

INNOVATIVE SUSTAINABLE RESILIENT

Recommendations from
Canada's forest sector to
drive economic recovery and
a net-zero carbon future.

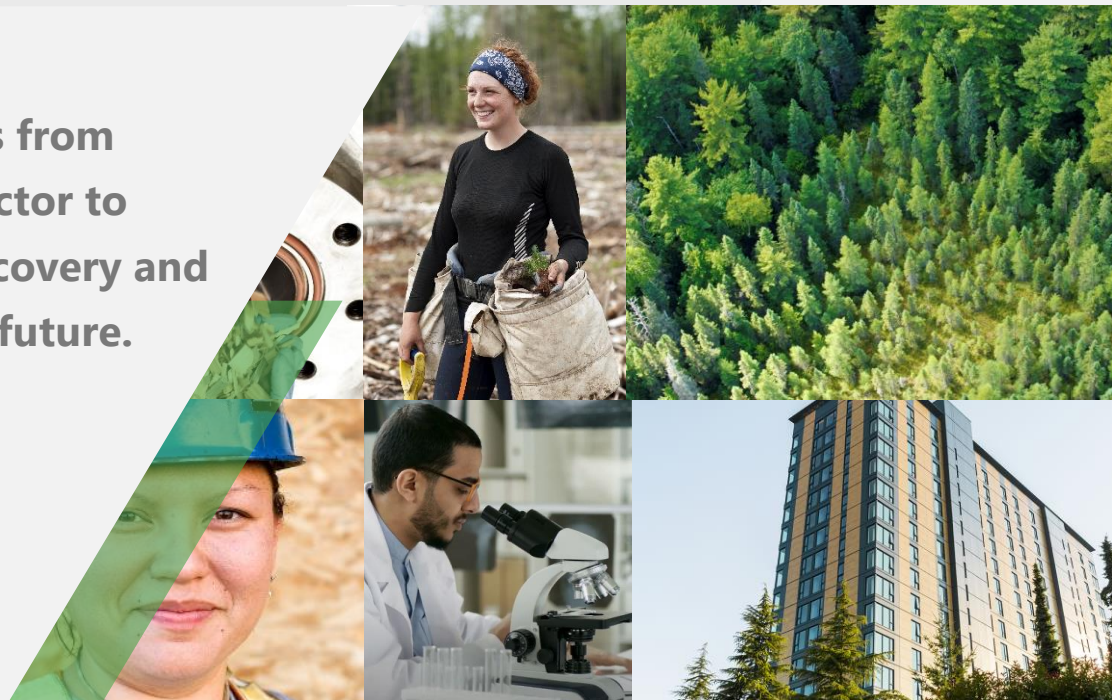


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Summary of Key Recommendations

Economic Growth and Opportunity

Creating Jobs and Strengthening Communities through Investment

- Work with industry to advance the 140 shovel-ready capital investment projects worth over \$1.5 billion in value that will accelerate innovation, improve Canadian competitiveness, and strengthen environmental performance.
- Continue with an enhanced Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy (CEWS), which remains responsive to our sector's needs as the pandemic evolves, to protect jobs by helping companies keep employees on the payroll and encouraging employers to rehire previously laid off workers; improve scale, flexibility and application of the Business Credit Availability Program (BCAP) and Large Employer Emergency Financing Facility (LEEFF) programs.
- Implement a mechanism (such as an advisory council) so forest products companies can provide direct input to federal human resources related policies (e.g. Work Sharing; Temporary Foreign Workers) and programs, including those under Labour Market Development Agreements with provincial governments.



Inclusive Growth and Diversity

- Continue to invest in the Indigenous Forestry Initiative to strengthen opportunities for Indigenous communities and the over 1,400 Indigenous-owned forestry businesses that operate in our sector.
- Support Canadian youth through awareness building efforts that promote career paths within Canada's forest sector (e.g. The Greenest Workforce).
- Continue to support educational and skills development programs that provide meaningful opportunities for youth through a diversity of forest sector partnerships with real-world application, including the Outland Youth Education Program (OYEP) and its partnership with Project Learning Tree Canada.



- Renew backing for the federal government's *Action Plan for Women in the Economy* and increase opportunities for women to join the workforce through measures like increasing capacity for childcare in rural and northern Canada.

People and Nature Need Healthy and Resilient Forests

Reducing Land-based Emissions While Providing Renewable Materials

- Work with federal, provincial, territorial, and Indigenous governments to advance the Canadian Council of Forest Ministers' (CCFM) *Canadian Wildland Fire Strategy* to fully utilize forest management as a tool in wildfire mitigation and the reduction of catastrophic fire.
- Recognize that sustainably managed forests and the wood products harvested from them are key tools in our move to a net-zero carbon economy by 2050.

Canada's Forest Sector: A Natural Tree Planting Partner

- Adopt FPAC's recommendations for a successful Two Billion Trees program and work with provinces/territories, Indigenous peoples, the forest sector, municipalities, and conservation partners to ensure smooth and effective implementation.



Forest Sector's Unique and Sustainable Advantage

Nature-based Solutions Through Sustainable Forest Management

- Recognize and promote Canada's world-leading approach to sustainable forest management and the environmental benefits of forest products sourced from Canada to customers and investors around the world.
- Ensure federal programs enable the forest sector to provide the full suite of benefits Canada's sustainable forest management practices provide, including nature-based climate solutions, forest resiliency, biodiversity conservation, and family-supporting jobs.



