



Cumberland House Cree Nation
P.O. Box 220
Cumberland House, SK, S0E 0S0
Phone: (306) 888-2226 Fax: (306) 888-2084

For Immediate Release:

Cumberland House Cree Nation, Cumberland Wood Products, and Project Forest Plant 4,000 Seedlings in a New Community Forest Project

Announcing the Development of the “Project Forest - Cumberland House Cree Nation Food and Medicine Forest”; a Two-Hectare Community Forest Project in the Community of Cumberland House Cree Nation

Cumberland House Cree Nation, SK., June 9th, 2022 – Cumberland House Cree Nation and Cumberland Wood Products, in conjunction with Project Forest and the 2 Billion Trees Program, announce the planting of over 4,000 food and medicinally significant plants and shrubs as part of the development of two-hectare Community Forest on Pemican Portage. This forest will provide community members plants which were traditionally used, re-introducing them back onto the landscape.

This project reinforces Chief Rene Chaboyer’s long-term vision for the sustainable development of his community and the protection of the Saskatchewan River Delta.

"This Community Forest Project supports Cumberland House Cree Nation’s broader vision of restoration and conservation of the many services the Saskatchewan River Delta provides, while also providing our community members with traditional plants for food and medicine."

– Chief Rene Chaboyer, Cumberland House Cree Nation

After identifying that Cumberland House Cree Nation’s nearby forests lacked plant species such as Wild Rose and Raspberries, Executive Director of Project Forest, Mike Toffan, and his team, developed a plan with community members to introduce those species back into the community forest for the use of future generations.

"To have the opportunity to work with 20 local community members and plant 4,000 seedlings was very special for myself and for Project Forest. The Raspberry, Saskatoon Berry, Honey Suckle, Wild Rose, Strawberry, and Blueberry seedlings we planted with the community will last for generations and be available to the grandchildren of those who helped put them in the ground."

– Mike Toffan, Project Forest

June 9th's planting of 4,000 seedlings is the first phase in the development of the Cumberland House Cree Nation Community Forest, with an estimated 26,000 additional food, cultural, and medicinally significant plants to be planted on 15 hectares in 2023. The first phase of the project employed 20 Cumberland House Cree Nation community members for site preparation and seedling planting, with executive leadership from Cumberland Wood Products and Project Forest also participating. An additional 500 White Spruce seedlings, donated by Dunkley Lumber, were also planted in the day’s activities.

Further media inquiries can be directed to Courtney Sevigny at csevigny@climatesmartservices.ca