



# The Future of Forestry

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A workers' perspective  
for successful, sustainable  
and just forestry

Produced by:

*Unifor Forestry Industry Council and  
Unifor Research Department*

## Letter from the Forestry Policy Working Group

Forestry can have a strong future, one that provides good jobs, benefits our communities, sustains the environment, and brings opportunities to the next generation. But this future will only come about if we make the right choices, adopt strong policies and put them into action.

Forestry is one of the most important sectors of the Canadian economy, shapes many of our communities and affects a wide and diverse range of stakeholders. Important policy decisions affect forestry, and workers need to ensure their views and heard, and their interests are represented.

The Unifor Forestry Sector Council made it a priority to develop a renewed forestry policy as soon as it was formed, building on a proud legacy of advocacy. Through discussion, debate, analysis, and feedback from our Local Unions; this policy has been developed to bring our union's views and plans for action to our members, their families, our communities, forestry stakeholders, the broader public and elected officials.

We believe that with the right choices, and strong action, we can have successful, sustainable and just forestry.

**In solidarity,**

**Unifor Forestry Policy Working Group**

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# 1. Forestry and the Future

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Canada is a nation rich in natural resources. This has been the case from the beginning: supporting the original First Nations inhabitants, luring European colonizers, determining the development of the Canadian economy, shaping our collective history, and setting our place in the world. Canada's natural resources are the base from which all else has been built. And they remain essential to who we are today.

This wealth provides us with immense opportunities, but also serious responsibilities. We must always consider how to harness our resources to serve the interests of the whole country, generate good



jobs, redress the needs of Indigenous peoples, support communities, lead to innovation, and meet the highest standards for environmental stewardship. Addressing these issues remains central to shaping our whole economy, and is key to building the kind of society we want. This is nowhere more true than in forestry.

As one of the industries upon which our country was built, forestry can too often evoke nostalgia. And the industry, in our

increasingly urban society, is often out of sight and mind of our too many of our political leaders. But it is critical that we see forestry for what it truly is today: an integral part of our modern economy, an important source of good jobs, a leading-edge innovator, and a renewable natural resource that can have a stronger future.

Logging, pulp and paper, and wood-products manufacturing employ 202,000 people across the country, and most of these are good jobs with decent wages and working conditions. Canada is the world's largest forestry exporter: we ship more than half of our \$60-billion annual output. And the industry and its workers make important contributions to the public purse to pay for such essential services as health care, education, and infrastructure.

But the forestry sector is in transition. The past decade delivered incredible challenges, including rapidly changing markets, a shift in consumer demand away from newsprint and other papers in the digital age, wild swings in housing and construction demand, the devastation of an over-valued Canadian dollar on exports, and a global financial crisis and recession. Over the last decade, the industry has shed one third of its jobs.

After painful restructuring that drew on the dedication and sacrifices of forestry workers, supported by some solid government policies, the industry is on a rebound and could be poised for a much brighter future.

What could lie ahead? New, innovative products; the development of biopathways and nano-cellulose technologies that put forestry resources to uses never previously imagined; transformative innovations

**We have the potential for a bright future, but only if we are responsible, and make the right choices.**

in building materials and green construction, and a sustained transition toward higher-value growth products and markets.

There is also a coming wave of retirements that means the industry could need upward of 60,000 new workers within the decade, opening huge potentials to connect the next generation, and to provide employment opportunities to under-represented groups and communities. All of this change is possible, but none of it will happen automatically.

Around the world, wherever there is a successful forestry industry, we find smart and innovative policies to manage the public resources, harness the opportunities, and address the responsibilities. Canada must do exactly these things as well: We need comprehensive policies designed to ensure that forestry is treated as an increasingly value-added industry.

Policies are needed to support investments that transition toward growing markets, which means that the federal and provincial governments have an even greater role to play.

We also need sustainable rules for wood harvesting that secure investments and jobs while meeting the highest environmental standards. There must be stable and appropriately priced hydro-electricity; as well, transportation infrastructure, pricing and access need to be modernized. Trade policies need to support high-value forestry exports, maintain stable access to key markets, while ensuring we are not the target of unfair trade measures. And we need to control the export of unprocessed raw logs.

