

Big demand for fallers to meet demand and replace retirees



29% of all certified fallers are 55 years and older

BC needs fallers – men and women who want a challenging and rewarding career doing hard, manual tree falling – to keep up with demand and replace an aging workforce that is retiring.

The BC Faller Certification Program is valuable to workers within a wide range of local industries including forestry and resource-based industry sectors such as oil and gas and mining, utility and urban setting arborists, contractors in transportation and constructions sectors.

The need for fallers exists in areas where terrain conditions (especially steep slopes) do not permit mechanical harvesting, making the demand for fallers particularly high in coastal regions

of BC. The demand for skilled fallers continues to increase as the provincial export of valuable resources grows in areas where mechanical harvesting is not possible. In addition, retirement-based attrition rates require an average of 85 new certified fallers every year.

Only about 8% of certified fallers with the BC Forest Safety Council are 30 years old and under, 47% are 50 years of age and older and 29% of all certified fallers are 55 years and older.

Like every profession, falling is not for everyone. You need the right mindset, work and safety attitude. It is very physically demanding work – you need to be strong, fit and healthy, and like working outdoors in all elements.

Equally important is the right attitude to work safe, be safe and keep everyone else safe on a work site. But if you like that challenge and being in the great outdoors, think you have what it takes to become a successful faller then you might like to consider the possibility of a very rewarding career, which starts with proper training.

“Falling has been a rewarding career for me and my family. I enjoy the physical and financial gains. I look forward to working in the outdoors, planning each day, assessing every tree before it is felled, as well as all the potential risks or hazards and safely controlling them. In addition the satisfaction and pride in a job well done,” said Kevin Legros, a faller for more than 20 years.

New Faller Training is a seven-month intensive training program designed to provide participants with the train-

ing, skills and knowledge required to achieve certification and entry level employment as certified and qualified fallers within many industries. After successful completion of the initial 30 days of training, up to 180 days of falling work experience is required in preparation for the faller certification exam. During this time the new fallers will be under the close supervision of an experienced falling supervisor until they are ready for their exam. It is the supervisor who determines if the new faller is ready for the exam. Certification exams are arranged through the BC Forest Safety Council and are conducted by a Qualified Supervisor Trainer.

For all training courses offered, please visit <http://www.bcforestsafe.org/node/2384>