

# Education and Career Pathways



in Arboriculture and Urban  
Forestry

Presented by Laura Mantin

# Arb Conference Bingo

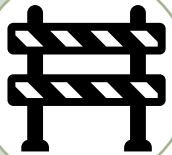
Toque/ Beanie	Sticker- covered Nalgene	Newly Purchased Gear	Took the Chip Truck here	Flannelx5
Instagram "Celebrity"	Dreads	Stihl/Husqi Hat	Tree Tattoo	Dog
Workboots	Guy talking out his ass	BEARD (Free Space)	Chick Arborist	Multiple Face Piercings
Buff	Comp Shirt	Carharts	Unnecessary PPE	"That's probably not coffee"
Smell weed	First Timer	Neck/Face Tattoo	Oldtimer	Tree Wife

Something fun  
for if I lose ya

# Agenda



Educational options that ARE available



Limitations to Access



What could be



# A little about me

- 8<sup>th</sup> year in Arb
- Dragging brush in Toronto
- Trade School (Humber)
- Worked Abroad
- Two Year Diploma (Fleming)
- Undergrad at UBC
- Love this Industry



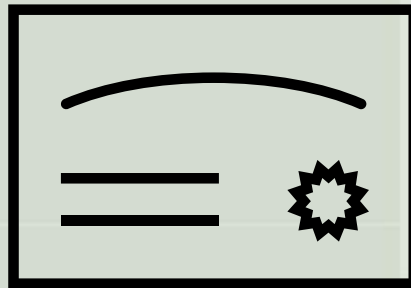


# Educational options

**Entry Level**



**Certs, CEUS, &  
Private Training**

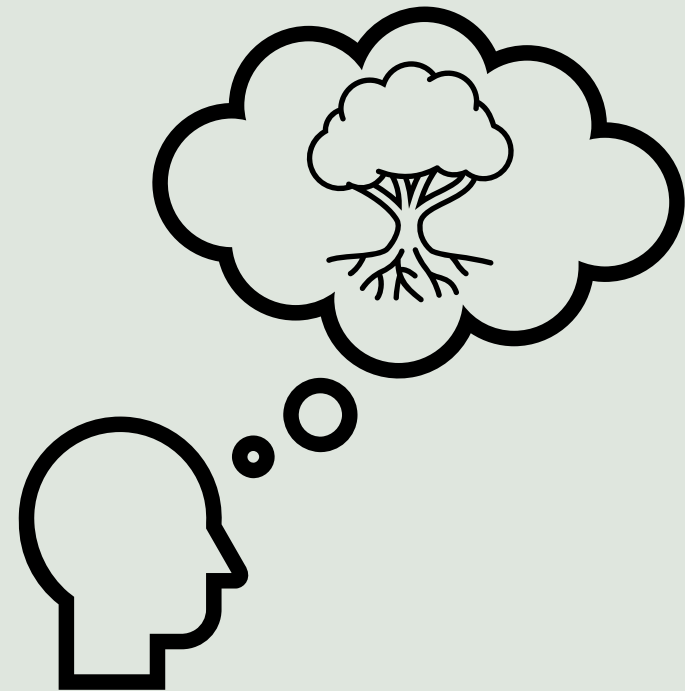


**Public/ Higher  
Education**



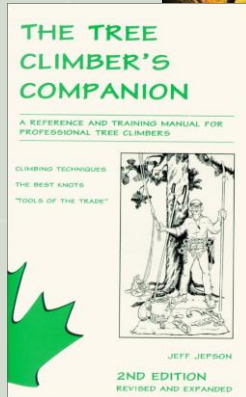
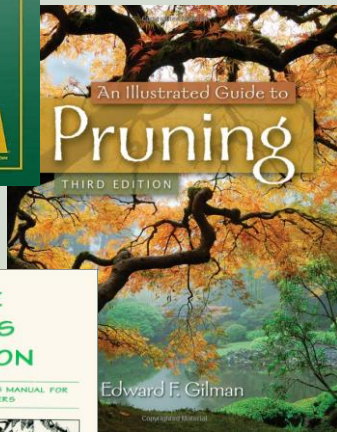
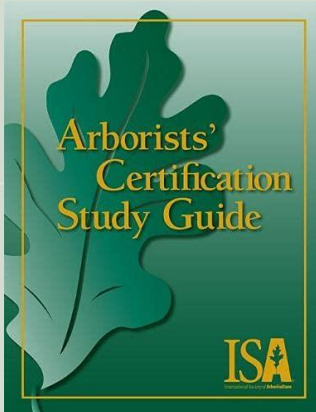
# Entry Level

The greenhorns, young bucks, and new blood



# Self Directed Learning

## Books



- Can lack context
- Often out of date
- Can feel isolating/lonely/confusing



- Approachable
- Ranges in Quality
  - No way of knowing if what you're learning is proper protocol
- No mentorship feedback
- Some serious powerhouses here in PNW

