



**GREAT FOREST PRODUCT IDEAS
DON'T ALWAYS COME FROM THE FOREST.**

Skills Award for Aboriginal Youth



The Forest Products Association of Canada (FPAC) Skills Award for Aboriginal Youth recognizes and celebrates selected Aboriginal youth for their skills development and career aspirations in the revitalized forest products industry.

This award is given to an individual that exemplifies the qualities of strong academic standing, commitment to their field of study and to the revitalized forest products industry, and a demonstrated commitment to the Aboriginal community.

Eligibility Requirements

The individual:

1. Demonstrates strong academic standing; and
2. Is currently enrolled in a post-secondary study program; and
3. Demonstrates a commitment to their field of study beyond academics, such as volunteering or working for the forest products industry; and
4. Demonstrates a commitment to the Aboriginal community; and
5. Is Canadian; and
6. Is First Nations, Inuit, or Métis; and
7. Is between the ages of 18-30 (proof of age required); and
8. Has not won this award in the last 3 years.



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Submission Criteria and Evaluation

The nomination letter (see an example letter in appendix) **should be no longer than 2 pages and must demonstrate:**

1. Your full name, address and contact information (required).
2. Canadian citizenship, Aboriginal status, and age (required).
3. How you are committed to your field of study and a career in the revitalized forest industry. Applicants may wish to highlight volunteer or employment activities.
4. Your commitment to the Aboriginal community.

The submission should also include 2 reference letters:

5. One letter must be from someone in the institution that you are currently enrolled (or the employer in the case of an apprenticeship) and demonstrates your strong academic standing and current enrollment status.
6. Each letter of reference should be no longer than 1 page.

Award

The award winner will receive:

- \$2500
- Travel to receive the award. (Travel for 1 or 2 people, including airfare, meals, and 2 nights' accommodation.)
- A commemorative award.



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Judging

Three judges will be selected by the Forest Products Association of Canada (FPAC) to judge the nominations. All outcomes of the judging process will be considered final.

Nominations for this award, containing the required information as noted above, should be sent to:

Etienne Bélanger

Director, Forestry

Forest Products Association of Canada

99 Bank Street, Suite 410 Ottawa, ON K1P 6B9

Tel: 613-563-1441 ext 386

Fax: 613-563-4720

Email: ebelanger@fpac.ca

Nominations are due October 31st, 2014

Privacy Policy

FPAC is committed to complying with applicable privacy legislation. The information we collect from individuals will be protected in compliance with privacy laws and will not be used for any purpose other than that for which it was collected. We do not share, sell, or supply any of the personal information you supply to us to any third party.

FPAC has a designated privacy officer. If you have any questions or concerns about our privacy policy or practices, contact:

Susan Murray

Executive Director, Public Relations

Forest Products Association of Canada

99 Bank Street, Suite 410 Ottawa, ON K1P 6B9

Tel: 613-563-1441

Fax: 613-563-4720

Appendix: Example Nomination Letter; 2013 Award Recipient



Skills Award for
Aboriginal Youth

Shayna Mason

Street address

City, Prov.

Postal Code

Tel: 123-456-7890

email@adress.org

**Attn: Etienne Belanger, Director of Forestry
Forest Products Association of Canada**

I, Shayna Mason, would like to apply for the Skills Award for Aboriginal Youth. I am a First Nations Canadian citizen of 27 years of age. If required, I can send supporting documents for confirmation.

My commitment to forestry and a career in the revitalized forest industry:

I graduated from the University of Northern BC with a finance degree but had spent summers tree planting and soon realized that I had a passion for forestry. After three years of working as a financial advisor, I decided to leave my career to start over and work towards my dream job of becoming a forester.

To date my leadership development has included sitting on the forestry club executive for both UNBC and U of A, and taking part in FPAC's recruitment video. I was also a member of the winning University of Alberta CIF quiz bowl team. For the past two summers I have worked with West Fraser as a woodlands summer student gaining experience in a wide variety of silvicultural and operational activities.

Moving forward I see many challenges and opportunities ahead for the forest industry and it is my belief that we will only reach the best solutions if we can engage as many different perspectives and values as we can. This past September I attended the annual CIF conference where I had the opportunity to network with professionals from all over the country. The theme for the conference was "Uncharted Waters Revisited", as a student

member of CIF and upcoming graduate, I found this theme very appropriate; In my career, I want to honor the spirit of past forestry leaders while trying to adapt to a changing industry and environment.

In the future I would love to return to Northern BC and be a part of a natural resource team that manages the northern coast. The north coast will face many challenges ahead and I want to help both develop and protect the area while giving back to my traditional band that resides off the coast of Prince Rupert.



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My commitment to the Aboriginal community:

Since I have joined the forestry community I have been working to become an advocate and role model for other aboriginal students to join the profession.

In my experience I have found that many aboriginal communities in Northern BC and along the coast in particular don't trust resource developers. I want to be a part of changing those perceptions and encouraging those communities to become more involved. My parents brought me up in an environment where I was encouraged to think independently and challenged to find solutions. It's only through my participation in the process that I will get to enact the change I want to see; that belief has led me to become an engaged student.

Throughout my activities I have learned that forestry is small part of the solution to many natural resource problems. I truly feel that the industry would benefit greatly from the unique perspective and intimate knowledge of the land that many aboriginal peoples and communities have. Strong alliances will need to be made industry and country wide to build a successful plan for the future of the country.

Thank you for your consideration,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Shayna'.

Shayna Mason