Workers have done their part to put the industry on a renewed footing. Canada's vital forestry industry is at a crossroads. We have the potential for a bright future, but only if we are responsible, and make the right choices.

This document reflects the views of forestry workers and is aimed at sharing the perspectives of those who work in the industry every day, and whose families and communities are most dependent on the future of forestry. Unifor looks forward to continuing an open and productive dialogue with all forestry stakeholders: forestry companies, Indigenous communities, environmental organizations, forest-dependent communities, along with municipal, provincial and federal governments. The future of forestry is vital for us all.

## 2. Why Workers Need Independent Policies

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Why do workers need to make policy? As workers our livelihoods are always in the hands of others. The factors that determine where investments are made, where production occurs, and access to public resources are all shaped by government policies. Too often we hear that what happens in the economy is driven by the “natural forces” of markets alone; and what role there is for government, if any, should be to facilitate free markets and largely get out of the way.

Nothing could be further from the truth. That’s not how the world works today, nor should it be. Government policies are the centerpiece and core mechanism that establishes the whole structure of the economy and foundation for private business.

Through our governments we enact and enforce the laws around property ownership; set the regulations for the banks and financial sector; supply the infrastructure of roads, transportation, and electricity; provide the backbone services for an educated and healthy workforce; establish the base floor for workers’ rights and environmental protections.

The decisions we make collectively through government are vital for every kind of work and business. And this nowhere more so than when private enterprise is built upon publicly-owned and governed natural resources. Important questions about title and ownership by Indigenous communities remain, but what is clear is that all but a tiny fraction of Canada’s natural resources are firmly in collective hands governed by democratic governments: not only our crown forests, but the oil and metals in the ground, and the fish in the seas. These resources are not merely private market goods.

### Unifor in the Industry

- 24,000 members
- 134 different employers
- 284 bargaining units
- 15,000 members in pulp and paper
- 8,000 members in wood products
- 1,000 members in logging operations
- 70% of members in workplaces under 200

Government policies shape whole industries, their outcomes, success and failures in business terms, as well as social outcomes. Policies determine what share of the wealth generated is turned to collective interests such as good employment, meeting environmental priorities, regional development, or public revenues to pay for vital services.

Which values and interests shape these policies? Workers and our union in particular, have a long track record of advocating for industrial policies, natural resource policies, and broader social and economic development policies. Most critically, our views go beyond the short-term corporate interests, and prioritize the needs of workers, communities, and long-term sustainability.

Through their union workers can collectively develop the necessary expertise, devote time and resources to reflection and discussion, develop independent knowledge and insights, and to articulate their views in the public arena.

Without our voice other interests dominate. In particular, workers in resource industries need independent and strong policies because too often we can face getting put in a box of a false choice: our jobs vs. the health of the environment. We reject that choice. There are indeed truly sustainable paths for the environment and economic development that we need to advance independently, not beholden to corporate interests, or have other organizations speak on our behalf. Our union has a long and proud history of standing up for the environment, our livelihoods, our families, our communities, and the next generation. For all of these reasons, we need to have our own policies for the future of forestry.

