



Forest Resource Improvement

Association of Alberta

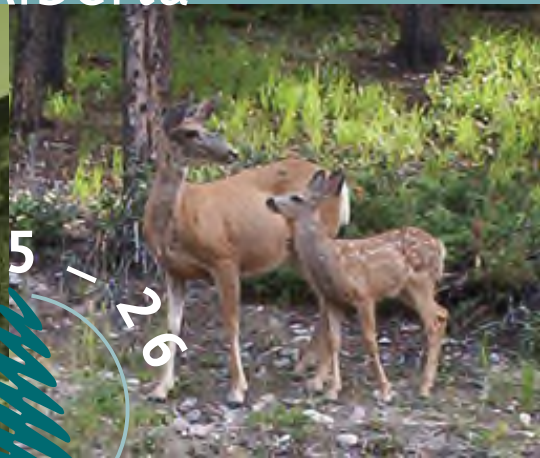






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A fish attempts to jump the falls at Lundbreck Falls, on the Crowsnest River near Pincher Creek, near a Community Fireguard Program project.



Wood bison (*Bison bison athabascaae*) from the Hay-Zama wood bison herd, near Zama, as observed during a project field inspection in the Caribou Habitat Recovery Program

President's Message

The past year has been busy and very successful for the Forest Resource Improvement Association of Alberta (FRIAA). We are proud to acknowledge the meaningful progress made by the forest sector in advancing sound and sustainable forest management across Alberta using FRIAA funds.

FRIAA continues to play a vital role in forestry by bringing together diverse voices and talents to tackle the complex challenges facing forest management. The collaboration we see between government, industry, academia, NGOs, and professionals is not only strong; it's exceptional. No other organization has been able to foster such effective partnerships across these groups as FRIAA has.

The Forest Resource Improvement Program (FRIP) remains a cornerstone of this success. Through FRIP we support long-term initiatives that strengthen Alberta's forestry future. FRIAA is proud to have re-instated the FRIP Funds Initiatives, more commonly known as Open Funds, for this fiscal year, with two calls for expressions of interest, one specifically related to wildfire management knowledge transfer, and the second broadly related to enhanced forest management. FRIAA's commitment to a well-thought-out strategy for the responsible use of funds collected is allowing Alberta's forestry community to plan for a longer term and to address broader, more complex challenges.

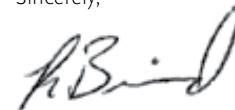
FRIAA is pleased to support the Minister of Forestry and Parks in areas that the Ministry considers to be priorities by administering programs like FRIAA FireSmart, Community Fireguard, and various reclamation and reforestation initiatives. These are essential to protecting communities and landscapes alike.

FRIAA is committed to ensuring that Albertans receive value from its programs and program funds. Activity measures for each program, such as the number of projects, areas treated, seedlings planted, and funds disbursed, are important, useful, and presented in our annual report.

All FRIAA's accomplishments are a direct result of the contributions of our members, partners, and grant recipients. We extend our sincere gratitude to our members, who engage in the practice of forestry every day. Your dedication and innovation in developing impactful project ideas ensure that FRIAA's funds are used wisely and for the greatest public benefit.

Thank you for making 2025/26 a year of meaningful achievement. We look forward to continuing this important work together.

Sincerely,



Richard Briand, President
Forest Resource Improvement Association of Alberta (FRIAA)



Report on Business Plan Objectives

FRIAA establishes and administers programs and initiatives for the enhancement of Alberta's forest resources in accordance with the Forest Resources Improvement Regulation under the *Environmental Protection and Enhancement Act* and the *Forests Act* (Alberta Regulation 152/1997).

FRIAA's purpose and objectives are to establish programs and initiatives that

- enhance the forest resources of Alberta,
- promote the enhanced management of the forest resources of Alberta,
- improve the sustained yield of the forest resources of Alberta,
- promote integrated resource management, and
- reforest public land using reforestation levies collected by FRIAA or cash and securities transferred to FRIAA.

As a delegated authority that reports to the Minister responsible for forestry, FRIAA also supports the Province's priorities as described in the Government of Alberta's 2026–29 Strategic Plan as well as the ministry business plans for Forestry and Parks, Environment and Protected Areas, and Indigenous Relations.

FRIAA's five-year business plan (April 1, 2025, to March 31, 2030) was prepared to guide the association's activities over the past year (and subsequent years) as it looked to fulfill its mandate and support the government's strategic direction through forest resource improvement initiatives.

FRIAA's programs supported the following specific ministry outcomes and objectives:

Department	Key Objectives Related to Forest Resources
Alberta Forestry and Parks	<p>Outcome 1: Effectively steward Alberta's provincial Crown lands and forests</p> <p>Outcome 2: Timely, transparent decisions support sustainable forestry, natural resource, and Crown land recreation economic opportunities</p> <p>Outcome 3: Albertans and visitors enjoy safe, accessible, and sustainable Crown land recreation experiences</p> <p>Outcome 4: Wildfire management promotes safe and resilient communities and healthy, productive forest ecosystems</p>
Alberta Environment and Protected Areas	<p>Outcome 1: Environment and ecosystem health and integrity support the well-being and safety of Albertans</p> <p>Outcome 2: Sustainable economic development is achieved within environmental capacity</p>
Alberta Indigenous Relations	<p>Outcome 1: Economic development and social and cultural revitalization of Indigenous Peoples, organizations, and communities are supported through programs and services</p> <p>Outcome 2: Indigenous communities are consulted and engaged on land and natural resource management decisions</p> <p>Outcome 3: Government of Alberta ministries are provided advice and guidance to develop and advance programs, initiatives, and policies that reflect Indigenous perspectives and support reconciliation</p> <p>Outcome 4: Relationships with Indigenous communities and organizations are created, maintained, and strengthened</p>

All of FRIAA's programs support these objectives and priorities:

- The Forest Resource Improvement Program (FRIP), Community Reforestation Program (CRP), Mountain Pine Beetle (MPB) Program, Wildlife Reclamation Program (WRP), Enhanced Reforestation of Legacy Disturbances (EnRLD) Program, and Caribou Habitat Recovery Program all support sound and effective stewardship of Alberta's provincial Crown lands and forests; support environmentally sustainable forestry, natural resource, and tourism economic opportunities; and promote safe and enriched public outdoor recreation experiences. These programs target priority themes and strategies related to integrated resource management and enhanced sustained yield.
- FRIP and the MPB, WRP, EnRLD, and Caribou Habitat Recovery programs all support environmental and ecosystem health and integrity, contributing to Albertans' well-being and health. All FRIAA programs also help ensure that economic development is achieved within environmental capacity. A focus on forest health and productivity contributes to sustaining our forest environment while creating economic development opportunities.
- All programs respect and include Indigenous interests in the provision of funding, either through direct support or by including Indigenous traditional knowledge, interests, and services in project design. Programs aimed directly or indirectly at Indigenous inclusion strengthen forest management and opportunities for Indigenous community involvement in forest management.

- The FRIAA FireSmart and Community Fireguard programs provide funds for projects that help improve wildfire management in relation to community protection and help communities take measures to mitigate the risk of impacts from wildfire. Wildfire management and risk mitigation has become a greater priority for the province over the past 10 years, and FRIAA strongly supports programming in this area.
- The work funded by FRIAA through its programs support the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) report, Call for Action #92ii: Ensure that Indigenous peoples have equitable access to jobs, training, and education opportunities in the corporate sector and that Indigenous communities gain long-term sustainable benefits from economic development projects.
- FRIAA's programs, through project funding, also support other ministries such as Advanced Education; Arts, Culture and Status of Women; Education; Jobs, Economy and Trade; Technology and Innovation; and Tourism and Sport.

“Three Sisters” trio of iconic peaks, as observed behind a fireguard construction and fuel reduction project in the Bow Valley near Canmore, in the Community Fireguard Program





Report on Program Activities

The following section highlights key activities and results for each of FRIAA's eight programs for fiscal year 2025–26.

Common cattail (*Typha latifolia*) is a prominent wetland plant native to Alberta wetlands where multiple ecosystem services function, as observed on a Forest Resource Improvement Program field tour.

Forest Resource Improvement Program (FRIP)

FRIP is funded entirely by the forest industry through FRIAA dues, which form a part of stumpage assessed on the harvest of Crown timber. FRIP-funded projects are aimed at enhancing Alberta's forest resources for the benefit of all Albertans, which can be accomplished in various ways. FRIP has a broad scope to address many aspects and approaches to forest resource improvement.

