

## MINISTER'S Message

I am pleased to present you with *The State of Canada's Forests* for 2005–2006. This annual report brings together the most comprehensive and up-to-date information on Canada's forests and forest sector.

The report's theme of industry competitiveness is well chosen. In the past year, Canada's forest industry has reacted decisively to improve its efficiency and meet the challenges of a changing marketplace. It continues to respond to these challenges by diversifying products and markets, and by focusing on innovation.

In the report, you will read about the accomplishments of the forest industry, the economics of British Columbia's mountain pine beetle epidemic and how communities, industry and governments are dealing with a changing sector.



Indeed, Canadians in all sectors have a role in the stewardship of forests. They must balance economic benefits with social and environmental goals, because forests have always had an influence on our country's history and culture, as well as our economy.

For example, the Government of Canada continues to implement initiatives that are designed to improve access to new markets and increase international cooperation on forest issues.

In addition, the provinces are helping maintain the biodiversity of forests through conserving and protecting natural areas, and all of our stakeholders are taking advantage of the expertise within the sector through partnerships.

I hope you will find this year's *State of Canada's Forests* report to be an informative and insightful discussion on the issues affecting this precious natural resource.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Gary Lunn". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a period at the end.

The Honourable Gary Lunn, P.C., M.P.  
Minister of Natural Resources Canada