



**RPLC**  
RURAL POLICY LEARNING COMMONS

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COMMUNAUTÉ D'APPRENTISSAGE  
DES POLITIQUES RURALES

WEBINAR  
SERIES

## Forestry Skills: Thinking beyond current paradigms

Wednesday, March 21, 2018 @ 10:00am CST

To Register click: <http://ow.ly/4HwU30iOKF4>

Questions: [Meghan Wrathall](mailto:Meghan.Wrathall@univ.ca), 819-345-3777

### ABSTRACT

Forestry is an important economic sector. For rural communities, forestry, and the related industries, play a significant role in community health and well-being, as well as influencing the health of the surrounding environment. However, achieving a sustained forestry workforce is recognized internationally as a complex challenge – including changes in the skills and size of the workforce. For example, increasing the human capital of the forest sectors is vital to ensuring the development of forest resources and safeguarding ecosystem services. Changing technology is important to planning and production, but is changing the skill sets demanded by employers. Provision of forestry specific higher education faces multiple challenges as student enrolment to forestry programmes declined over decades which is associated with negative perceptions of the land based sector generally and a lack of awareness of forestry career options. This webinar focuses on workforce development within the forestry sector, presenting findings from research undertaken in the United Kingdom and Canada. You will hear the following presentations:

Dr. Philomena de Lima: 'Mapping and Repositioning Forestry Skills for the 21st Century'-Setting the Context for UK PhD Research.'

Sarah Pohlschneider: 'Thinking in silos, working in split roles – 'Policy impacts' on British forestry professionals' – selected results from a qualitative PhD project looking at skills and recruitment issues of the British forestry sector in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

Sarah-Patricia Breen: Shifting, shortages, and shrinking(?): implications of technology and innovation on the forestry labour force'

### PANELISTS



**Dr. Philomena de Lima** is the Director of the Centre for Remote and Rural Studies, University of the Highlands – Inverness College, located in the Scottish Highlands, UK.



**Sarah Pohlschneider** is a PhD student at the Centre for Remote and Rural Studies, University of the Highlands and Islands – Inverness College and currently writing up her PhD thesis.



**Dr. Sarah-Patricia Breen** is a post-doctoral fellow with the [Conservation of Change Lab](#) at the University of Saskatchewan.