Net-Zero Future and the Circular Economy

Bioeconomy: Helping to Meet 'Net-Zero' by 2050

- Accelerate implementation of the Canadian Council of Forest Ministers' *Forest Bioeconomy Framework* and promote activities and partnerships to achieve our shared vision of world-leading innovation and growing the bioeconomy to support renewable alternatives to more carbon intensive materials and the manufacture of forest-based Personal Protective Equipment (PPE).
- Ensure that federal carbon regulations are supportive of the circular economy by providing certainty and clarity on access to fibre to encourage future investments in the forest sector.
- Support renewable fuels innovation and technology development in Canada's forest sector to help the federal government achieve net-zero carbon by 2050.
- Secure reliable funding for innovation programs that promote capital investment, including "Made in Canada" technologies to advance wood innovation and the production of forest-based bioproducts for Canada and the world.

Wood Buildings: Building Greener and More Resilient Communities

- Continue to modernize the National Building Code to support Tall Wood Building projects as a sustainable choice to help meet housing demands, particularly in urban and suburban areas where affordable housing demands are increasing.
- In collaboration with the provinces, leverage green infrastructure programs and the low-carbon building agenda to create more affordable and environmentally-friendly housing units.



Driving Opportunity and Recovery Together

The COVID-19 global pandemic has affected all Canadians and businesses across the country. Indeed, this unprecedented crisis has created uncertainty and widespread disruption to our economy and our lives which cannot be understated. Canada's forest sector is grateful for the efforts of our essential front-line workers who have continued to work while diligently ensuring the health and safety of all.



As the federal government's 2020 *Speech from the Throne* states, "We owe an immense debt to those who served and still serve on the frontlines, to health care personnel and essential workers, women and men in uniform, volunteers and leaders, everywhere in the country."

As a designated essential industry, the forest sector remains committed to doing our part in the fight against COVID-19. Our industry stepped up immediately, in a safe and meaningful way, to ensure that Canadians could get the sustainably-sourced, forest-based products they depended on during the pandemic – from toilet paper to paper towels, sanitary wipes to diapers, lumber to wood pellets and biofuels. Our sector has delivered on our promise to Canadians by keeping our supply chain moving and our people safe.



Because of our commitment to innovation, our resiliency, and our long-term view of forest management and growth, the forest products sector is in a unique position to drive Canada's post-pandemic economic recovery while providing solutions to build an even more sustainable and lower-carbon economy. By using the power of Canada's forests and our world-leading commitment to sustainable forest management we can secure inclusive growth, strengthen rural and northern communities, and help power Canada along its path to a 'net-zero' carbon economy by 2050.

With these opportunities in mind, Forest Products Association of Canada (FPAC) – the voice of Canadian wood, pulp, paper, and bio-products producers nationally and internationally – is issuing *Innovative, Sustainable, Resilient: Recommendations from Canada's Forest Sector to Drive Economic Recovery and a Net-Zero Carbon Future* to outline critical recommendations that will ensure economic opportunity for our sector and its people, while upholding important values that support human health, inclusive growth, and our environment.

Canada's Forestry Workers: Helping Rebuild our Economy

Responsive Policy and Regulatory Environment Needed to Address Pre-COVID-19 and Ongoing Challenges

Canada's forest sector appreciates the government's recognition in its 2020 Speech from the Throne of forestry workers being an important part of the climate change solution and the leading role they can play in helping us build back a stronger post-pandemic economy:

"Support manufacturing, natural resource, and energy sectors as they work to transform to meet a net-zero future, creating good-paying and long-lasting jobs; And recognize farmers, foresters, and ranchers as key partners in the fight against climate change, supporting their efforts to reduce emissions and build resilience."¹

Canada's forest sector is resilient, but the COVID-19 crisis has made an already difficult time even more challenging for forestry families, businesses, and communities.



Prior to COVID-19, Canada's forest sector faced a perfect storm of challenges resulting from the impacts of pest infestations, devastating wildfires, trade disputes, weak markets, and transportation bottlenecks.

The softwood lumber dispute with the United States has been particularly challenging and has resulted in over \$4.3 billion Canadian dollars currently being held by the US Treasury. This is money our sector is unable to access to invest in our workforce, make capital improvements, advance product research and innovation, or fund export market development. In addition to these challenges before us, we also continue to face reliability issues related to rail service across Canada.

Despite these obstacles, the forest sector has continued to innovate and meet market demands. Over the past few months, the increased demand for lumber due to a surge in home renovation projects and a strong North American housing market has been a bright spot, but the pulp and paper segment of our industry continues to struggle. Our industry has welcomed federal financial support initiatives, and continued COVID-19 special programs funding will help ensure that the sector and our people can weather this storm.

A key enabler of our ability to contribute to Canada's economic growth and continue to lead on the global stage is a responsive policy and regulatory environment. There are currently a host of policy and regulatory initiatives underway from carbon to conservation, to *Pulp and Paper Effluent Regulations*, to the *Clean Fuel Standard* that, if implemented properly, can help us attract future investment in our people, facilities, and forestry operations.

It is critical that the federal government makes it a priority to address regulatory and policy uncertainty and duplication so we can drive recovery and continue to be world leaders in sustainable forest management and environmental performance.

¹ Governor General of Canada. (2020). A Stronger More Resilient Canada: Speech from the Throne to open the Second Session of the Forty-Third Parliament of Canada. Retrieved from: <https://www.canada.ca/en/privy-council/campaigns/speech-throne/2020/stronger-resilient-canada.html>

Economic Growth and Opportunity

Creating Jobs and Strengthening Communities through Investment

Recognizing the importance the federal government places on infrastructure investment to accelerate Canada's recovery, FPAC has worked with forest sector companies and business leaders across the country to identify over 140 shovel-ready capital projects worth more than \$1.5 billion. Many of these projects will simultaneously spur economic activity while sustaining and growing family-supporting jobs. Other benefits of these projects include:

1. Sustaining and creating jobs, particularly in rural, northern, and Indigenous communities.
2. Reducing Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions.
3. Improving air and water quality.
4. Storing carbon in more wood building projects.
5. Increasing the sustainable utilization of forest fibre while simultaneously reducing forest fire risks to forested communities.