## Youtube/Video

# On the Job

- Can be limited by production pressures
- Limited to knowledge/ teaching ability of senior climbers
- May not be approachable for marginalized communities
- Allows trainee to earn while they learn
- Can be combined with college in the off-season (**where such a season exists**)
- Can be ideal for experiential learners
- Opportunities for excellent mentor relationships

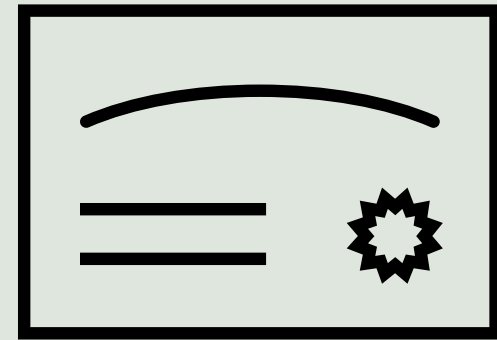


# Direct-to-College or Pre-Apprenticeships

- Limited in British Columbia
- Often low-cost/subsidized
- Still need on-the-job training
- Can diversify industry by training underrepresented workers
- Multiple Mentors, Multiple Perspectives



# Certs, CEUs, and Other Community Training





# Certifications

## ■ ISA

- Certified Tree Climber Specialist
  - Beginner Level
- Certified Arborist
  - Intermediate
- Certified Municipal Specialist
  - More Legal/Policy Oriented
- TRAQ
  - Moving into consulting space
- BCMA
  - Consulting Arborist

## ■ Provincial/ Jurisdictional

- Often not recognized outside jurisdiction


## ■ TCIA

- Not really recognized outside USA

## ■ Private Training Organizations

- Expensive, one skill at a time

## ■ ASCA

- Consulting Arborist
  - Difficult to get without 4-year degree
- 

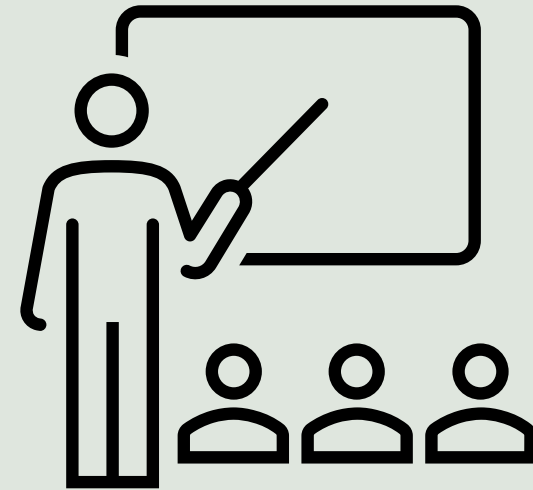
# Social Events

- Conferences (Like this one!)
- Climbing Competitions.
  - Both require time spent away from work
  - Often cost money
  - Diversity of perspectives
  - Accepting, supportive atmosphere
  - CEUs
  - Nobody parties like arborists



