



EFFECTS OF SILVICULTURAL TREATMENTS ON HARDWOOD REGENERATION

FOREST RESEARCH INSTITUTE – UQAT

Project description: In the context of climate change, silvicultural practices play a key role in forest regeneration and adaptation. This project aims to assess how different silvicultural treatments influence the regeneration of yellow birch and red maple at their northern range limits. *It relies on experimental forest sites to evaluate how canopy opening gradients and soil disturbances affect seedling establishment and regeneration dynamics.* Particular attention will be paid to the conditions that promote species persistence or replacement depending on ecological context. This project directly addresses applied forest management challenges and contributes to the development of adaptive silvicultural practices. It includes strong interactions with forest *professionals* and institutional partners, including the Québec Ministry of Natural Resources and Forests. *This is a two-year research-based MSc with thesis, supported by a scholarship of at least \$21,000 CAD per year, which may be increased depending on the candidate's profile and eligibility.*



Research environment, supervision and values: The MSc will take place within a forest ecology research group in a dynamic and collaborative environment. The student will be supervised by Valentina Buttò (Professor, IRF-UQAT), with a committee including S. Bédard (Research scientist, MRNF), F. Girard (Professor, Université de Montréal), and Y. Bergeron (Professor, UQAT), providing complementary expertise in silviculture, forest ecology, and forest management. Supervision emphasizes regular, structured, and supportive mentoring, fostering autonomy, critical thinking, and the ability to complete a research project through to publication. We are committed to fostering an inclusive, respectful, and collaborative research environment and value diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility (DEIA).

Profile and training: We are looking for a candidate interested in applied forest research, with a background in forestry, ecology, or a related field. The project is well suited for someone who enjoys fieldwork, is rigorous and curious, and can work both independently and as part of a team. During the MSc, the student will develop research autonomy and contribute to all stages of the project. The work will lead to a thesis and offers the opportunity to contribute to a scientific publication. By the end of the program, the student will have gained strong experience in applied forest research and silviculture.

Application materials: Please submit a CV, a cover letter, transcripts (unofficial copies accepted), and the contact information of two referees to: valentina.butto@uqat.ca



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