FRIP project activities must not be a requirement of a disposition-holder as defined in legislation, terms of tenure agreements, or provincial policies, and projects must benefit at least one forest resource. They are associated with projects over and above Alberta's baseline, sound, and sustainable forest management framework. FRIP projects represent effective tools for government, industry, academics, communities, and contractors to collaborate and work toward a greater purpose.

Since its inception in 1997, FRIAA has invested over \$708 million in FRIP funding toward forestry projects that enhance Alberta's forests and improve the management of Alberta's forest resources. Expenditures on FRIP projects in 2025–26 totalled \$59 million, and another \$197 million was committed to ongoing projects. FRIAA has developed a special FRIP Strategy to address the large inflow of funds over the previous two years and is active in encouraging new projects that address strategic challenges facing forestry today and in the future.

Theme	Project payments in 2025–26	Active projects	Current commitments
Integrated mountain pine beetle / wildfire management	\$ 1,557,570	7	\$ 1,151,563
Species at risk / wildlife	\$ 5,342,475	32	\$ 17,318,894
Indigenous relations in enhanced forest management	\$ 11,460,482	43	\$ 30,060,003
Public engagement, awareness, and education	\$ 10,023,096	76	\$ 28,265,585
Enhanced forest productivity	\$ 30,733,100	163	\$ 120,748,498
Total	\$ 59,116,722	321	\$ 197,544,542

Project expenditures in FRIP were \$59 million, the highest in FRIAA's history. This amount reflects FRIAA's intentional effort over the past three years to put FRIP funds to work for all Albertans.

Community Reforestation Program (CRP)

The CRP provides for the reforestation of areas harvested by timber permit-holders required to pay the reforestation levy and small quota-holders with annual harvest levels under 10,000 m³ per year who choose to pay the levy. The CRP is funded entirely by reforestation levies paid directly to FRIAA by industry. FRIAA has been achieving sustainability goals for 42,977 hectares (ha) of cutblocks harvested since May 1, 2000. These results clearly demonstrate that the CRP is meeting its reforestation objectives, sustaining yields, and contributing to public priorities.

The CRP is highly efficient and effective at ensuring full reforestation of areas harvested by small timber operators and permit-holders throughout Alberta.

Harvested area within the CRP (ha)	CRP reforestation completed (ha)	Active treatment area (ha)
42,977	28,011	14,965

Activities in 2025–26	Area/unit
Site preparation	90.2 ha
Planting (area)	1,321 ha and 1,563,832 seedlings
Tending	54.2 ha
Regeneration surveys	3,477 ha

Wildfire Reclamation Program (WRP)

Since 2006 the WRP has supported reforestation and reclamation activities related to previously reforested cutblocks damaged or destroyed by wildfire. As of March 31, 2026, 66,625 ha of reforested cutblocks damaged or destroyed by wildfires were being retreated and were expected to fully meet provincial standards.

In 2017–18 the WRP was renewed for a further 10 years, and FRIAA has been able to continue committing funds to support efficient post-wildfire reclamation and reforestation activities. The program requires participants to carry out silvicultural treatments to meet provincial standards.

As of March 31, 2026, 79 approved WRP projects were active, with outstanding commitments of over \$73.2 million. Work carried out under this program has been extraordinary as funds are directly allocated to forest resource improvement and long-term forest sustainability.

Activities	2025–26	Since inception
Site assessments	17,075 ha	66,625 ha
Site preparation (mechanical/chemical)	4,293 ha	28,099 ha
Planting (area)	19,753 ha	67,084 ha
Purchase of seedlings	30,177,240 seedlings	100,977,645 seedlings
Vegetation control	1,112 ha	15,194ha
Regeneration surveys	2,251 ha	39,483 ha

The WRP helps sustain Alberta's forests in the wake of wildfire.

Mountain Pine Beetle Program (MPBP)

The MPBP was established on April 1, 2007, to support activities aimed at controlling the mountain pine beetle (MPB) infestation of Alberta. Funding is provided by the Province and managed by FRIAA. This program has allowed industry to participate in the Province's critical MPB detection and control efforts. To date, the MPBP has distributed over \$36.6 million to key projects delivered by members and their contractors.

In 2025–26 the MPBP continued to be active and has been amended to broaden the scope to include all forest pests. Activities continue to include containment baiting, dispersal pheromone, log-yard management, surveys, single-tree treatments, site protection, and seed collection. Alberta's overall Mountain Pine Beetle Strategy has been highly effective in reducing the spread and impacts of MPB on Alberta's forests, and FRIAA's MPBP has been integral to that success.

FRIAA has provided \$36.6 million in funding toward critical mountain pine beetle control activities.

Activities	Since inception
Aerial surveys	13,667 kilometres (km)
Ground surveys	5,415 ha
Long-distance dispersal monitoring	2,637 sites
Containment baiting	1,244 ha
Log-yard management	25,778 traps
Site protection (verbenone)	132,834 pouches
Single-tree control	126,948 trees
Seed collection and seed orchard expansion	15,035 hectolitres (hl)
Other eligible activities	29 activities

FRIAA FireSmart Program

FRIAA FireSmart is designed to support the department's priorities related to public safety and community well-being. This program is a vehicle for engaging and supporting Alberta communities in their effort to reduce the threat of wildfire through community-based wildfire prevention, mitigation, and preparedness. Disciplines such as community planning, public education and outreach, municipal development controls, legislation development, inter-agency co-operation and cross-training, emergency planning, and vegetation management are eligible for funding. FRIAA FireSmart improves a community's resiliency to wildfire, minimizes potential loss, provides for firefighter safety, and improves suppression capability.

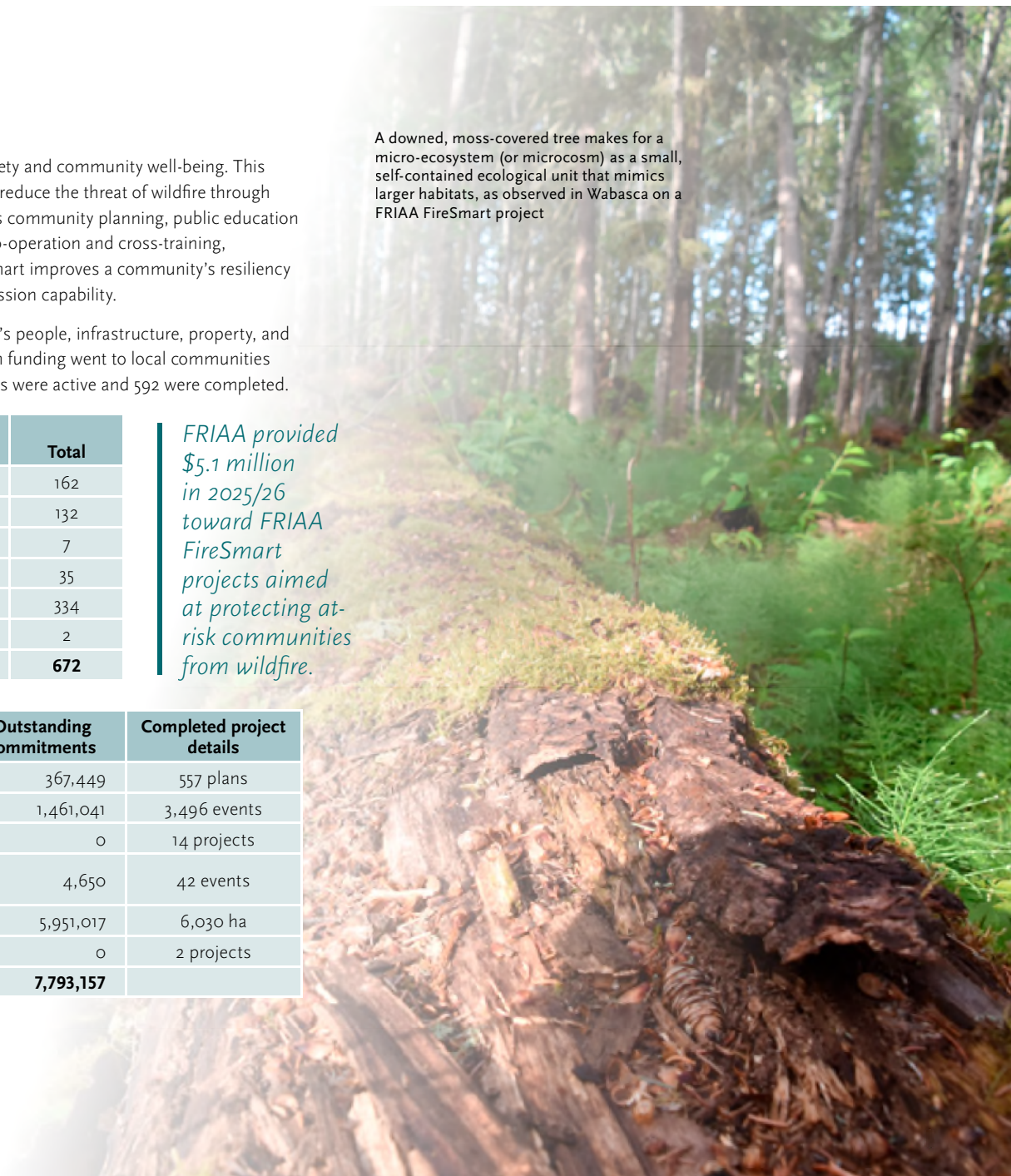
Since its inception FRIAA FireSmart has approved 672 projects that help protect Alberta's people, infrastructure, property, and environment by reducing fire hazard throughout the province. In 2025–26, \$5.1 million in funding went to local communities and another \$7.8 million to outstanding commitments. As of March 31, 2026, 80 projects were active and 592 were completed.