FPAC and its members are ready to lead on ensuring infrastructure investments accelerate Canada's move to a lower-carbon economy and improve our global competitiveness.

Our Forest Sector: Driving Growth and Opportunity Across Canada

Forests contribute to the quality of life of all Canadians by providing significant economic, environmental, social, and cultural benefits. As one of Canada's top economic sectors, forestry is a key driver of job creation and economic growth in every region. As a \$73 billion industry directly employing 230,000 Canadians in over 600 communities, forestry is the backbone of many local economies.



We are proud of our role in supporting workers, Indigenous communities, and forestry businesses and families across Canada. The sector continues to adapt, evolve, and innovate. Helping our sector move forward into the future will directly support the federal government's goal of creating one million new jobs. Establishing the conditions that allow forestry to continue to thrive is a win-win-win for government, industry, and nature alike, especially as we work together on post-pandemic initiatives.

Inclusive Growth and Diversity

Supporting the forest sector will help diversify Canada's workforce. This job-creating capacity is crucial at a time when so many Canadian workers have been negatively affected by the pandemic. Young people, women, new Canadians, and lower-income workers have been hit particularly hard by job losses and business closures as a result of the pandemic.

Supporting forestry jobs means creating a more inclusive recovery. The following highlights three demographic populations where initiatives are currently in place to support equal opportunities and to facilitate a more diverse workforce in the forest sector:

1. Indigenous peoples and the forest sector: Building long-term capacity and economic development opportunities

FPAC and its members recognize that Canada's forests are uniquely important to Indigenous communities, and that they are a vital component of the cultural, spiritual, economic, and social relationships that Indigenous peoples have with the land.

Indigenous communities participate in the forest sector economy in a multitude of ways including joint ventures, contracting, cooperative agreements, and collaborative initiatives. Moreover, Indigenous peoples now hold approximately 10 per cent of the national wood supply.² FPAC and its members are committed to facilitating greater Indigenous participation in a thriving Canadian forest sector as it brings significant opportunities to existing and emerging Indigenous-owned businesses and initiatives.

Canada's forest sector employs approximately 12,000 Indigenous workers, which makes it one of the largest Indigenous employers in the country.³ There are also 1,400 Indigenous-owned businesses in the forest sector including sawmills, silviculture businesses, and biomass energy facilities.⁴ With the growing need for a diversity of skills in the forest sector, it is important to provide training and education opportunities that will enable Indigenous people – particularly youth – to more fully consider and pursue forestry-related careers.

SKILLS AWARDS FOR INDIGENOUS YOUTH INDIGENOUS BUSINESS LEADERSHIP AWARD

Each year, FPAC, the Canadian Council for Aboriginal Business (CCAB), and the Canadian Council of Forest Ministers (CCFM) offer Indigenous awards of excellence to recognize and celebrate Indigenous youth and established Indigenous entrepreneurs.



Autumn Quenville
Thunder Bay, Ontario



Raven Cardinal
Edmonton, Alberta



Alain Paul
Mashteuiatsh, Québec



Hunter Corbiere
Webeushene, Ontario



² National Aboriginal Forestry Association. (2018). Fourth Report on Indigenous Held Forest Tenures in Canada. <http://www.nafaforestry.org/pdf/2018/NAFA%20Tenure%20Report%202018%20FINAL%20Sept%202018.pdf>

³ Natural Resources Canada - Canadian Forest Service. (2019). State of Canada's Forest 2019. <https://www.nrcan.gc.ca/our-natural-resources/forests-forestry/state-canadas-forests-report/16496>

⁴ National Aboriginal Forestry Association. (2011). Assessment of Market Development Needs of Aboriginal Forest Products Companies.

<http://www.nafaforestry.org/pdf/2011/Assessment%20of%20Market%20Dev%20Needs%20of%20Aboriginal%20Forest%20Products%20Companies.pdf>

One program that should be continued and expanded is the Indigenous Forestry Initiative (IFI), delivered through the Canadian Forest Service. This program provides financial support to Indigenous-led economic development projects in Canada’s forest sector. The funding aims to increase Indigenous participation in forestry-related opportunities, businesses, careers, and governance.

Outland Youth Employment Program (OYEP)

FPAC is also a partner in the [Outland Youth Employment Program \(OYEP\)](#), a national network of land-based education, training and work opportunities for high school aged Indigenous youth. The program takes an inclusive approach to Indigenous education, recruitment, and retention and provides a safe and predictable learning environment that can be tailored to meet the needs of local communities and partners.



Developed in 2000 in collaboration with the forest industry as a training initiative, OYEP has grown into a nationwide network with over 500 graduates from 103 communities across Canada.⁵ In 2019, the number of camps grew from four to six. Camps are now operating in B.C., Alberta, Manitoba, and Ontario. In 2019, 36 per cent of OYEP’s funding came from the forest sector, including partnerships with FPAC, the Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI), the Greenest Workforce, Project Learning Tree Canada, and eight FPAC members.⁶

2. Helping young people enter the sector

We are proud of the role we play in encouraging young people to choose a forestry career. Young Canadians are critical to sustaining a vibrant and globally competitive industry of tomorrow. With almost a third of the forest sector workforce retiring within 10 years, our industry is investing in the next generation of forestry leaders.⁷ FPAC has created the [Greenest Workforce website](#) to match employers and workers interested in forestry-related jobs.

