

Canada's Forests

Sustaining Our Country



For centuries, forests have been an intrinsic feature of Canada's society, culture and economy, and they will continue to be an immensely important part of our lives. For our children to enjoy their benefits tomorrow, sustainability must underpin forest management in Canada today.

The 11th annual report on the state of Canada's forests focuses on Canada's progress toward sustainability in forest management. The key to sustainability is balance—preserving the health and diversity of our forests, while meeting the demand for forest products. To achieve this balance, federal, provincial and territorial governments, woodlot owners, community forest partnerships, academic organizations, municipalities, multi-national corporations, Aboriginal groups and others must be committed to responsible forest management.

Canada is viewed as a world leader in sustainability and in progressive, inclusive forest management. We are proud of our success and we need to ensure that Canadians know about these achievements.

This report is filled with exciting examples showing how Canada's forest sector is meeting economic, social and environmental goals. Whether it's using innovative management techniques that bring together First Nations organizations and private businesses to make wise resource decisions, finding new ways to promote mixed forest use, adopting new sustainable forestry practices or rejuvenating urban forests, our successes give the world a model of sustainability.

This year's Points of View section offers a variety of non-governmental opinions about sustainable forest management in Canada. These viewpoints are reflective of the domestic and global discussions surrounding Canada's advances in achieving sustainability within the forest sector. Although each of the interviewees recognizes Canada's continuing progress toward sustainable forestry, each also identifies either real or sometimes perceived impediments to continuing progress. One such identified impediment is the absence of an internationally accepted definition of sustainable forest management. Clearly, this is supportive of Canada's continuing quest for an international forest convention.

The State of Canada's Forests report reminds us that to lead we must innovate—creating new technologies, new products and new approaches to development. To build on our progress, we must strengthen the partnerships that are essential to the sector's success. We must join forces to demonstrate to Canadians and the world that sustainable forestry is an everyday way of doing business.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R. Goodale', written in a cursive style.

Ralph Goodale
Minister of Natural Resources Canada