Catalyst has a rich and storied past as a pulp and paper company with predecessor companies that include British Columbia Forest Products, MacMillan Bloedel, Crown Forest Industries, and Oxford Paper Company. Our operations are household names in the communities they are located in, as the roots of our company extend back to the turn of the last century. Our paper and pulp manufacturing divisions have diverse backgrounds but today the hundreds of men and women who work at them are bound by a common goal to make Catalyst the market-leading printing papers company; well regarded by our customers, investors, employees and community neighbours for our performance, action and deeds.

Today, we continue to manufacture printing and specialty papers, and pulp from our three mills in Western North America with a capacity of 1.3 million tonnes.

1912  The Powell River Company begins operations in Powell River, British Columbia as the first newsprint mill in western Canada.

1946  Crown Zellerbach purchases Pacific Mills at Ocean Falls, Canadian Western Cedar and Comox Logging to form Crown Zellerbach Canada. British Columbia Forest Products (BCFP) is formed as a logging and sawmilling company. A year later, Bloedel, Steward and Welch start up the Port Alberni, British Columbia operations with a single line kraft mill. Paper machines follow.

1951  MacMillan Company merges with Bloedel, Stewart and Welch to form MacMillan Bloedel Limited. Crown Zellerbach Canada begins operations at Elk Falls, British Columbia with a single line newsprint mill the following year.

1957  BCFP begins operations at Crofton, British Columbia with a single line kraft pulp mill. Paper machines follow.


1987  Crown Forest Industries purchases BCFP. A year later they merge to form Fletcher Challenge Canada Limited. The merged company focuses on pulp and paper as its core businesses and sells off its non-core assets.

1998  Pacifica Papers is formed from the paper assets previously held by MacMillan Bloedel.

2000  Norske Skog, a Norwegian paper company, purchases all of Fletcher Challenge’s pulp and paper assets, including its majority interest in Fletcher Challenge Canada. That fall, the company changes its name to Norske Skog Canada Limited.

2001  In August, Norske Skog Canada acquires Pacifica Papers assuming the new identity of NorskeCanada. The acquisition of Pacifica Papers, effectively doubles the size of the company and reduces Norske Skog’s ownership to 30%.

2003  In December, Norske Canada acquires Newstech Recycling to in-source the supply of de-inked pulp for its paper mills. The facility was closed in 2010 — the same year the long-standing Elk Falls operation was closed permanently — due to reduced paper demand and constrained availability of affordable, high-quality recovered paper for recycling.

2005  In October, our shareholders change the company’s name to Catalyst Paper Corporation. The new name allows the company to do business under our unique identity, one that clearly differentiates us with customers and that accurately reflects our capital structure.
Catalyst Paper has a rich and storied past as a pulp and paper company with predecessor companies that include British Columbia Forest Products, MacMillan Bloedel, Crown Forest Industries, and Oxford Paper Company. Our operations are household names in the communities they are located in, as the roots of our company extend back to the turn of the last century. Our paper and pulp manufacturing divisions have diverse backgrounds but today the hundreds of men and women who work at them are bound by a common goal to make Catalyst the market-leading printing papers company; well regarded by our customers, investors, employees and community neighbours for our performance, action and deeds.

2006 In February, Norske Skog sells off all of its remaining Catalyst shares, ending its long-time association with the company. Third Avenue Management acquires approximately 38% of the company's shares.

2008 Catalyst expands beyond the province of British Columbia with the acquisition of the Snowflake mill, a 100% recycled paper production facility in northern Arizona. The facility was closed in 2012 due to declining newsprint demand and price volatility.

2012 Catalyst restructures its debt and — with the cooperation of creditors, employees, operating communities and other stakeholders — emerges from creditor protection within only a few months with new ownership, a much-strengthened balance sheet and further-reduced costs.

2015 Catalyst expands into Mid-Western and Eastern United States by purchasing two of NewPage Corporation's pulp and paper mills in Rumford, Maine and Biron, Wisconsin.

The Biron mill started operations in 1895 under ownership of the Grand Rapids Pulp and Paper Company producing wallpaper primarily. It was absorbed by the Consolidated Water Power and Paper Company in 1911 (renamed Consolidated Papers, Inc. in 1962), before being purchased by Stora Enso Oyj in 2000. The Finnish company divested its North American operations, selling the Biron mill to NewPage Corporation in 2007.


2018 Catalyst completed the sale of the company's U.S. operations to ND Paper, a wholly owned subsidiary of Nine Dragons Paper. The transaction includes Catalyst's Rumford, Maine and Biron, Wisconsin mills along with the majority of the company's U.S. operations center in Dayton, Ohio. Catalyst's B.C. operations comprise of pulp and paper mills in Crofton, Port Alberni and Powell River, and its Surrey Distribution Centre.

2019 Paper Excellence Canada finalized the acquisition of Catalyst Paper Corporation on March 15, 2019. This included Catalyst's three mills located in Crofton, Port Alberni and Powell River, its Surrey Distribution Centre and headquarters in Richmond, BC.

With the acquisition, Paper Excellence Canada's product range expands to include printing papers, specialty and packaging paper, and increases pulp product to service customer worldwide. After the completed transaction, Paper Excellence now has 3,500 employees at 11 facilities.