



Statement of Cooperation to Promote Canada's Sustainable Forests and Forest Products

Canada's federal, provincial and territorial governments have long recognized that forests and their many resources are essential to the well-being of the country's environment, communities and economy.

More than two decades ago, in 1992, the Canadian Council of Forest Ministers endorsed national adoption of sustainable forest management principles in partnership with Canada's forest sector. Today, with a legal framework that is among the most robust in the world, Canada is a world leader in sustainable forest management. Sustainable practices are carried out in all publicly owned forests – about 94% of Canada's total forests.

Provinces and territories, which hold jurisdiction over nearly all of the country's forest land, work to ensure that sustainable forest management standards are met. These efforts are well supported by laws, regulations and policies, a rigorous forest management planning process, and a science-based approach to decision-making, assessment and planning. Federal government legislation, such as the Species at Risk Act, and science also helps inform sustainable management practices. Today, climate change is also considered in forest management decisions.

Indigenous Peoples are important partners in sustainable forest management. Under a broad framework of legal protection of rights and title, Indigenous communities are engaged as a matter of course on issues of land and forest management.

Independent third-party certification of sustainable forest practices is further evidence of our success in meeting international standards for sustainable management. Canada has the largest area of certified forests in the world.

The Canadian Council of Forest Ministers believes that our environmental credentials in forest management are well supported by all objective examination.

On June 8, 2016, Canada's forest Ministers renewed their commitment to working together to promote sustainable forests and forest products by continuing to:

- raise awareness in Canada and abroad about:
 - the country's sustainable forest practices through collaborative programs such as the Forest in Mind program as well as
 - the many benefits of Canada's forests and its forest products, and
- share science-based information on the state of our forests.