Figure 1

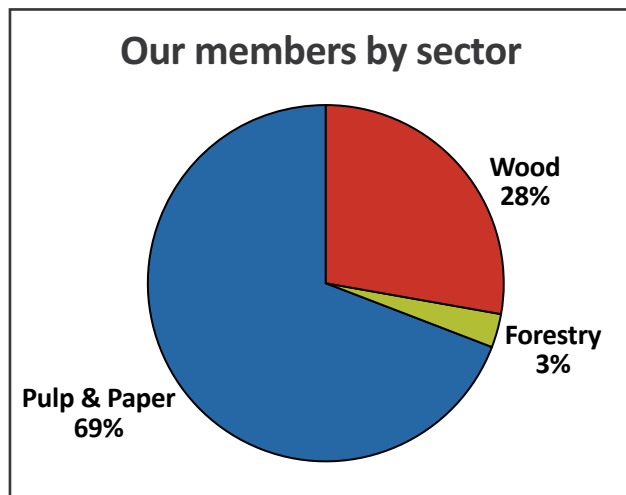


Figure 2

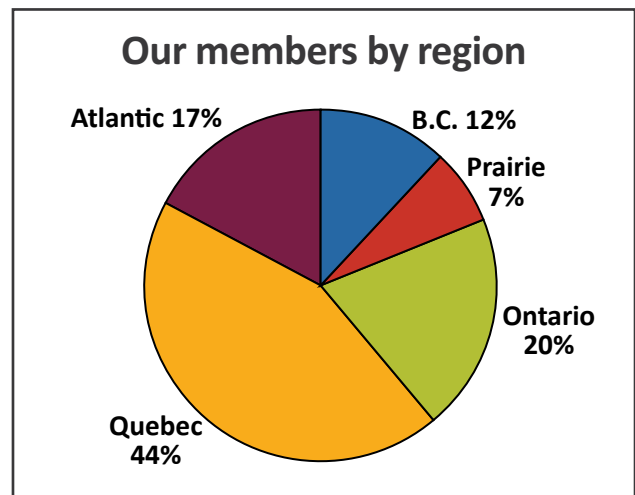


Figure 3







Credit: UBC Public Affairs | naturallywood.com | photographer: KK Law

# 3. Forestry Benefits Us All

## A Snapshot Of An Essential Sector Of The Canadian Economy

Forestry is a true champion in Canada's economy. As a high value-added sector based on a renewable resource, forestry is one of our top-performing industries and a global leader.

### Forestry Strengthens Our Economy

- Canada's forestry sector produces \$60 billion worth of products a year including lumber, paper, advanced building materials, and increasingly new products such as energy, fuel, pharmaceuticals, chemicals and advanced cellulose fibres.
- More than half of Canada's forestry production is exported, it is Canada's 3<sup>rd</sup> most valuable export sector and accounts for fully 10% of the country's total exports.
- With the world's largest forest products trade balance, no nation gets more benefit from forestry trade than Canada. Forestry's \$24 billion positive trade balance represents a quarter of Canada's total trade surplus.
- As a leading innovator, forestry is also one of the nation's top sources of private investment with spending of \$5.3 billion on new equipment and repair in 2015. \$240 million more was spent on research and development activities, employing more than 1,000 scientists and research personnel.
- The industry's direct payroll injects \$11.7 billion per year into the wider economy. Of that, forestry workers pay more than \$4 billion per year in income, payroll, sales and property taxes that support our vital public services like health care and education.

### Forestry in Canada

- 202,000 direct jobs
- 300,000 spin-off jobs
- \$60 billion production
- \$35 billion exports
- 3rd largest export sector
- \$5 billion annual investment
- \$240 million in R&D
- \$11.7 billion direct payroll
- \$4 billion taxes from workers
- 17% higher wages than average
- 650 reliant communities
- 44% cut in CO2 since 2000

*Sources: NRCAN, FPAC, Statistics Canada, Unifor calculations*

### An Essential Source of Good Jobs

- Canada's forestry sector directly employs 202,000 people, in every region of the country.
- Forestry supply and transport companies create thousands more jobs; and the economic activity generated by the spending of forestry workers creates even more. For every forestry job, 1.5 jobs are created elsewhere in the economy. In total, forestry is responsible for more than half a million Canadian jobs.

- Forestry is a champion job-creator among Canada’s most valuable export industries. Forestry creates 60% more direct jobs than auto; double the jobs of the oil and gas sector; three times more than mining; three-and half times more than primary metals; and four times more than aerospace.
- In many communities forestry jobs are the heart of the economy. More than 650 communities are reliant on the sector, and more than 300 are highly-dependent with forestry accounting for more than half the total household income.
- The sector is also an important source of employment for Aboriginal and Indigenous workers, with 9,500 forestry jobs in indigenous communities.
- These are good community- and family-sustaining jobs with average weekly wages of \$1,112 last year, 17% above the national average.
- The industry in the midst of a generational change and expects to fill 60,000 jobs by the end of the decade; which, if uninterrupted, will provide essential opportunities for young workers and young families.

## A Green and Renewable Resource

- Canada has the third largest forest area in the world, which plays a major role in combating climate change by storing carbon dioxide and reducing greenhouse gases, and are key to a green future. