

MINISTER'S MESSAGE



I am pleased to present the 15th edition of *The State of Canada's Forests*. This year, we focus on the boreal forest, a vast and invaluable resource that circles the northern hemisphere and makes up 77 percent of Canada's entire forest cover.

Within this report are examples of the work being done to ensure Canada's boreal forest remains healthy, now and in the future. You will find articles on subjects as diverse as remote sensing and non-timber forest products; updates on partnerships between governments and environmental groups; and points of view from all stakeholders, including Aboriginal peoples, industry and youth.

In Canada, the boreal forest contributes to our quality of life—particularly for those who live and work in the mostly rural communities that often rely on the resources of a healthy forest for their economic, environmental and social well-being.

Those who call the boreal forest home must be included in any discussion on its future. Boreal communities are an important voice that must be heard. Together with my provincial and territorial counterparts, we are discussing plans for a national dialogue to stimulate and facilitate discussion on issues surrounding the boreal forest.

Through the Canadian Council of Forest Ministers, we are also beginning to develop plans to engage our counterparts in the other boreal nations—Russia, the Scandinavian countries, Japan and the United States—in meaningful discussions about the sustainable development of this global endowment.

I am proud of Canada's place as one of the most advanced forest nations in the world. Through our partnership approach, Natural Resources Canada will continue to work to achieve a healthy forest and strong forest sector for the well-being of present and future generations.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "R. John Efford". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

The Honourable R. John Efford
Minister of Natural Resources Canada