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Construction of the Forest Research Institute (IRF) Pavilion

ROUYN-NORANDA

Investment:
\$20 million

FUQAT contribution:
\$2 million

THE PROJECT

The Forest Research Institute (IRF), located in the heart of the boreal forest, has a massive open-air laboratory, and a wide network of partnerships with users of the forest territories in Quebec, Canada, and abroad. The IRF's mission is to contribute to the creation, transmission and mobilization of state-of-the-art knowledge that allows an understanding of, and responses to, global changes in the ecosystems formed by forest lands.

Founded in 1987, the IRF is now at a crossroads. The vastness of the lands covered, the strong growth in research and partnerships, as well as the sustained increase in the student, instructor, and researcher populations mean that the organization must equip itself with new teaching and research infrastructure to create a meeting place, enhance the synergy between members of its community and regional communities, and sustain its growth.

UQAT is therefore undertaking the construction of a new, 3,200 m² building entirely under the IRF's control. It will include office and meeting spaces, spaces for interdepartmental conferences, dedicated space for laboratory work, and spaces to accommodate short-term stays. The new pavilion will also contain spaces open to the public where schoolchildren, naturalists, and citizen scientists will be able to come together and study the diversity of life present in the Abitibi-Témiscamingue region.

TIMETABLE

Start of construction :
2024

Anticipated occupancy :
2025



THE OPPORTUNITY

Whether in ecology, biodiversity, paleoecology, dendroclimatology, forest ecophysiology, carbon sequestration, forest genetics, sustainable forest management, silviculture and wood production, or in the valorization, characterization, and transformation of wood, the IRF has extensive multidisciplinary and internationally recognized expertise.

The IRF can also rely on its Lac Duparquet Teaching and Research Forest, (FERLD), with its unique research equipment, also home to the International Research Laboratory on Cold Forests.

With its six Research Chairs and seven research laboratories, and some 10 research projects in progress, more than 200 graduates from more than 10 countries, the IRF is a leader in its field. It generates more than \$4 million in research annually, in addition to training highly qualified personnel for the sector. Students and researchers from a dozen countries come here to work.

The IRF is positioning UQAT as a world-class research leader in this niche of expertise. This leadership needs to be supported, and its efforts enhanced.

IMPACT

- Construction of a new building will consolidate the IRF in Rouyn-Noranda, providing all of its staff and students, who are currently spread throughout the territories in which it operates, with a central meeting place.
- The reason to build this pavilion is to increase synergy and the emergence of ideas between team members and students, promote collaboration between professors in related fields and invigorate discussions, inside the institute and in the wider community. The pavilion will also house the Nordic biodiversity laboratory, where the public, schoolchildren and citizen scientists will be able to discover the wonder of the flora and fauna living in our boreal territory.
- With the construction of this new building, the feeling of belonging, already very strong for students of the IRF, will be reinforced. Providing them with an ideal, even more user-friendly space will be a vector for further success and commitment.
- With all of its research projects and close ties to the community, the IRF provides significant benefit to many sectors. Truly located in the heart of the boreal forest, the institute works closely with many community partners, including the forest industry, the mining industry, environmental organizations, government departments, planners, and others.
- This close collaboration with communities makes profitable alliances possible, which means that research project results can be directly transferred to industry.
- This proximity to the forest makes it easier for students to understand the implications and concrete benefits of their research work, whether they are economic, environmental, or social in nature.
- Lastly, this new pavilion will help to further reinforce the IRF's visibility as a leading teaching and research institution around the world.