# Formal Educational Institutions

Trade School, Colleges, and Universities



# Trade School

- Apprentices can learn during slower seasons
- Often subsidized/low cost
- Usually Ei eligible
- Less pressure than production work
- Learn from other experienced arborists outside work
- Takes employee away from work, but may make employee eligible for wage/training subsidies
- Example: Kwantlen Polytech
  - Apprenticeship in Arborist Technician
  - Apprenticeship in Climbing Arborist



# Online Courses/Micro-credentials



- Can advance education without leaving workforce
- Flexible Scheduling
- Lower financial investment
- Can choose to learn individual skills as needed
  - Ie: GIS, Report Writing
- Can be lonely/difficult to self motivate
- Can lead to other pathways
  
- Example: BCIT
  - Urban Forest Assessment Level 1 Certificate
  - Fundamentals of GIS

# College Diplomas/Certificates



- 1-2 Years
- Part/Full Time
- Student Loan Eligible
- Lower cost than university
- Can include Co-op
- University Transfer Agreements
  - (2+2, 2+3 year programs)
  - Like me!
- Well recognized by municipalities
  
- **EXAMPLE: BCIT**
  - Forest and Natural Areas Management Diploma

# University

- Full or Part-Time
- ~3-5 years
- Easier to enter as a mature student
  - Previous experience may count for credit
  - “Requirements” aren’t always required ;)
- Advance understanding of biology, policy, business
- Expensive, but loans/grants available
- Example – UBC
  - Bachelor of Urban Forestry
  - Master of Urban Forestry Leadership (online!)





# Barriers Facing Arborists

# Family

- I won't pretend to understand
- Childcare options/Subsidies
  - Student Loan Program
    - Full time - \$400/month/child
    - Part time - \$80/week/child
  - Schools may offer lower-cost daycare
- Use your network
- Sustainability/Longevity of Career
  - Don't you owe it to your family?



# Finances

- Part time school options
- Work part time (I'm doing it!)
- Bursaries
- Subsidies/Grants
- BC Student Loans
  - INTEREST FREE!
  - Large portion is free grants
- Up to \$10K/person for training if your employer pays



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# Time Requirements/Missed Career Growth



- Worrying about losing your climbing mojo
- What if it doesn't pay off?
- The time will still pass.
- Don't lose your mind while you destroy your body, because you'll end up with neither.

# Academic Anxiety/PTSD

- “I’m too old” “It’s been too long”
- Many Arborists are non-traditional learners
  - Struggle in classroom environments
  - Undiagnosed learning difficulties (ADHD, Dyslexia)
  - School has bad associations
- **I GET IT.**
- You **know** trees
- You’re not who you were in high school
- Supports/stepping stones are available



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Why bother?



# Career Longevity

- Climbing is hard on the body
- This industry is hazardous
- Not everyone is cut out/wants to be a business owner
- Provides new avenues/opportunities
- Can lead to better work/life balance



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# Personal Growth/Interest

- Increase your knowledge
- Understand the nuances of trees, policy, business, public outreach
- Gain the respect of clients, employers, peers
- Looks great on a LinkedIn page
- Feelings of pride/accomplishment
  - (Prove them wrong!)



# Improve YOUR Industry

- *“...lack of consideration regarding integral aspects of operational labour when formulating standard policies”*
- *“lack of communication fosters... dichotomies”*  
(Bardekjian, A. C., 2015)
- Nobody knows this industry like the people in it.
- Outcompete the cowboys
  - Improve working conditions for all.
- You have the power to make it better.
- If we don't use it, we lose it
  - More education leads to more education



A photograph of a forest with tall, thin trees. Sunlight filters through the canopy, creating a dappled light effect. The text is overlaid on the upper portion of the image.

**Never stop learning, because life never stops teaching.** *@InspiringThinkn*

# Thank you!



Please feel free to reach out!



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