Activities	Active at March 31, 2026	Completed	Total
Community planning	13	149	162
Public education	22	110	132
Legislation	0	7	7
Inter-agency co-operation and cross-training	1	34	35
Vegetation management	44	290	334
Development	0	2	2
Total	80	592	672

FRIAA provided \$5.1 million in 2025/26 toward FRIAA FireSmart projects aimed at protecting at-risk communities from wildfire.

Activities	Project payments in 2025–26	Project payments since inception	Outstanding commitments	Completed project details
Community planning	\$ 460,110	\$ 4,641,029	\$ 367,449	557 plans
Public education	\$ 367,312	\$ 3,317,188	\$ 1,461,041	3,496 events
Legislation	\$ 26,912	\$ 208,094	\$ 0	14 projects
Inter-agency co-operation and cross-training	\$ 16,392	\$ 2,003,820	\$ 4,650	42 events
Vegetation management	\$ 4,271,246	\$ 46,746,680	\$ 5,951,017	6,030 ha
Development	\$ 6,500	\$ 22,205	\$ 0	2 projects
Total	\$ 5,148,473	\$ 56,939,016	\$ 7,793,157	

A downed, moss-covered tree makes for a micro-ecosystem (or microcosm) as a small, self-contained ecological unit that mimics larger habitats, as observed in Wabasca on a FRIAA FireSmart project



Caribou Habitat Recovery Program (CHRP)

The CHRP is sponsored by Alberta Environment and Protected Areas. It is intended to support the Province's objectives related to the federal recovery strategies for Boreal and Southern Mountain woodland caribou populations and Alberta's woodland caribou recovery plan. Eligible activities under the program include inventory, planning, legacy seismic-line restoration, and certain activities that directly relate to these.

No new projects were funded in 2025–26, as the program grant agreement ended at March 31, 2025; however, several projects remain in progress until complete.

Activities	Active at March 31, 2026	Completed/cancelled	Total
Planning – operations	2	12	14
Engagement – traditional land use	0	13	13
Operational treatments	4	11	15
Inventory	0	6	6
Monitoring	0	4	4
Seed collection	0	2	2
Total	6	48	54

Activities	Project payments in 2025–26	Project payments since inception	Outstanding commitments	Completed project details
Planning – operations	\$ 62,313	\$ 5,204,692	\$ 214,646	10,670
Engagement – traditional land use	\$ 0	\$ 602,296	\$ 0	9 projects
Operational treatments (km)	\$ 9,807,000	\$ 32,376,589	\$ 13,193,000	2,304 km
Operational treatments (seedlings)	\$ 0	\$ 4,662,023	\$ 0	2,241,492 seedlings
Inventory	\$ 199,902	\$ 3,447,644	\$ 0	181,092 km
Monitoring	\$ 0	\$ 386,932	\$ 0	478 km
Seed collection	\$ 0	\$ 240,099	\$ 0	17 kilograms (kg)
Total	\$ 10,069,215	\$ 46,920,275	\$ 13,407,646	

Enhanced Reforestation of Legacy Disturbances (EnRLD) Program

The EnRLD Program provides funds aimed at sequestering carbon by reforesting public lands disturbed by wildfire or other natural disturbances. It was established at the end of the 2019–20 fiscal year to help the Province enhance carbon sequestration by reforesting areas that would otherwise remain unproductive in terms of forest growth. The reforestation activities also improve the forest resource by adding to the productive forest land base and enhancing sustained yield.

In addition, the EnRLD Program provides a vehicle to support Alberta's contribution to the federal 2 Billion Trees (2BT) initiative. Reforestation activities under this program are eligible for matching funds toward achieving this national goal.

Since its inception, the EnRLD Program has approved 14 projects throughout the province to enable rehabilitation of public lands disturbed by wildfire. In 2025–26, FRIAA provided \$1.6 million to local contractors and committed another \$5 million. As of March 31, 2026, one project remains active and one was completed; \$17.3 million was either provided or committed to these activities.

Activities	2025–26	Since inception
Site assessments	-	38,484 ha
Site preparation (mechanical/chemical)	436 ha	4,085 ha
Planting area	866 ha	2,463 ha
Planted seedlings	1,117,545 seedlings	3,565,380 seedlings

FRIAA has committed \$17.3 million toward EnRLD projects aimed at sequestering carbon by reforesting public lands that have been disturbed by wildfire.

Community Fireguard Program (CFP)

The CFP is designed to support the Provincial FireSmart Program initiative by funding the construction of community fireguards that provide for enhanced public safety and improved protection of at-risk communities.

The program did not receive funding in the 2025–26 fiscal year. FRIAA is working closely with the department to direct funds to priority needs of Alberta communities.

Activities	Active at March 31, 2026	Completed/ cancelled	Total
Planning	19	15	34
Public education	1	0	1
Vegetation management	5	3	8
Total	25	18	43

Activities	Project payments in 2025–26	Project payments since inception	Outstanding commitments	Completed project details
Planning	\$ 165,664	\$ 822,448	\$ 906,430	10 plans
Public education	\$ 40,237	\$ 87,305	\$ 12,695	Project in progress
Vegetation management	\$ 3,039,805	\$ 4,471,940	\$ 3,420,497	335 ha
Total	\$ 3,245,707	\$ 5,381,693	\$ 4,339,622	

Fairy slipper (*Calypso bulbosa*), a native and delicate wild orchid species found on the shaded, mossy floors of Alberta's undisturbed coniferous and montane forests, as observed on a project review of the Mountain Pine Beetle Program



Status of Legislative, Governance, and Policy Requirements


The following tables outline the status of FRIAA's legislative, governance, and policy requirements for fiscal 2025–26.

Legislative requirement	Action required by FRIAA	Status
Business plan	Provide a three-year business plan (including goals) to the Minister annually	Completed – submitted February 27, 2026
Annual report	Provide an annual report summarizing activities and financial statements to the Minister of Forestry and Parks (AF&P)	Completed – submitted June 27, 2025
<i>Access to Information Act</i> (ATIA) and <i>Protection of Privacy Act</i> (POPA) requests.	Adhere to ATIA and POPA Act regulations	No ATIA or POPA Act referrals in 2025–26
Records management system	Have a reliable records management system in place	In compliance
Program reporting to the Minister of AF&P	Report all forestry enhancement programs to the Minister as per the grant agreements	In compliance – individual annual reports submitted by June 30, 2025
Notice of change of bylaws	Give reasonable notice to the Minister of AF&P to complete a regulation review before the expiry date	No changes in 2025–26
FRIAA dues	Determine FRIAA dues as per sections 5(1) and 5(1.1) of the Forest Resources Improvement Regulation	Confirmed FRIAA dues rates on May 15, 2025

Governance requirement	Action required by FRIAA	Status
Bylaws review	Ensure an annual review of FRIAA's bylaws	In compliance
Director requirements	In accordance with the bylaws, elect or appoint directors to the board and provide indemnification and reimbursement of directors' expenses where the board approves	In compliance
Financial accountability	Audit FRIAA's financial records yearly and provide the results to all members through the annual report	In compliance
Program reporting to the board	Ensure all forestry enhancement programs provide regular administration reports to the board	Reported at each board meeting
Memorandum of understanding (MOU) review	Review the MOU with the Minister annually	To be reviewed with the Minister in 2026–27
Objectives review	Periodically review FRIAA's activities to ensure they align with FRIAA's objectives	In compliance
Directors' meetings	Call directors' meetings as per bylaw requirements and ensure majority quorum. Ensure minutes are written and approved by directors	In compliance
Annual general meeting	Hold a yearly meeting for all members. Conduct the meeting and vote as per the bylaws	AGM held on June 18, 2025

All FRIAA policies and regulatory requirements have been reviewed aside year-end accountability reporting undertaken by FRIAA's board. FRIAA reviews all policies, bylaws, and regulatory requirements annually to ensure compliance with its governance and accountability framework. This review is documented as an annual accountability report and ensures that FRIAA's mandate is being fulfilled, its objectives are being pursued, and its members and the Minister are well represented.

