



## Green Job Brings Life to Pictou County

**WHEN CHLOE MARSHALL SAW THAT THE** Pictou County Forest School was hiring a Forest School and Farm Assistant, she felt it was her dream job

“I’ve always wanted to be a teacher, but I’ve always had a strong connection with the outdoors,” Chloe explains. “After getting my degree and coming back to Pictou County, and seeing this job opportunity, it seemed like a perfect fit for me.”

Chloe, who majored in Tourism and Outdoor Leadership at Mount Royal University in Calgary, is originally from Pictou County and applied for the job supported by the CPRA Green Jobs Initiative, which is funded in part by the Government of Canada’s Youth Employment Skills Strategy program.



PICTOU COUNTY,  
NOVA SCOTIA

**Canada**

This project is funded by  
the Government of Canada





Chloe helping students with Master Forest School Chef



Chloe back left with Foxes (8 to 11 year olds)

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Chloe Marshall, majored in Tourism and Outdoor Leadership at Mount Royal University in Calgary

The Pictou County Forest School sits on 25 acres of woodland called Fiddlewood Farm in Meadowville, Nova Scotia and offers outdoor educational programs for children ages four to 14 including animal tracking, plant identification, shelter building, fire setting and other survival skills.

As the Forest School and Farm Assistant, Chloe leads these programs with children and youth - and is grateful that the community’s children can participate in the school’s programs.

“Growing up, I didn’t have an opportunity like this for school. I was the kid that was always begging to go outside with the teachers, or my babysitter, and I didn’t have a place to explore the outdoors,” Chloe says.

Although she hasn’t decided on her future career yet, Chloe says the skills she is learning as a Forest School and Farm Assistant will help her wherever she goes next.

She adds that the position had taught her how to be more adaptable when things change last minute, and to understand the needs of the children she is working with.

“I think this definitely helps me because this is a really good place to explore and learn, and to continue to learn,” she says. “A lot of the skills that I’m learning here are skills that can be applied everywhere.”

Scott Ross, who started the Forest School and is Chloe’s manager and mentor, says he started the school because he felt it would greatly benefit the children in his community.

He says the funding from the CPRA Green Jobs Initiative “made all the difference,” and allowed the school to operate programs throughout the fall – including for children whose families might not be able to afford it.

“(The funding has) given us a little wiggle room to help to make our program accessible,” Scott says. “I think this was super valuable to the community.”

Chloe agrees that the Pictou County Forest School – and the funding from the CPRA Green Jobs Initiative – has made a huge difference in her hometown.

“I left the small town of Pictou to go out west, to have that those opportunities where the outdoor industry is very rich and alive and well. I came back here thinking that there is no opportunities like I had out west,” she says. “For this forest school to be started, it gave me a lot of hope. And having this opportunity to be a part of it was really awesome, and it meant a lot that it’s happening here in my home community.” 🍁