Further support for ongoing initiatives such as the Greenest Workforce will help connect young people and recent graduates to the forest sector and help connect them to potential career opportunities.



⁵ Outland Youth Employment Program (2020, November 30). Retrieved from: <https://www.oyep.ca/partners-landing.html>

⁶ Outland Youth Employment Program (2020, November 30). Retrieved from: <https://www.oyep.ca/partners-landing.html>

⁷ Forest Products Sector Council. (2011). Renewing Canada's Greenest Workforce: A Labour Market Intelligence Report.

3. Women in forestry: A growing demographic

According to the federal government, over the past ten years, more women are graduating from agriculture, natural resources, and conservation programs than ever before.⁸ We are seeing this increased interest taking shape on a host of social media platforms, including through the [#TakeYourPlace](#) initiative and a growing network for women working in forestry called [Women in Wood \(WIW\)](#).



The WIW network started in Canada, has some 1,800 active members, and has three main objectives:

- To build a community of women who work with, in and for the woods.
- To encourage women to pursue careers in the forest, wood, and related sectors.
- To help women in forestry succeed in their career goals by collaborating for success, sharing information, improving skills, and navigating the workplace.

To further support women in forestry, FPAC and three of its member companies are part of the leadership group guiding Canada's first public-private funded national gender equity project to create a diverse and inclusive workforce. In collaboration with the *Canadian Institute of Forestry* and the *Centre for Social Intelligence*, a Steering Committee made up of gender equity champions from government, industry, academia, Indigenous, and non-profit organizations is advancing efforts to help support women's careers in the sector. This three-year project is building a [Gender Equity in Canada's Forest Sector National Action Plan](#) promoting gender equity in forestry.

This pioneering public-private partnership is dedicated to ensuring that efforts encouraging women to choose a career in forestry continues to grow: <https://www.freetogrowinforestry.ca/>

Our sector strongly supports the recent *Speech from the Throne* commitment to create an *Action Plan for Women in the Economy* and supports efforts such as providing increased capacity for childcare, especially in rural and remote communities, to help make it easier for more women to join the workforce.



⁸ Natural Resources Canada - Canadian Forest Service. (2019). State of Canada's Forest 2019. <https://www.nrcan.gc.ca/our-natural-resources/forests-forestry/state-canadas-forests-report/16496>

People and Nature Need Healthy and Resilient Forests

Reducing Land-based Emissions While Providing Renewable Materials

Canada is a global leader when it comes to managing our forest ecosystems to provide multiple benefits. Ninety-four per cent of the managed forest area in Canada is on public land, and Canadian foresters are committed stewards of that land, managing not only for the wood supply but also the wildlife, water, and soils.

The Canadian approach to sustainable forest management is based on a long history of science, experience, and community involvement. Our approach is to work *with* nature – maintaining natural processes and actively managing our forests to ensure that they continue to provide for our communities well into the future.

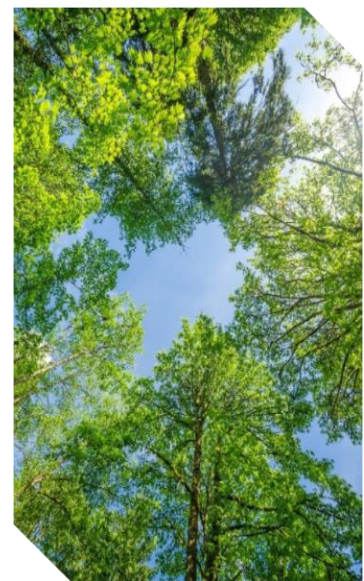
Forest management has long been recognized by the international community as a solution to sustainability goals and to help mitigate climate change impacts. For example, the 24th United Nations *Climate Change Conference of Parties (COP24)* officially recognized the critical role forest management plays in achieving global climate change targets.

Climate change will continue to be one of the biggest challenges our country will face. This is in part due to the additional pressure it is placing on our forests' capacity to remain healthy and resilient, while supporting a robust and thriving economy. Forests that are managed sustainably and for the long-term, together with the wood products harvested from them, are key tools to support Canada's move to a net-zero carbon economy by 2050.



“There is no future without addressing climate change, and forests are a key component to achieve the goals of the Paris Agreement. ... Forests have a decisive role to play in the sequestration and storage of carbon in the soil, trees and other vegetation, and in providing goods, resources and materials with a smaller carbon footprint, such as harvested wood products.”⁹

The Ministerial Katowice Declaration on Forests for the Climate, 2018



⁹ United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). (2018). The Ministerial Katowice Declaration on Forests for the Climate. Retrieved from: https://cop24.gov.pl/fileadmin/user_upload/Ministerial_Katowice_Declaration_on_Forests_for_Climate_OFFICIAL_ENG.pdf#:~:text=The%20Ministerial%20Katowice%20Declaration%20on%20Forests%20for%20the,greenhouse%20gas%20emissions%20as%20soon%20as%20possible%20

Much of Canada is blanketed by the boreal forest. When left alone, trees in the boreal typically live to about 100 years old. As the trees age, the forest becomes more susceptible to disturbances such as fire, pest outbreaks, droughts, and storms. Though these natural disturbance events are normal and frequent in the boreal forest, they release tremendous amounts of carbon dioxide and other GHGs, and they can threaten the safety of communities and other infrastructure.