Policy	Status
Audit committee policy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Approved August 26, 1997 • Audit committee established August 26, 1997; membership reviewed annually (October 18, 2022) • Audit committee met April 11 and May 16, 2024, in accordance with policy, and reported to board • Audit for 2024–25 completed as per policy and legislative requirements
Conflict-of-interest policy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Approved August 26, 1997 • Conflicts reported and recorded as per policy
Appeal policy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Approved January 19, 1998, as amended • No appeals under policy initiated in 2025–26
Fund management policy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fund management committee established November 17, 1997 • Membership reviewed annually (October 18, 2022) • Fund management committee met June 17 and December 4, 2024, and reported to board • Statement of investment policies and goals for Forest Resources Improvement Program approved April 22, 1998, and last amended October 18, 2022 • Statement of investment policies and goals for Community Reforestation Fund approved December 1, 2003, and last amended October 18, 2022 • Monthly and quarterly reports made by investment managers to committee and board in compliance with policy and investment statement
Public-at-large director selection protocol	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protocol last reviewed and revised on December 3, 2018 • Protocol reviewed on ongoing basis
Community Reforestation Program	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Approved and effective May 30, 2000, and reviewed on ongoing basis
Forest Resource Improvement Program description and guidelines	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Approved August 26, 1997, as amended, and reviewed on ongoing basis
Annual budgeting protocol	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In compliance in 2025–26
Annual business plan review	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In compliance in 2025–26



Site preparation of a legacy seismic line by excavator mounding and tree tipping deactivation in a black spruce (*Picea mariana*) stand in the Bistcho caribou range, under the Caribou Habitat Recovery Program.



FRIAA Governance

FRIAA is an association under the *Societies Act* of Alberta with delegated responsibilities and authorities under the *Environmental Protection and Enhancement Act*. FRIAA is accountable to its members and to the Minister responsible for forestry. FRIAA is governed by a board of directors elected by members and appointed by the Minister.

The current directors are as follows:

- President: Richard Briand
- Vice-president: Allan Bell
- Second vice-president: Andrew Neigel
- Treasurer: David Wall
- Directors: Daniel Lux
Mary-Jane Munn-Kristoff
Wendy Crosina

FRIAA's board establishes standing committees to assist with details related to financial audits and fund management. These two committees report directly to the board about desired committee outcomes, relevant policies, and mandates.

Audit Committee

The audit committee meets at least twice a year. Its board-established mandate includes:

- overseeing preparation of the financial statements by management,
- conducting audits through FRIAA's auditors, and
- recommending an auditor to the members for approval.

Pixie cup lichen (*Cladoniaceae*) are widely distributed across Alberta, growing among mosses and dead wood, as observed in the field on an operational review of the Enhanced Reforestation of Legacy Disturbances (EnRLD) program.

Members of this committee are the following FRIAA directors:

- Andrew Neigel
- David Wall
- Mary-Jane Munn-Kristoff
- Richard Briand

Fund Management Committee

The fund management committee meets twice a year and reports to the board in accordance with FRIAA's fund management policy. The committee's responsibilities include:

- ensuring that requirements in FRIAA's statements of investment policies and goals for the Forest Resource Improvement Program (FRIP) and Community Reforestation Program (CRP) are observed,
- assessing the performance of FRIAA's investment manager and the investment fund against specific targets and measurement criteria, and
- confirming that FRIAA's investment return targets are achieved.

Members of this committee are the following FRIAA directors:

- Andrew Neigel
- David Wall
- Mary-Jane Munn-Kristoff
- Richard Briand

In addition to FRIAA's standing committees, FRIAA also uses committees or review panels with the following mandates.

FRIP Project Appeals Panel

If needed a panel can be established to hear appeals initiated by the membership. Members of the panel are selected by case to suit the particular appeal and to ensure each

appeal is heard by the most skilled and experienced panel members. Because no appeals were made in 2025–26, no panel was formed during this fiscal year.

Mountain Pine Beetle Program (MPBP) Evaluation Panel

The MPBP evaluation panel reviews and evaluates projects submitted under the MPBP and makes recommendations on funding. Members of this panel are selected from FRIAA's board of directors, Alberta Forestry and Parks (AF&P), and the public at large. Panel members in 2025–26 included:

- David Wall, FRIAA director and chair
- Devon Belanger, AF&P representative
- Jim McCammon, public member

FRIAA FireSmart Review Committee

The FRIAA FireSmart review committee evaluates and approves proposals submitted under FRIAA FireSmart. The committee's responsibilities include selecting project proposals that best meet the program criteria and that represent value for funding requested. Committee members are selected from FRIAA's board of directors, AF&P, Alberta Municipal Affairs (AMA), the Alberta Emergency Management Agency (AEMA), the Rural Municipalities Association (RMA), the Urban Municipalities (UM), Indigenous Services Canada, and FireSmart Alberta. The current committee includes:

- David Wall, FRIAA director and chair
- Adam Gossell, AF&P
- Winston Delorme, AEMA
- Philip Rowe, AMA, Assistant Fire Commissioner
- Josh Bishop, RMA
- Leonard Phillips, Urban Municipalities
- Jamie Dodd, Indigenous Services Canada

Caribou Habitat Recovery Program (CHRP) Review Panel

No CHRP review panels were convened in 2025–26.

Enhanced Reforestation of Legacy Disturbances (EnRLD) Program Review Panel

The EnRLD review panel reviews and evaluates proposals submitted under the EnRLD Program. Its responsibilities include selecting project proposals that best meet the criteria outlined in requests for proposals and that represent value for funding requested. The members of the panel are selected from FRIAA's board of directors and AF&P and include a subject matter expert. Panel members in 2025–26 included:

- David Wall, FRIAA director and chair
- Andy Shandro, AF&P representative
- Greg Branton, public member

Community Fireguard Review Panel

The Community Fireguard Review Panel evaluates and recommends proposals submitted under the Community Fireguard Program. Panel members are selected from FRIAA's board of directors and AF&P. A panel was struck six (6) times in 2025–26 and included:

- David Wall, FRIAA director and chair (4 panels)
- Daniel Lux, FRIAA director and chair (1 panel)
- Adam Gossell, AF&P (6 panels)
- Ted Edwards, AF&P (6 panels)
- Amanda Tangedal, AF&P (4 panels)
- Charlie Kaufmann, AF&P (3 panels)
- Michael Penner, AF&P (3 panels)
- Jarret Whitbread, AF&P (1 panel)

Financial Highlights

FRIAA's financial statements provide an overview of the funds and resources used to deliver its programs and initiatives. Notable financial aspects in 2025–26 are as follows:

- The Forest Resource Improvement Program (FRIP) collected \$12.4 million in FRIAA dues, \$5 million greater than the previous fiscal year.
- Project expenditures in FRIP were \$59 million, higher than the previous year and the highest in more than 20 years. This amount relates to project contract commitments made in the past and is expected to continue at this level for two to three years. All FRIP funds are allocated to support projects that enhance the forest resources of Alberta.
- The Community Reforestation Program collected reforestation levies of \$2.6 million, slightly higher than previous years and all committed to outstanding reforestation work over the next 14 years. Program expenditures were \$2.1 million.
- The Caribou Habitat Recovery Program had project payments over \$10 million for restoration activities to promote caribou habitat recovery. This reflects a significant commitment toward the recovery of caribou populations in Alberta.
- The ratio of administration to total spending was 2.71%.

