

# Medway Community Forest Cooperative Ltd.

## Strike Team Member Job Posting

May 2024



**Position Title:** Hemlock Woolly Adelgid Strike Team Member

**Location:** Caledonia, NS

**Term of Contract:** As early as June 3 – November 29, 2024 (recurring seasonal contract to November 2026)

**Hourly Wage:** \$24.00/hour, up to 37.5 hours/week

### Background

The Medway Community Forest Co-op (MCFC) is Eastern Canada's first community forest based in the rural community of Caledonia, Nova Scotia. Our primary aim is to support local communities through sustainable and ecologically-based forest management. On a daily basis, the MCFC sustainably manages a 15,000 hectare Crown Land license area using practices that reflect ecological and multi-value forest management.

The MCFC's Hemlock Conservation Program is an initiative launched to preserve and protect Nova Scotia's hemlock forests. These forests are rapidly declining due to the Hemlock Woolly Adelgid (HWA), an invasive insect species that has caused extensive damage to hemlock stands throughout the Eastern United States and now impacting Eastern Canada.

Our Strike Team mitigates the impacts of HWA through monitoring, management practices, and community outreach. We use insecticides and silvicultural practices to protect hemlock trees from HWA infestations and promote their continued survival. The project is a collaborative effort between the MCFC, government agencies, academic institutions, and conservation stakeholders, and aims to raise public awareness about the importance of hemlock forests and ensure their continued survival. The HCNS project is funded to November 2026, offering 8-month recurring work terms over the next 3 years.

### Job Description

As a member of the Strike Team, your primary responsibility will be to apply pesticides safely and efficiently to protect old-growth hemlock trees across southwestern Nova Scotia. The successful candidate is competent in forest navigation and be able to work in inclement weather and site conditions. Every Strike Team member must possess or be willing to obtain a pesticide applicator certification. By joining the team, you will play a significant role in preserving our natural environment while also gaining valuable field experience.

The Team Member is responsible for supporting field operations and maintaining equipment under the direction of the HWA Project Coordinator and Strike Team Lead. The position entails a range of duties, including:

- Working in accordance with safe work practices and pesticide label instructions, completing HWA treatments in candidate stands using a variety of treatment applications.
- Assist with the safe cleaning, maintenance and storage of treatment equipment.
- Complete stand prioritization surveys and canopy health assessments in candidate treatment areas as required.
- Utilize data collection tools to track treatments including Survey 123 & Field Maps applications.

- Support volunteer efforts and public outreach events as required.

**Preferred Education and Experience:**

- Preference given to an individual with a technical diploma in forestry, natural resources or environmental technology, but individuals with varying education and experience who can demonstrate they meet the requirements of the position are encouraged to apply.
- 1-2 years of experience working in forestry or natural resources sectors.
- Demonstrated competence canoeing or paddling.
- Experience utilizing data collection smart phone applications.
- Experience navigating in remote areas.
- Ability to identify Wabanaki-Acadian Forest tree species.

**Other Requirements:**

- Willingness to travel to remote locations and camp overnight when necessary
- Nova Scotia Class 5 Driver's License
- Nova Scotia Wilderness First-Aid training (preferred) or Nova Scotia Emergency First Aid
- Willingness to work in inclement weather and in challenging site conditions
- Ability to lift heavy items
- Ability to work weekends and/or a condensed work week
- Willingness to commute to the Caledonia area daily

**Additional Information:**

**Compensation:** The Team member wage will start at \$24/hour with an annual raise budgeted for returning employees. Strike Team Members work a minimum a condensed schedule of 37.5 hours over a 4 day week and are paid on an hourly basis.

**Benefits:** The MCFC offers Strike Team members are paid out vacation at 4% and provided with 4 sick days throughout the field season in addition to statutory and public holidays. Members are expected to keep a well-functioning smart phone and are compensated for monthly use. Per diems are provided for any overnight or extended travel.

**Other conditions:** All Strike Team Members are required to work a flexible schedule that follows weather conditions. Several overnight wilderness stays either camping or in cabins will likely occur. Breaks in employment may also be required during long periods of heavy rain or drought.

**Location:** Based out of the MCFC office in Caledonia, NS and various sites across southwestern Nova Scotia. Applicants must be willing to travel to Caledonia at their own expense every day.

**Start Date:** The 2024 term will commence as soon as possible, or March 1. Subsequent terms will be from March-November.

**Submission:** To apply, please forward your resume and cover letter to [maryjane@medwaycommunityforest.com](mailto:maryjane@medwaycommunityforest.com). Applications must be submitted electronically as a single PDF and will be accepted until the position is filled.

The MCFC is an equal opportunity employer and encourages applicants from a diversity of backgrounds, or who self-identify as part of an underrepresented group to apply. We thank all applicants for their interest, however only those selected for an interview will be contacted.