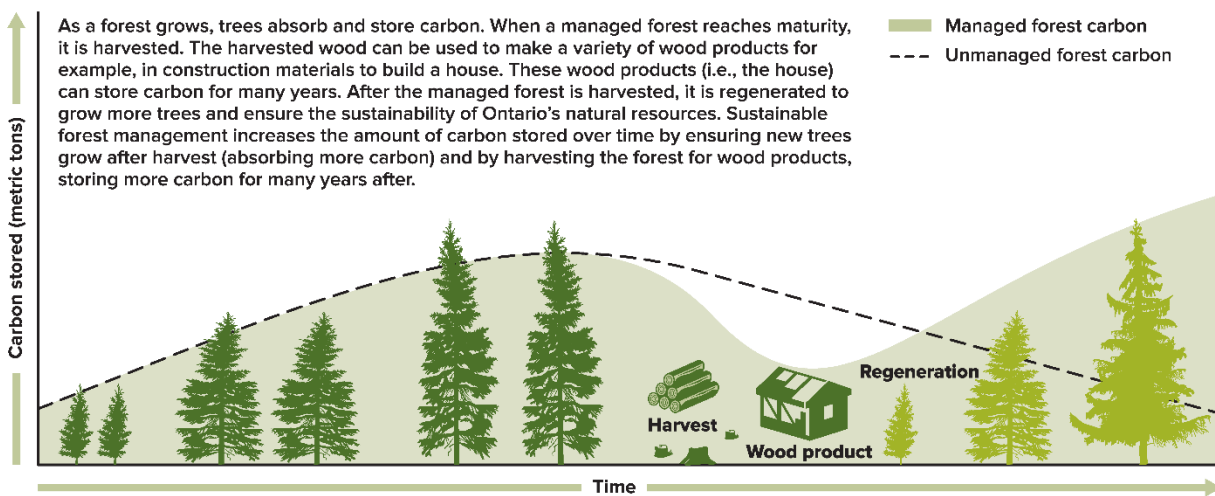
When we manage forests through careful planning, we can minimize these disturbances, replacing them with harvesting so that the forests are renewed every 100 years or so, and we can extend the lifetime of tree carbon by using it in buildings and other long-lived applications.

The Canadian Council of Forest Ministers (CCFM), in collaboration with other partners, has adopted the *Canadian Wildland Fire Strategy*. Deliberate action and continued momentum are necessary to support community safety and the ongoing climate benefits derived from healthy and resilient forests. The forest sector is a key player in a 'whole of society' approach to enable forest and community resiliency in the face of climate change.

It is more important than ever that we manage our forests to prevent catastrophic disturbances that drive up land-based carbon emissions.

Through sustainable forest management, the forest sector is well-placed to support a low-carbon energy transition, Indigenous economic development, renewable building materials, all while meeting conservation targets and protecting our water resources. That means healthier forests, reduced emissions, renewable bio-based products, and stable jobs across the country, all from a sector that has deep roots in Canada and world-leading scientific backing.

Figure 6: Sustainable forest management and carbon storage



Source: Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry. (2016).
Ontario's Crown Forests: Opportunities to Enhance Carbon Storage? A Discussion Paper.

Canada's Forest Sector: A Natural Tree Planting Partner

Planting upwards of 600 million seedlings every year, our sector ensures the maintenance of healthy growing forests that remove carbon from the atmosphere and help to regulate the climate. The planting of trees is also a key economic and employment driver, constituting a \$500 million annual business in Western Canada alone.

Tree planting is one of the many forest regeneration strategies required to ensure prompt renewal of trees post-harvest. Other strategies include dispersing seeds or allowing the forests to grow back naturally. In applying these strategies, it ensures long-term growth and sustainability of our forests and is a fundamental part of sustainable forest management.

Selecting the areas that would benefit the most from an incremental tree planting program (such as the Two Billion Trees initiative) and determining the most effective way to deliver this program will require coordination between federal and provincial/territorial governments, Indigenous peoples, forestry companies, and established silvicultural companies.

Understanding the future impacts of climate on our forests and planting the right trees in the right places to reflect co-benefits of climate mitigation and increased resiliency will be important. There have been significant innovations around adapted seed stock and assisted migration, that should be part of the program.

Through the roll out of the Two Billion Trees initiative, we recommend engaging with individuals familiar with Canada's leading sustainable forest management approach, as well as urban forests, to increase the public understanding of forests to inspire the next generation to connect with forests and forestry.

For more information on FPAC's recommendations for a successful tree planting program, please read [Two Billion Trees – Considerations for a Successful Federal Tree Planting Program](#).



Canadian Forestry's Unique and Sustainable Advantage

Canada's forests are a national treasure and trees are the ultimate renewable resource. The professionals who are charged with managing this important resource are both responsible stewards and natural innovators. Sustainability is core to how Canadian forestry companies operate and managing the forest for multiple values is both our mandate and responsibility.

Forest management has evolved significantly over many years and today, decisions are based on long-term planning horizons that consider natural patterns and dynamics, along with finding regional and local solutions that ensure environmental, societal, cultural, and economic benefits. Thus, with this continual improvement, Canadian forestry is providing solutions to some of the most challenging and complex issues facing the world today, and we can do more.

This is no more apparent than when we examine Canada's forest management practices and the benefits our sector brings through the lens of the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

When the UN recognized the contribution of forestry to SDGs in its [Forest Products Annual Market Review](#) (2018), it summed up the incredible value of forests and forest management with the statement that *"Well managed forests and trees provide the elements necessary for human life – air, water, food and shelter."*

In fact, we can add many more things to this list. Forestry contributes to all 17 SDGs, as outlined by the [World Business Council for Sustainable Development](#), including providing clean water, affordable and clean energy, decent work and economic growth, responsible consumption and production, climate action, and life on land.