Risk Management

Risk identification and mitigation are important priorities for FRIAA. The following measures are in place to ensure that FRIAA appropriately mitigates risks:

- The audit and fund management committees provide assurance and oversight and ensure FRIAA's operating structure and programs are cost-effective and efficient.
- Internal operations and controls are periodically reviewed to ensure they are current and effective.
- Operational risks are managed and minimized by engaging the forest industry and experienced forestry stakeholders in delivering projects through contractual agreements.

In addition to the above measures, FRIAA adheres to Alberta Forestry and Parks practices and regulations and to appropriate forestry principles.

Independent Auditor's Report

**To the Members of
Forest Resource Improvement Association of Alberta**

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Forest Resource Improvement Association of Alberta ("the Association"), which comprise the statement of financial position as at March 31, 2026, and the statements of operations, changes in net assets and cash flows for the year then ended, and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies.

In our opinion, the accompanying financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of Forest Resource Improvement Association of Alberta as at March 31, 2026, and its results of operations and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations.

Basis for Opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the *Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements* section of our report. We are independent of the Association in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in Canada, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Responsibilities of Management and Those Charged with Governance for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these financial statements in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations, and for such internal control as management determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, management is responsible for assessing the Association's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless management either intends to liquidate the Association or to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so.

Those charged with governance are responsible for overseeing the Association's financial reporting process.

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

As part of an audit in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards, we exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Association's internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by management.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of management's use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the Association's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial statements or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained

up to the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the Association to cease to continue as a going concern.

- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure, and content of the financial statements, including the disclosures, and whether the financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

We communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

Doane Grant Thornton LLP

Chartered Professional Accountants
Edmonton, Canada
May 19, 2026



Moss, lichen, dead and downed trees, regenerating spruce, mature boreal forest, and raised rocky outcrops are interconnected in a complex and dynamic ecosystem, pictured in Jasper and observed in the FRIAA FireSmart Program.

Financial Statements and Notes

Statement of Financial Position

	2026	2025
Assets		
Current assets		
Cash	\$ 18,698,685	\$ 16,588,008
Restricted cash	172,297,807	161,020,083
Accounts receivable and accrued interest receivable	470,389	521,654
Investments (Note 2)	424,998,355	437,480,101
	\$ 616,465,236	\$ 615,609,846
Liabilities and Net Assets		
Current liabilities		
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	\$ 15,062,426	\$ 11,605,157
Net assets		
Forest Resource Improvement Program	423,217,831	435,521,806
Wildfire Reclamation Program (Note 3)	112,252,072	88,574,298
Community Reforestation Program (Note 4)	15,752,849	14,702,711
Mountain Pine Beetle Program (Note 5)	9,966,755	9,795,280
FRIAA FireSmart Program (Note 6)	8,916,286	11,496,952
Caribou Habitat Recovery Program (Note 7)	15,044,730	24,656,145
Enhanced Reforestation of Legacy Disturbances Program (Note 8)	2,736,166	2,458,349
Community Fireguard Program (Note 9)	13,516,101	16,799,088
	\$ 601,402,810	\$ 604,044,689
	\$ 616,465,236	\$ 615,609,846

Commitments (Note 10)

See accompanying notes to financial statements.

On behalf of the board:


Richard Briand
Director


David Wall
Director

Statement of Revenue and Expenditures

Year ended March 31

	Program									2026	2025
	Forest Resource Improvement	Community Reforestation (Note 4)	Wildfire Reclamation (Note 3)	Mountain Pine Beetle (Note 5)	FRIAA FireSmart (Note 6)	Caribou Habitat Recovery (Note 7)	Enhanced Reforestation of Legacy Disturbances (Note 8)	Community Fireguard (Note 9)		total	total
Revenue											
FRIAA dues	\$ 12,416,901	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 12,416,901	\$ 7,041,168
Grants	-	-	51,774,964	-	3,000,000	-	2,037,348	-	-	56,812,312	98,105,392
Reforestation levies	-	2,640,773	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2,640,773	2,257,927
Total revenue	\$ 12,416,901	\$ 2,640,773	\$ 51,774,964	\$ -	\$ 3,000,000	\$ -	\$ 2,037,348	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 71,869,986	\$ 107,404,487
Expenditures											
Accounting	\$ 118,202	\$ 68,887	\$ 49,998	\$ 8,345	\$ 46,830	\$ 16,552	\$ 14,299	\$ 26,076	\$ 349,189	\$ 358,294	
Communication	138,795	27,827	\$13,694	4,617	35,530	9,069	6,654	43,014	279,200	216,344	
Directors' expenses	1,190	892	\$892	297	892	595	595	595	5,948	4,156	
Directors' honoraria	3,484	2,613	\$2,613	871	2,613	1,742	1,742	1,742	17,420	10,577	
Field review	51,949	25,112	\$11,697	-	40,335	5,709	1,890	23,053	159,745	154,334	
Financial audit	6,720	5,040	\$5,040	1,680	5,040	3,360	3,360	3,360	33,600	38,425	
Insurance	1,714	1,285	\$1,285	428	1,285	857	857	857	8,568	9,281	
Management support	558,171	148,908	\$137,411	57,238	151,098	122,417	67,713	127,231	1,370,187	1,292,948	
Project audits	498,751	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	498,751	165,304	
Office and miscellaneous	20,699	51,763	1,256	27	12,380	2,969	54	2,826	91,974	60,228	
Professional fees	300,139	74,707	35,913	12,769	35,913	32,079	23,942	33,521	548,983	585,514	
Project expenditures	59,116,722	2,140,252	31,288,123	-	5,148,472	10,069,215	1,672,040	3,245,707	112,680,531	75,880,179	
Project operations and monitoring	404,602	189,854	82,160	8,959	224,271	46,573	27,160	134,113	1,117,692	846,932	
Project review and approval	341,037	111,732	49,978	431	215,631	25,030	12,060	121,828	877,727	831,975	
Total expenditures	61,562,175	2,848,872	31,680,060	95,662	5,920,290	10,336,167	1,832,366	3,763,923	118,039,515	80,454,491	
	\$ (49,145,274)	\$ (208,099)	\$ 20,094,904	\$ (95,662)	\$ (2,920,290)	\$ (10,336,167)	\$ 204,982	\$ (3,763,923)	\$ (46,169,529)	\$ 26,949,996	
Other income (expense)											
Dividends	\$ 20,334,748	\$ 663,229	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 20,997,977	\$ 19,106,747	
Interest	522,569	58,684	3,582,870	267,137	339,624	724,752	72,835	480,936	6,049,407	6,074,463	
Increase in fair value of investments	17,317,637	568,649	-	-	-	-	-	-	17,886,286	20,226,381	
Investment management fees	(1,333,635)	(32,385)	-	-	-	-	-	-	(1,366,020)	(1,453,180)	
Net other income	\$ 36,841,319	\$ 1,258,177	\$ 3,582,870	\$ 267,137	\$ 339,624	\$ 724,752	\$ 72,835	\$ 480,936	\$ 43,567,650	\$ 43,954,411	
(Deficiency) excess of revenue over expenditures	\$ (12,303,955)	\$ 1,050,078	\$ 23,677,774	\$ 171,475	\$ (2,580,666)	\$ (9,611,415)	\$ 277,817	\$ (3,282,987)	\$ (2,601,879)	\$ 70,904,407	

See accompanying notes to financial statements.

Statement of Changes in Net Assets
Year ended March 31

	Program										
	Forest Resource Improvement	Community Reforestation	Wildfire Reclamation	Mountain Pine Beetle	FRIAA FireSmart	Caribou Habitat Recovery	Enhanced Reforestation of Legacy Disturbances	Community Fireguard	2026 total	2025 total	
		(Note 4)	(Note 3)	(Note 5)	(Note 6)	(Note 7)	(Note 8)	(Note 9)			
Net assets, beginning of year	\$ 435,521,806	\$ 14,702,771	\$ 88,574,298	\$ 9,795,280	\$ 11,496,952	\$ 24,656,145	\$ 2,458,349	\$ 16,799,088	\$ 604,004,689	\$ 533,100,282	
(Deficiency) excess of revenue over expenditures	(12,303,955)	1,050,078	23,677,774	171,475	(2,580,666)	(9,611,415)	277,817	(3,282,987)	(2,601,879)	70,904,407	
Net assets, end of year	\$ 423,217,851	\$ 15,752,849	\$ 112,252,072	\$ 9,966,755	\$ 8,916,286	\$ 15,044,730	\$ 2,736,166	\$ 13,516,101	\$ 601,402,810	\$ 604,004,689	


See accompanying notes to financial statements.

