

Valemount Community Forest

Fall 2026 NEWSLETTER

<https://valemountcommunityforest.ca>

College of New Caledonia Field Trip

Valemount Community Forest was pleased to welcome second-year Forestry Technology students from the College of New Caledonia for their annual field trip.

The students visited two different harvesting areas, providing an opportunity to see a range of forest management practices firsthand. The first stop was a partial-cut block with a focus on fisher and bat habitat, where students learned about harvesting practices designed to maintain important wildlife habitat features.

The group also visited a cable-harvesting block that had been replanted following a wildfire, giving students an opportunity to see how forest management and harvesting techniques can be adapted to challenging terrain and how forests are regenerated following disturbance.

For the past five years, VCF has welcomed CNC students for this annual field trip. These visits give students the opportunity to get out of the classroom and experience forestry operations firsthand while learning about forest management in our local area.

The field trip was led by VCF Manager Alana Duncan and contractor Ray Thiessen.

We're pleased to continue supporting hands-on learning and providing future forestry professionals with an opportunity to experience the forest industry and forestry practices in our local community.



2027 Local Grant Applications

Applications will be available beginning October 1, 2026.

A total of \$12,000 is available through the annual VCF grant program. Registered non-profit organizations, community groups, and other entities that demonstrate a clear community benefit are encouraged to apply. Applications must be submitted by **December 1, 2026, at 4:00 p.m.** Late or incomplete applications will not be considered.

Applications will be available online at www.valemountcommunityforest.ca.

For more information, please contact Valemount Community Forest at or **250-566-4610**.

Annual Community BBQ



Valemount Community Forest would like to thank everyone who joined us for our Annual Community BBQ on July 23 at Centennial Park!

Our staff enjoyed spending the afternoon meeting and chatting with members of our community. It was great to see so many familiar faces and be able to connect outside of the office. A very special thank you to Lianne Abbott and her crew from Creekside Outreach Society for catering the event and providing such amazing food!

We would also like to thank VCTV for recording the event, Mayor Owen Torgerson for joining us and speaking, and our VCF Board members who attended and spent time with the community.

Pile Burning

It's that time of year again when VCF begins preparing for the annual burning of harvest waste piles.

As part of responsible forest management, VCF hires a local contractor, Dore River Consulting, to complete waste surveys following harvesting activities. These surveys help monitor harvesting operations and ensure that usable fibre is being utilized and shipped wherever possible, rather than being left in the forest. Once the waste surveys have been completed and submitted to the Ministry, remaining waste piles can be considered for burning.

Burning these piles helps reduce the amount of forest fuel left on the landscape and can lower wildfire risk in harvested areas. Because these burns are classified as Category 3 open fires under the Wildfire Act, VCF applies for the required burn reference numbers before burning takes place. VCF also receives a custom venting index for each block each evening.

This information helps us identify days when weather and atmospheric conditions are suitable for burning. Piles are only lit when forecasted venting conditions are appropriate, helping to reduce smoke impacts and support safe burning conditions. Burning is carefully planned and monitored, and the timing of each burn is dependent on weather, venting conditions, and regulatory requirements.

Thank you to our community for your understanding as VCF completes this important part of responsible forest and wildfire risk management.



Understanding the Cutting Permit Process

Before harvesting can begin, VCF must obtain a Cutting Permit (CP) in the form of a OneCP from the Province of B.C. The process involves planning, field work, an application, First Nations consultations and provincial review.

1. Harvest Planning — 4-6 Months

VCF identifies an area for harvesting and completes the required planning, including road planning, harvest layout, public consultation, First Nation consultation, wildlife assessments, stream and channel assessments, old growth considerations, and terrain assessments.

2. Cutting Permit Application — Submitted to the Province — 6+ Months

Once the planning and field work are complete, VCF submits the Cutting Permit application and supporting information to the Ministry. The Ministry reviews the application to ensure it meets provincial requirements. This process also includes a 60-day consultation period with First Nations.

3. Cutting Permit Issued

Once the application has been approved, the Cutting Permit is issued. The permit identifies the approved harvest area and conditions that must be followed. CPs are only active for 4-years. To maintain a continuous harvesting program, VCF submits an application for the next Cutting Permit before the current permit expires.

4. Harvesting Begins

Once the required approvals are in place, VCF can schedule harvesting and road construction that align with the CP and the Forest Stewardship Plan.

Why does it take so long?

A Cutting Permit is not simply permission to cut trees. It is a detailed approval process designed to ensure harvesting considers wildlife, water, terrain, roads, environmental values, First Nations interests, and forest management requirements.

From initial planning to receiving a Cutting Permit, the process can take a year or more before harvesting can begin.