In Canada, forestry is also helping to address inequities in rural and Indigenous communities through opportunities for green jobs and economic development and contributing to efforts to reduce single-use plastics by producing compostable bio-products.

6 CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION



7 AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY



8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH



12 RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION



13 CLIMATE ACTION



15 LIFE ON LAND





“Nature-based Solutions (NbS) are actions to protect, sustainably manage, and restore natural or modified ecosystems, that address societal challenges effectively and adaptively, simultaneously providing human well-being and biodiversity benefits.”¹⁰

- International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)



Nature-based Solutions through Sustainable Forest Management

Canada’s sustainable forest management framework is a leading example of supporting nature-based solutions to address societal challenges, including the need to maintain biodiversity, combat climate change, and provide economic opportunities.

We can address the challenges of climate change, biodiversity, economic recovery, and Indigenous reconciliation, all with the confidence that Canada’s forests are being managed to the highest sustainability standards in the world.

Canadian provinces maintain robust regulatory requirements, and on top of that, Canada is proud to have the largest area of independently certified forests in the world (168 million hectares).¹¹ This is because our robust regulatory framework facilitates third-party certification to the world’s strictest standards. [Recognized standards](#) promote responsible forest management through the conservation of biological diversity, maintenance of wildlife habitat and species diversity, protection of special sites, soil and water, and sustainable harvest levels. This independent verification provides added assurance of responsible forest practices from a country with some of the world’s toughest and well-enforced regulatory frameworks.

Provincial and federal levels of government will need to ensure the regulatory environment and government programs can enable the incredible potential of this sector to deliver on its powerful contributions to net-zero carbon, circular economy, ecosystem services, and forest resiliency. Federal programs will need to recognize that regional solutions require the necessary flexibility in achieving maximum benefits, with the long-term goal of keeping forests healthy and resilient.

¹⁰ International Union for Conservation of Nature (2020, November 30). Nature-based Solutions. Retrieved from: <https://www.iucn.org/commissions/commission-ecosystem-management/our-work/nature-based-solutions>

¹¹ Forest Products Association of Canada. (2020). Forest Certification in Canada: The Programs, Similarities, & Achievements. https://www.fpac.ca/wp-content/uploads/Certification_June2020.pdf

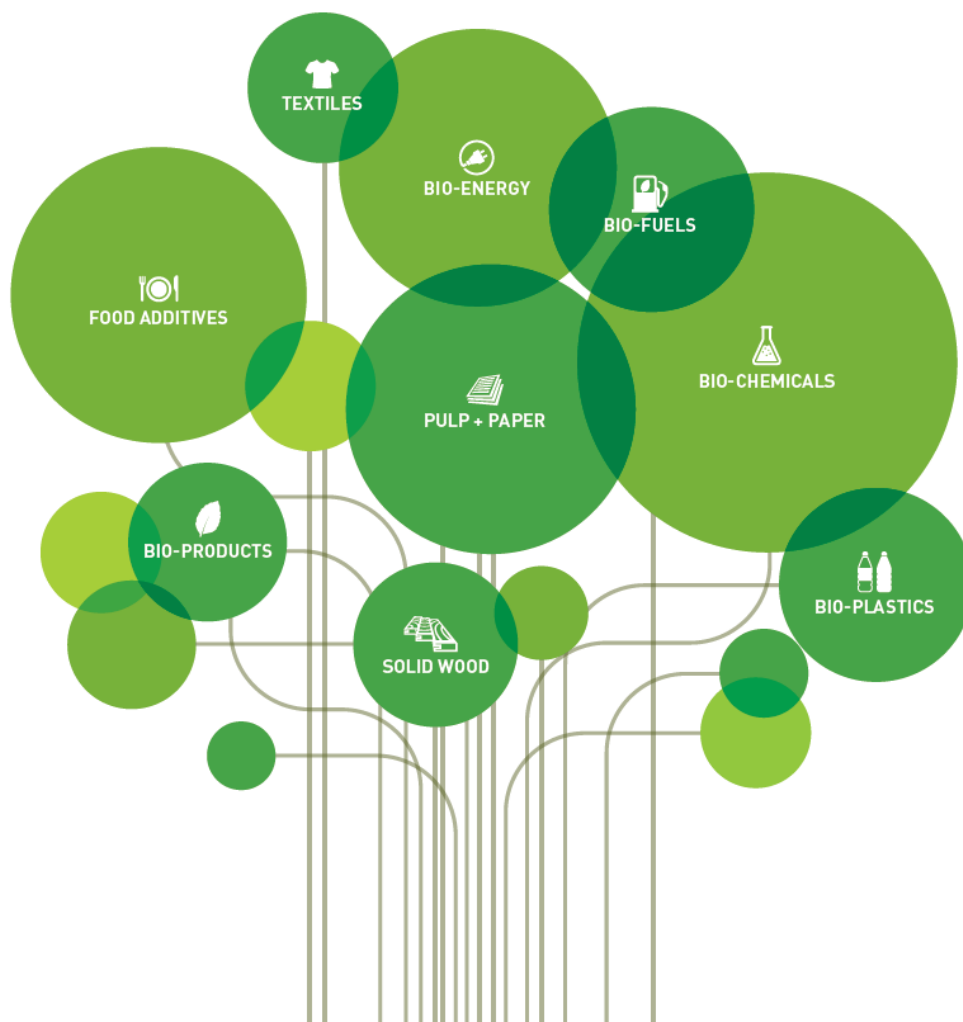
Supporting a Net-Zero Future

Bioeconomy: Helping us Meet Net-Zero by 2050

Canada's forest sector strongly backs the federal government's goal of net-zero emissions by 2050 and is positioned to be an industry leader in helping our country achieve this target. We are also actively working to advance important federal government initiatives related to the Clean Fuel Standard and broader GHG reduction targets.

