

**POSTDOCTORAL POSITION IN FOREST ECOLOGY AND MANAGEMENT – 18 MONTHS,
RENEWABLE**

**REPRESENTATIVITY OF OLD-GROWTH BOREAL FORESTS UNDER NATURAL AND
ANTHROPOGENIC DISTURBANCE PRESSURES**

Project summary:

The boreal landscapes of eastern Canada were historically dominated by old-growth forests—late-successional stands composed of multiple tree cohorts, shaped by disturbances of low to moderate severity. Since the early 20th century, however, old-growth boreal forests have undergone extensive regression and fragmentation due to large-scale industrial forest management. This pressure is expected to intensify as climate change increases fire frequency and severity.

The impacts of harvesting and wildfires on old-growth forests are not uniform. Logging activities tend to target the most productive stands, resulting in an overrepresentation of low-productivity forests among the remaining old-growth stands. Conversely, fires may locally lose intensity due to topography, leaving unburned refugia. These dynamics raise key questions about the representativity of remnant old-growth forests within managed or burned landscapes. Such knowledge is essential for sustainable forest management—for example, to identify old-growth stands most at risk of disturbance and those with particular refuge value.

The objective of this project is to leverage newly developed predictive models of forest age in mixed boreal forests to identify selection patterns of anthropogenic and natural disturbances affecting old-growth stands, in relation to their successional stage, environmental conditions, and productivity. The resulting insights will help identify potential gaps in the distribution of old-growth remnants within managed areas, as well as the old-growth stands most likely to serve as fire refugia.

Project start date:

Starting as early as Winter 2026 session (January–April)

Candidate profile:

We are seeking a highly motivated researcher passionate about forest ecology and management. A Ph.D. in forestry, ecology, biology, remote sensing, or a related field is required. In addition to academic excellence, we value curiosity, creativity, autonomy, and strong teamwork skills. Shortlisted candidates will be contacted for an interview.

Salary:

An annual salary of CAD \$60,000, including benefits, will be offered. The position is for 18 months, with the possibility of renewal.

Location and supervision:

The selected candidate will be based at the Forest Research Institute (IRF), Université du Québec en Abitibi-Témiscamingue (UQAT), Rouyn-Noranda campus, under the supervision of Dr. Maxence Martin, specialist in the ecology and management of old-growth forests.

Requested documents:

To express your interest, please send a letter of interest and a CV, along with copies of your academic transcripts (unofficial copies accepted) and the contact information of two references to Maxence Martin (maxence.martin2@uqat.ca)

Maxence Martin – Professeur en écologie forestière appliquée/Professor in applied forest ecology

Institut de recherche sur les forêts (IRF) | Forest Research Institute

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Merci de votre collaboration.