Statement of Cash Flows

Year ended March 31

	2026	2025
Increase (decrease) in cash		
Operations		
(Deficiency) excess of revenue over expenditures	\$ (2,601,879)	\$ 70,904,407
Non-cash items		
Increase in fair value of investments	(17,886,286)	(20,226,381)
	(20,488,165)	50,678,026
Change in non-cash operating working capital		
Accounts receivable and accrued interest receivable	51,265	(108,995)
Prepaid expenses and deposits	-	701
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	3,457,269	8,083,073
	(16,979,631)	58,652,805
Investing		
Changes in restricted cash	(11,277,724)	(87,493,928)
Purchase of investments	(73,963,217)	(85,550,309)
Proceeds on sale and redemption of investments	104,331,249	119,897,810
	19,090,308	(53,146,427)
Net increase in cash	\$ 2,110,677	\$ 5,506,378
Cash		
Beginning of year	\$ 16,588,008	\$ 11,081,630
End of year	\$ 18,698,685	\$ 16,588,008

See accompanying notes to financial statements.

A wide, shallow river with many rocks and rapids, likely the Snaring River in Jasper National Park. The water is clear and fast-moving, creating white foam as it flows over the numerous light-colored rocks. The background shows a rocky shoreline with some sparse, dry vegetation. The overall scene is a natural, rugged landscape.

Snaring River, located in Jasper National Park, is a cold, fast-flowing tributary of the Athabasca River. It supports a range of aquatic wildlife such as native salmonids and small forage species. Downstream, the Athabasca is joined by the Berland and McLeod rivers and later by the Pembina River and Lesser Slave River, eventually draining into Lesser Slave Lake. Along this route, all of FRIAA's programs are hard at work to improve the forest resource for the benefit of all Albertans.

Notes to Financial Statements

Year Ended March 31, 2026

1. Nature of operations

The Forest Resource Improvement Association of Alberta (“FRIAA” or the “Association”) is incorporated under the *Societies Act* of Alberta and has a mandate under the Forest Resources Improvement Regulation pursuant to the *Environmental Protection and Enhancement Act* and the *Forests Act* to establish programs or initiatives to enhance forest resources of Alberta and the management thereof, improve the sustained yield of Alberta forest resources, and promote integrated resource management. FRIAA uses Forest Resource Improvement Program dues to fund the program, which is aimed at these objectives.

Per agreement with the Province of Alberta, FRIAA commenced administering the following programs in the years noted below:

Year of agreement	Program	Reference
1998	Wildfire Reclamation Program	Note 3
2000	Community Reforestation Program	Note 4
2007	Mountain Pine Beetle Program	Note 5
2014	FRIAA FireSmart Program	Note 6
2018	Caribou Habitat Recovery Program	Note 7
2019	Enhanced Reforestation of Legacy Disturbances Program	Note 8
2024	Community Fireguard Program	Note 9

Canadian tiger swallowtail (*Papilio canadensis*), where males were observed gathering near a mud puddle to drink the mineral-rich water near Loon River First Nation and a Community Fireguard Program project

FRIAA is a not-for-profit organization and, accordingly, no provision for corporate income taxes has been provided in these financial statements pursuant to Section 149(1)(l) of the *Income Tax Act*, Canada.

2. Summary of significant accounting policies

These financial statements are prepared in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations. The significant accounting policies are detailed as follows:

Revenue recognition: FRIAA uses restricted fund accounting. Restricted contributions are recorded as revenue of the appropriate restricted fund in the period covered by the agreements. The funds are described within the restricted cash accounting policy note.

FRIAA earns dues and levies based on timber sales of Alberta producers. Producers are required to report such sales and related dues or levies by filing a timber return with FRIAA. Unrestricted contributions are recognized as revenue when received or receivable if the amount to be received can be reasonably estimated and ultimate collection is reasonably assured. The unrestricted funds include the Forest Resource Improvement and Community Reforestation programs. Dues and levies are based on the volume of timber produced and legally owing to FRIAA when timber dues are owing to the Crown. Reforestation levies are recorded in the Community Reforestation Program, as they provide direct funding for the program.

Investment income is recorded in the period earned.

Cash and cash equivalents: Includes unrestricted cash on hand and balances with banks, net of outstanding cheques.

Restricted cash: Includes cash restricted for use in the Wildfire Reclamation, FRIAA FireSmart, Mountain Pine Beetle, Caribou Habitat Recovery, Enhanced Reforestation of Legacy Disturbances, and Community Fireguard programs.

Investments: Investments are recorded at market value. Changes in fair value are recognized in the statement of revenues and expenditures. Interest and dividends on investments are recorded as other income when earned. The Association maintains their investments in mutual funds. As at March 31, 2026, these investments cost \$428,221,381 (2025: \$414,112,815).

Use of estimates: In preparing these financial statements, management is required to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities, the disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities at the date of the financial statements, and reported amounts of revenue and expenditures during the period. Actual results could differ from estimates.

Financial instruments: FRIAA's financial instruments are measured at fair value when issued or acquired. For financial instruments subsequently measured at cost or amortized cost, fair value is adjusted by the amount of the related financing fees and transaction costs. These fees and costs measured subsequently at fair value are recognized in operations in the year incurred.

Subsequent measurement: At each reporting date, FRIAA measures its financial assets and liabilities at cost or amortized cost (less impairment of financial assets), except for equities quoted in an active market, which must be measured at fair value. FRIAA has also irrevocably elected to measure its investments in bonds at fair value. All changes in fair value of FRIAA's investments in equities quoted in an active market and in bonds are recorded in the statement of operations. FRIAA uses the effective interest method to amortize premiums, discounts, transaction fees, and financing fees to the statement of operations. The financial instruments measured at amortized cost are cash, accounts receivable and accrued interest receivable, and accounts payable and accrued liabilities. Because of its short term, the carrying value of financial instruments approximates their fair value, unless otherwise noted.

For financial assets measured at cost or amortized cost, FRIAA regularly assesses impairments. If there are and FRIAA predicts a significant adverse change in the expected timing or amount of future cash flows from the financial asset, it recognizes the impairment loss in the statement of operations. Any reversals of previously recognized impairment losses are recognized in operations in the year the reversal occurs.

Related party financial instruments: Financial assets and financial liabilities in related party transactions are initially measured at cost, except for certain instruments initially measured at fair value. Subsequent measurement is based on how the Association initially measured the instrument. The Association has no financial assets or financial liabilities in related party transactions measured at fair value.

3. Wildfire Reclamation Program

The Wildfire Reclamation Program was established on November 1, 1998, and amended November 24, 2000, and February 15, 2006, by agreement between the Minister of Forestry and Parks (the "**Department**") and the Association. The Wildfire Reclamation Program, established to encourage the reclamation of land disturbed or destroyed by wildfire, will be operated by FRIAA. Under the agreement, the total grant amounts were \$35,000,000.

The agreement ("**1998 Program**") was extended to March 31, 2012. Subsequent to March 31, 2012, FRIAA received a letter of intent from the Department extending the expiry to March 31, 2013, and was directed to transfer any then-unexpended funds plus earnings to the 2006 Program, where they were to be used to complete outstanding work under the 1998 Program then used in the 2006 Program.

On July 3, 2007, FRIAA entered into a second grant agreement ("**2006 Program**") with the Department. Under its terms, FRIAA received \$69,646,589 between 2007 and 2017.

The 2006 Program originally expired March 31, 2017; however, terms and conditions of the agreement state that the parties' obligations continue for such period of time required to complete the work under the agreement, which shall be no earlier than 14 years past the end of the term. Any unused grant amount shall be returned to the Department, together with any interest or return earned from investment of the grant amount, 14 years from the end of the term.

FRIAA entered into a new grant agreement ("**2017 Program**") with the Department effective April 1, 2017, to address wildfires occurring in 2017 and forward. It is in effect until March 31, 2027, unless otherwise extended, renewed, or terminated. The grants will be assessed based on the cost for reforestation of the burned cutblock. The following grants have been received under this agreement:

Received	Grant amount
2019	\$ 1,766,102
2020	\$ 25,000,000
2022	\$ 605,923
2023	\$ 1,888,430
2025	\$ 15,000,000
2025	\$ 45,000,000
2026	\$ 51,774,964

In 2019, at the direction of the Minister of Forestry and Parks (the "**Minister**"), \$1,746,000 of uncommitted funds were transferred from Wildfire Reclamation to the Enhanced Reforestation of Legacy Disturbances Program to support the new initiative. In 2021 the Department directed the transfer of \$4,108,274 of uncommitted funds from the 2006 Program to the 2017 Program; in 2024, it directed the transfer of \$3,210,016 to same. The Minister directed FRIAA to commit up to \$10,000,000 in unallocated funds from the 2017 Program to projects relating to the 2023 wildfire year. In 2026 the Department directed the transfer of \$3,246,146 of uncommitted funds from the 2006 Program to the 2017 Program.