The forest products sector is committed to removing 30 megatonnes (Mt) of CO₂ a year by 2030 through the [FPAC 30 by 30 Climate Change Challenge](#) – representing more than 13 per cent of the federal government's 2030 climate change mitigation target. We are also committed to playing a leading role in Canada's move to net-zero carbon by 2050.

The forest sector has invested significantly in technologies to reduce wood waste to improve full fibre utilization to pursue opportunities for next-generation bio-refinery capabilities and bio-sourced products. For instance, significant research investments have led to a multitude of new bio-products that displace more carbon intensive materials, reduce emissions, and create jobs.



A 'Made in Canada Solution' to Ensure Public Safety and Reduce Waste

Throughout the pandemic, as the demand for Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and other essential items soared, Canada's forest sector has ensured that many of these products have remained readily available. With demand for masks continuing, Canada's Minister of Natural Resources, the Honourable Seamus O'Regan, recently announced a \$1.3 million investment in [FPInnovations](#) for a COVID-19 response project to develop a biodegradable, sustainable filter for single-use face masks made from local, eco-friendly solutions. This made in Canada innovation will allow us to use a sustainable Canadian resource to provide for our people, help keep Canadians safe, and provide them with a more sustainable and biodegradable material product than alternatives in the marketplace.

Further federal support for initiatives in this field would help encourage future "Made in Canada" technologies and advancements in forest-based bioproducts – providing a local solution to a global issue and supporting self-sufficiency in PPE manufacturing.

The forest sector has also committed more than \$2 billion dollars in green energy investments (e.g. co-generation).¹² The Canadian forest sector has lowered GHG emissions at its mills by nearly 70 per cent since the early 1990s.¹³ Thanks to these ongoing efforts, the GHG emission intensity of Canada's pulp and paper sector is among the lowest in the world at approximately 0.2 CO₂ equivalent/tonne - lower than Finland, the United States, and Germany.¹⁴

SAFE.
LOCALLY PRODUCED.
100% BIODEGRADABLE.



¹² Policy Magazine. (2018). Forestry: A Success Story in Clean Tech. <http://www.fpac.ca/wp-content/uploads/PolicyMagazine-Forestry-A-SuccessStoryinCleanTech.pdf>

¹³ Statistics Canada. Archived - Greenhouse gas emissions, by sector (1990-2008). <https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/t1/tbl1/en/tv.action?pid=3810011101&cubeTimeFrame.startYear=1990&cubeTimeFrame.endYear=2008&referencePeriods=19900101%2C20080101>

¹⁴ Forest Products Association of Canada [FPAC] (2016) Canada's Forest Products Industry is Part of the Solution to the Climate Change Challenge.

Creating Sustainability, Community by Community.

Not only are wood residues a low-carbon energy source to the mills that produce them, but biofuels are also becoming an increasingly important energy source in remote communities. Among several initiatives funded under the [Indigenous Forestry Initiative](#) in remote Indigenous communities is this one in the Yukon:¹⁵

The Teslin Tlingit Council, a remote community in Northern Canada with strong ties to the land, was considering a development project that required clearing a forested area; the cheapest option was to bulldoze the trees and burn the waste. However, the community recognized an opportunity to hire local workers to manually remove trees and use the biomass as fuel. The initiative created two years' worth of fuel for 15 community buildings and employment for several community members.

Further support from the federal government would help encourage more projects such as these and increase production of biofuels, providing a renewable energy source to rural communities and supporting Canada's net-zero commitments in the lead up to 2050.

Since the publication of the [Canadian Council of Forest Ministers' \(CCFM\) Forest Bio-economy Framework in 2018](#), the forest sector has invested more than \$750 million across 90 different projects to help advance the bioeconomy. FPAC calls on the Government of Canada to work with the forest sector to implement this shared vision, which will allow us to accelerate innovation, improve competitiveness, and further strengthen Canada's environmental performance.

There is also an important need to ensure more regulatory certainty as the forest bio-economy continues to develop. For example, there is still a lack of clarity on whether the development of new federal carbon regulations, such as the Clean Fuel Standard, will support the forest sector's innovation in GHG reduction and contribution to the circular economy.



¹⁵ Natural Resources Canada - Canadian Forest Service. (2019). State of Canada's Forest 2019. <https://www.nrcan.gc.ca/our-natural-resources/forests-forestry/state-canadas-forests-report/16496>

Without federal support for increased utilization, our sector will be unable to establish a market opportunity for materials that would otherwise be considered waste (e.g. branches and twigs). Enabling increased utilization through innovation is fundamental to the circular economy and the future of our sector. Furthermore, the use of biofuels can provide an energy source in remote communities still reliant on diesel. In making the transition to biofuels, many communities have harvested local material around their communities using [FireSmart](#) techniques which has provided the co-benefit of reducing fire risk.

Wood fibre based bio-plastics can also provide a more biodegradable option to a number of single-use plastics products in our landfills and oceans. The marketing and economic side of innovation is a fundamental consideration when attracting investment and capital and will contribute in a more meaningful way to a successful circular economy over the long-term.

Wood Buildings: More Green and Resilient Communities

While wood has long been used as a construction material, the benefits of using wood, including new mass timber products as a main material in the construction of all types of buildings is increasingly being recognized world-wide as a more sustainable option.

