act](#), non-wildlife sections of the [Endangered Species Act](#), the *Wilderness and Ecological Reserves Act* and the [Animal Health and Protection Act](#).

The enforcement tools that are used and penalties that may be levied as a result of enforcement actions are detailed in the [Provincial Offences Act](#) and the [Forest Fire Offence and Penalty Regulations](#).

#### Private lands:

Private landowners rely upon general civic or commercial law to protect their property from trespass or timber theft or to enforce the terms of a business transaction.

## **4. Timber processing legislation and regulations**

Anyone planning to operate a mill to saw timber on public or private lands in Newfoundland and Labrador must first obtain a licence to operate the mill. The licence required will depend on the purpose and the amount of timber to be sawn.

The *Forestry Act* requires all timber cut for commercial purposes, and all timber cut from Crown Lands with royalties owing, to be scaled (measured) by a licenced timber scaler. A Timber Scaling Licence issued under the *Forestry Act* gives a person the authority to measure timber.

The following regulations provide detail on provincial requirements for timber scaling, royalty payments and mill operations.

- [Timber Scaling Regulations](#)
- [Timber Royalty Regulations](#)
- [Mill Regulations](#)

## **5. Other relevant legislation**

### [Plant Protection Act](#)

## **6. Forest Certification**

The certification schemes active in Newfoundland and Labrador include Canada's National Sustainable Forest Management Standard (CSA) (CAN/CSA-Z804 or Z809) and the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC). The sole industrial tenure holder, Corner Brook Pulp and Paper Limited, has 1.419 million ha certified under both CSA and FSC schemes<sup>5</sup>. This represents approximately 29% of the forested lands on the insular portion of the province. The Labrador portion of the province does not have any third-party certified forests.

## **7. Public engagement in forest management**

Department of Natural Resources consults with the public and all stakeholders when developing five-year plans for forest management activities. The public and interested

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<sup>5</sup> [Certification Status Report, Newfoundland and Labrador-SFM-Year-end 2016](#).  
[www.certificationcanada.org](http://www.certificationcanada.org)

stakeholders also have the opportunity to provide their input through the province's environmental assessment process.

There are co-managed lands in Labrador where DNR works with the Nunatsiavut Government. Both governments also work together via the Torngat Wildlife and Plants Co-Management Board to apply sustainable forest management principles.