FRIAA was asked by the Department on February 4, 2022, if they could deliver a portion of the 2 Billion Trees Initiative (“2BT”) on behalf of Alberta. As such, FRIAA entered into a contribution agreement with Natural Resources Canada to assist Alberta with the delivery on April 1, 2022. This agreement shall be in effect until March 31, 2031. 2BT is a 50% reimbursement for actual expenses incurred for two of FRIAA’s programs: Wildfire Reclamation and Enhanced Reforestation of Legacy Disturbances. These reimbursements form part of the grant funding received.

Restricted cash includes funds of \$117,223,397 (2025: \$92,822,368), that are restricted for use on the Wildfire Reclamation Program and held in a separate bank account.

4. Community Reforestation Program

The Community Reforestation Program was established on May 1, 2000, by Order in Council amending the Timber Management Regulation pursuant to the *Forests Act* and the Forest Resources Improvement Regulation pursuant to the *Environmental Protection and Enhancement Act*. The Community Reforestation Program was established to reforest Crown lands subject to reforestation levies.

To implement the program, funds received for the Community Reforestation Program were delegated to FRIAA in two parts:

- a) Reforestation levies received and unexpended by the province on areas cut under the authority of timber licenses and permits on or after May 1, 1994, but before May 30, 2000, are to be transferred to FRIAA as per section 143.91 of the Timber Management Regulation. No levies were received during the year.
- b) FRIAA has the authority to collect reforestation levies on areas cut under the authority of timber permits on or after May 30, 2000. The levies received during the year were \$2,640,773 (2025: \$2,257,927).

All reforestation levies and Association interests are to be used solely for this program.

5. Mountain Pine Beetle Program

The Mountain Pine Beetle Program was established July 5, 2007, by agreement between the Department and FRIAA, because mountain pine beetle infestations in Alberta reached epidemic proportions, causing significant damage to Alberta’s pine stands. Under the agreement, the Department provides grants to administer projects by forest industry sector operators engaged to provide services beyond tenured obligations to control, suppress, or eradicate the mountain pine beetle.

Under the agreement, annual grant amounts will be approved by the Department through its term, April 1, 2007, to March 31, 2012, unless otherwise extended, renewed, or terminated as per the terms. FRIAA received \$20,700,000 between 2007 and 2012.

The Mountain Pine Beetle Program was extended to March 31, 2020, and a further \$18,000,000 was received between 2013 and 2020.

A new agreement was made for the period of April 1, 2020, to March 31, 2025, and extended until December 31, 2025. Under this new agreement, these annual grants were received:

Received	Grant amount
2021	\$ 5,000,000
2022	\$ 2,000,000
2023	\$ 3,000,000

Restricted cash includes \$9,972,835 (2025: \$9,846,320), which is restricted for use on the Mountain Pine Beetle Program and held in a separate bank account.

6. FRIAA FireSmart Program

The FRIAA FireSmart Program was established January 9, 2014, by agreement between the Department and FRIAA. It was established to support this initiative by providing funds for eligible activities that:

- a) Enhance public safety and protection of forest communities, forest resources, and planning designed to prevent wildfire occurrence and to reduce the fire hazard throughout Alberta
- b) Provide financial assistance to communities, organizations, and groups that wish to reduce the threat of wildfire and
- c) Support community education and involvement in the continuing dialogue on wildfire prevention, management, and suppression and the practical application of FireSmart throughout Alberta.

The agreement was in effect from January 9, 2014, to March 31, 2019. FRIAA received \$31,100,000 under this agreement. A second agreement was signed to cover the period of April 1, 2019, to March 31, 2024. Under this agreement, FRIAA received \$32,900,000 in funding. A third agreement has been signed, renewing the agreement to cover the period of April 1, 2024, through March 31, 2029.

The current Agreement is the entire agreement between the Minister and FRIAA for ministerial support; it supersedes all previous agreements, correspondence, negotiations, and understandings. Upon completion of the program and review of the final report to the Minister, any portion of grant proceeds not expended by FRIAA directly on eligible expenses approved by the Minister for the program becomes immediately repayable to the Minister. Despite any other provision of this Agreement, those sections which by their very nature continue after conclusion or termination of this Agreement shall continue.

Funding received under the current agreement is as follows:

Received	Grant amount
2025	\$ 3,200,000
2026	\$ 3,000,000

The balance of \$149,595 was transferred from the completed Community Fireguard Construction Program to FRIAA FireSmart after March 31, 2022.

Restricted cash includes \$9,946,008 (2025: \$12,479,910), that is restricted for FRIAA FireSmart and held in a separate bank account.

7. Caribou Habitat Recovery Program

The Caribou Habitat Recovery Program was established in 2018 to support Alberta Environment and Protected Areas (“EPA”) efforts to support the Government of Canada’s Recovery Strategy for the Woodland Caribou Boreal Population and the Recovery Strategy for the Woodland Caribou, Southern Mountain Population, by providing funds for eligible activities. Eligible activities that may be funded through projects include operational planning for caribou landscape restoration; caribou habitat restoration, monitoring, evaluation, and reporting on caribou habitat conditions; and other activities, such as access management planning and traditional knowledge collection.

The agreement was in effect from April 1, 2018, to March 31, 2025, unless extended or renewed by agreement in writing or terminated by the parties. The program’s overall purpose is to support efforts at sustaining and improving caribou habitat in a way that supports healthy and self-sustaining caribou populations. The program also supports the Recovery Strategy by providing funds for eligible activities for projects that:

- a) Assist EPA with projects that contribute to the scientific and technical understanding of caribou landscape restoration strategies and activities

- b) Provide financial and logistical oversight of funding for planning work required to guide operational landscape restoration work for caribou habitat or
- c) Provide financial and logistical oversight of funding for operational landscape restoration work for caribou habitat as supported by the Government of Alberta and industry.

Under the agreement, the program received \$62,057,771 between 2019 and 2025.

Total program funding includes \$2,267,858 from Environment and Climate Change Canada in 2020.

For a term covering the period of December 20, 2022, through September 30, 2024, an agreement was reached between His Majesty the King in Right of Alberta as represented by the Minister of Environment and Protected Areas as it relates to the Low Carbon Economy Leadership Fund to support provincial and territorial mitigation action under the Pan-Canadian Framework on Clean Growth and Climate Change. Funding of \$5,000,000 was received March 30th, 2023, and \$5,000,000 was received on August 7, 2024, to complete available funding under the agreement.

Restricted cash includes \$18,567,942 (2025: \$24,930,051) which is restricted for use on the Caribou Habitat Recovery Program and held in a separate bank account.

8. Enhanced Reforestation of Legacy Disturbances Program

The objective of this Program is to support the Department by reforesting eligible disturbed areas by applying provincial grant funds to projects that undertake eligible activities to rehabilitate damaged forests and enhance carbon sequestration to mitigate climate change and maintain and enhance the forest resource.

This agreement shall be from April 1, 2018, to March 31, 2022, (the “Term”) unless otherwise extended, renewed, or terminated as per its terms.

In 2019 the Minister directed the transfer of \$1,746,000 of uncommitted funds from the Wildfire Reclamation Program and \$8,000,000 of same from the Mountain Pine Beetle Forest Rehabilitation Program.

The objective of this program is to reforest burned areas of Alberta’s public land to maintain and enhance the forest resources and enhance carbon sequestration. This agreement was in effect until March 31, 2025. On April 23, 2022, the program was amended to extend the expiry to March 31, 2031.

FRIAA was asked by the Department on February 4, 2022, if FRIAA could deliver a portion of the 2 Billion Trees Initiative (“2BT”) on behalf of Alberta. As such, FRIAA entered into a contribution agreement with Natural Resources Canada to assist Alberta with such delivery on April 1, 2022. This agreement shall be in effect until March 31, 2031. The 2BT is a 50% reimbursement for actual expenses incurred for FRIAA’s Wildfire Reclamation and Enhanced Reforestation of Legacy Disturbances programs. These reimbursements form part of the grant funding received.

