

Fair Trade Future

# A Fair Deal for Canada's Forestry Workers



## Municipal Softwood Lumber Resolution

Whereas Canada's forestry industry is vital to our economy; hundreds of thousands of workers and more than 650 communities depend on good forestry jobs, including in softwood lumber; and

Whereas although Canada's softwood lumber is a key resource for the U.S. economy and housing industry, the imposition of U.S. duties on Canada's exports deals a serious blow to in-forest harvesting and domestic wood, pulp and paper production, along with the jobs associated with it; if past disputes are any indication, tens of thousands of our jobs are at risk; and

Whereas previous dispute resolution panels have rejected U.S. claims of unfair trade practices on Canadian softwood lumber, consistently ruling in Canada's favour ; this suggests that any imposition of countervailing or anti-dumping duties by the U.S. Department of Commerce is discriminatory and groundless; and

Whereas all national stakeholders, including municipalities, must speak out in defence of Canada's forestry industry—the nation's third largest export sector—as well as forest-dependent communities and affected workers in the face of another damaging trade dispute.

**Therefore be it resolved that**                     Municipal/Regional/Other                     Council urges the federal government to negotiate a new softwood lumber agreement with the United States that guarantees access to the U.S. market for Canada's softwood lumber exports and that retains the right of Quebec and all Canadian provinces to manage forest lands.

**Be it further resolved that**                     Municipal/Regional/Other                     Council calls on the Minister of Natural Resources to act immediately in mitigating the impact of U.S.-imposed softwood lumber duties by providing emergency loan guarantees to assist affected facilities, and to ensure adequate supports are provided to affected communities and workers, including enhanced income and transition supports as well as special Employment Insurance provisions, extended benefit periods and retraining supports for advanced technologies in the forestry industry.

**Finally, be it resolved that**                     Municipal/Regional/Other                     Council call on the Federation of Canadian Municipalities to re-establish its Softwood Lumber Taskforce responsible for coordinating a response among municipal councils in Canada and a comprehensive campaign strategy, bringing attention to this issue among our U.S. municipal counterparts.