Using more mass timber as well as established wood frame construction in buildings also has the potential to be transformative in expanding the construction of affordable housing units, seniors' residences, schools, recreation facilities, tall commercial and residential buildings, and bridges, while overall reducing GHG emissions.

As a renewable resource that additionally captures carbon during growth, trees provide long-lived wood products such as lumber, cross-laminated timber (CLT), glue-laminated timber (Glulam), and panels that lock in carbon and have a lower environmental footprint than comparable structural materials.



Key benefits of using wood and new mass timber products in construction include:

- Mass timber projects can be completed 25 per cent faster than similar projects using other common building materials.¹⁶
- Using wood reduces carbon pollution during construction by 25 to 45 per cent.¹⁷
- Wood buildings are resistant to earthquakes and can be designed to be as safe or safer than steel or concrete buildings in the event of a fire. In fact, wood structures can meet or surpass the most stringent fire resistance requirements.¹⁸
- Wood buildings can require less energy to heat and cool, due to its natural insulator material qualities.¹⁹
- Wood is a very versatile building material that can be designed for reuse. This contributes to waste reduction and to further extending the lifetime of carbon stored in structural wood products.²⁰

Renowned architect Michael Green (MGA) estimates that from a carbon perspective, a single 100,000 square foot wood building would be the equivalent of taking 1410 cars off the road each year.²¹



In addition to creating more sustainably built environments and resilient communities, an increased use of wood in building construction would provide numerous economic benefits. The Canadian Wood Council (CWC) has led efforts to help evolve the National Building Code of Canada to provide safe, effective, and GHG efficient wood construction alternatives. Additionally, the Wood *WORKS!* program of CWC has worked with Canada's construction community to embrace these advances in wood construction. Further enhancing the National Building Code of Canada to include new performance-based approaches (similar to leading European countries' approaches to wood construction) could create 50,000 new jobs related to wood use in the manufacturing, design, and construction sectors.

More specifically, there is potential of \$7.5 billion worth of economic activity through the construction of 900 new commercial, residential, and institutional wood buildings in Canada. These investments would create and sustain thousands of construction jobs across the country.²²

¹⁶ Forests Ontario (2020, November 30). Wood-The Better Build. Retrieved from: <https://ittakesaforest.ca/people-products/wood-making-our-lives-better/>

¹⁷ Report to Vancouver's Standing Committee on Policy and Strategic Priorities, Enabling Mass Timber Construction, April 2, 2020.

¹⁸ Cecobois (2020, April 24) Pourquoi construire en bois. Retrieved from <https://cecobois.com/pourquoi-construire-en-bois>.

¹⁹ Forests Ontario (2020, November 30). Wood-The Better Build. Retrieved from: <https://ittakesaforest.ca/people-products/wood-making-our-lives-better/>

²⁰ Bergman, R. *et al.* (2014) The Carbon Impacts of Wood. *Forest Products Journal* 64, 220-231. 10.13073/FPJ-D-14-00047.; Lehmann, S. (2013) Low carbon construction systems using prefabricated engineered solid wood panels for urban infill to significantly reduce greenhouse gas emissions. *Sustainable Cities and Society* 6, 57-67.

²¹ Natural Resources Canada - Canadian Forest Service. (2019). State of Canada's Forest 2019. <https://www.nrcan.gc.ca/our-natural-resources/forests-forestry/state-canadas-forests-report/16496>

²² Data provided by the Canadian Wood Council

Furthermore, in urban areas where housing demands continue to soar, taller, bigger, and more spacious multi-family mass timber construction can be a more sustainable option to help build stronger and lower-carbon communities.

Building with wood can also help advance the federal government's recent *Speech from the Throne* commitment to further invest in the National Housing Strategy, including the rapid expansion of the construction of affordable housing units, seniors' residences, and schools.

There are numerous ways the federal government can support these initiatives including through direct support, incentive and market development programs, and by supporting the CWC's development of proposed changes to the National Building Code. Doing so would be a boon to the forest products and construction industries and a key driver in creating a more prosperous and sustainable future for urban and rural communities, particularly for Indigenous and northern communities.

Conclusion: Emerging Stronger than Ever

Despite the significant challenges our sector faces, we remain optimistic about the future. With the implementation of smart policy, regulations, and supportive program measures, Canada's forest sector is ready to be among the brightest lights in Canada's economic recovery.

As we envision a more inclusive, sustainable, and prosperous Canada post-pandemic, the forest sector and its people are well-positioned to be one of the federal government's most collaborative, solutions-based recovery partners.

As this report has demonstrated, our sector has ready-made solutions to help kick-start a sustainable, lower-carbon economic recovery. Working with the federal government, provincial governments, and our partners across the country, we are committed to leveraging our experience and innovative capacity to tackle our future challenges head-on and emerge from this crisis stronger than ever.



FPAC thanks our partners at the Canadian Wood Council, FPInnovations, and Project Learning Tree Canada for their contributions to this report.





Canada's Forests: Powering Green Growth and a Lower-Carbon Economy

Canada's forestry workers are ready to kickstart economic recovery. We have over **140 capital investment projects worth over \$1.5 billion** that are ready to go, right here in Canada.

These projects will accelerate innovation, improve competitiveness, create and **sustain family-supporting jobs, and power Canada's move to a lower-carbon economy.**

Our sector's ability to help drive economic recovery goes hand-in-hand with our commitment to sustainability, **planting 600 million seedlings a year**, and keeping Canada's forests as forests forever.

Learn more about Canada's forest products sector, our communities, and our people by visiting www.forestryforthefuture.ca



Forest Products Association of Canada
Association des produits forestiers du Canada