The following shows the subsequent funding for this program:

Received	Grant amount
2023	\$ 3,695,164
2024	\$ 2,037,773
2025	\$ 2,924,479
2026	\$ 2,037,348

Restricted cash includes \$2,748,834 (2025: \$3,128,132), which is restricted for use on the Enhanced Reforestation of Legacy Disturbances Program and held in a separate bank account.

9. Community Fireguard Program

The Community Fireguard Program initiated in 2024 aims to provide municipalities and Indigenous communities with funds to construct fireguards in high-risk communities across the province and provided for the integration of livestock grazing as a fireguard maintenance tactic and economic opportunity.

The first agreement covered February 12, 2024, to March 31, 2025. Under the agreement, FRIAA received initial grant funding of \$5,000,000. An amendment effective October 23, 2024, allowed for additional grant funding that same month. A second agreement was signed, covering April 1, 2026, to March 31, 2028, (the "Term"), unless otherwise extended, renewed, or terminated as per the agreement, which allows up to \$15,000,000 annually in grant funding to the program, at the discretion of the Department.

Received	Grant amount
2024	\$ 5,000,000
2025	\$ 14,000,000

Restricted cash includes \$14,032,701 (2025: \$17,532,411), which is restricted for use on the Community Fireguard Program and held in a separate bank account.

11. Commitments

All funds received for specific programs must be spent on the program's eligible activities. As at March 31, 2026, FRIAA is committed to funding approved projects with various terms in the following amounts for each program:

Program	2025	2024
Forest Resource Improvement	\$ 197,544,542	\$205,606,070
Community Reforestation	\$ 480,258	\$ 687,238
Wildfire Reclamation	\$ 73,245,800	\$ 78,437,343
Mountain Pine Beetle (Control)	\$ -	\$ 245,150
FRIAA FireSmart	\$ 7,793,157	\$ 6,689,310
Caribou Habitat Recovery	\$ 13,407,646	\$ 23,482,967
Enhanced Reforestation of Legacy Disturbances	\$ 564,250	\$ 2,240,904
Community Fireguard	\$ 4,339,621	\$ 3,154,024
	\$ 297,375,275	\$ 320,297,856

12. Related party transactions

As required under the Forest Resources Improvement Regulation, honoraria paid to the Board of Directors are as follows:

Director	2026	2025
Andrew Neigel	\$ 1,069	\$ 4,090
Mary-Jan Munn-Kristoff	\$ 1,194	\$ 4,006
David Wall	\$ 1,221	\$ 11,748

13. Financial instruments

FRIAA's financial instruments consist of cash, accounts receivable and accrued interest receivable, investments, accounts payable, and accrued liabilities. Unless otherwise noted, management believes that FRIAA is not exposed to significant interest, currency, or credit risks from these instruments.

Fair value: The estimated fair value of cash, accounts receivable and accrued interest receivable, and accounts payable and accrued liabilities approximates their carrying value due to their relatively short-term nature. The Association holds marketable security investments which are subject to various risks, such as market fluctuations. These risks are mitigated by restricting both the type and term of securities eligible for investment. The estimated fair value of investments is determined using quoted market prices.

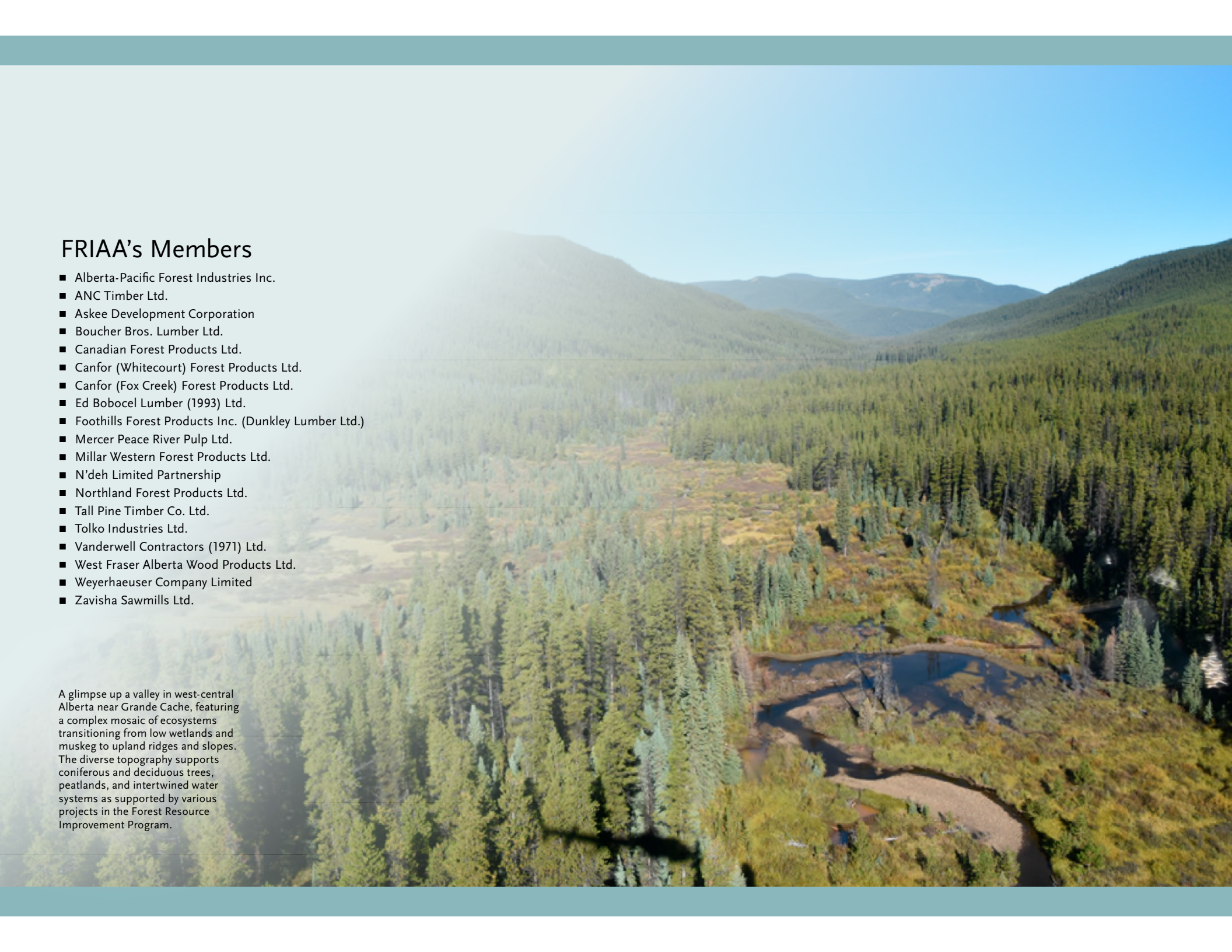
Credit risk: The risk of an unexpected loss if a counterparty to a financial instrument fails to meet its contractual obligations. FRIAA is not exposed to significant credit risk.

Interest rate risk: The potential for financial loss arising from changes in interest rates. Investments bear interest at a fixed rate. Fixed-rate investments are subject to interest rate price risk, as values fluctuate because of changes in market rates.

FRIAA's Members

- Alberta-Pacific Forest Industries Inc.
- ANC Timber Ltd.
- Askee Development Corporation
- Boucher Bros. Lumber Ltd.
- Canadian Forest Products Ltd.
- Canfor (Whitecourt) Forest Products Ltd.
- Canfor (Fox Creek) Forest Products Ltd.
- Ed Bobocel Lumber (1993) Ltd.
- Foothills Forest Products Inc. (Dunkley Lumber Ltd.)
- Mercer Peace River Pulp Ltd.
- Millar Western Forest Products Ltd.
- N'deh Limited Partnership
- Northland Forest Products Ltd.
- Tall Pine Timber Co. Ltd.
- Tolko Industries Ltd.
- Vanderwell Contractors (1971) Ltd.
- West Fraser Alberta Wood Products Ltd.
- Weyerhaeuser Company Limited
- Zavisha Sawmills Ltd.

A glimpse up a valley in west-central Alberta near Grande Cache, featuring a complex mosaic of ecosystems transitioning from low wetlands and muskeg to upland ridges and slopes. The diverse topography supports coniferous and deciduous trees, peatlands, and intertwined water systems as supported by various projects in the Forest Resource Improvement Program.





Forest Resource Improvement
Association of Alberta

www.friaa.ab.ca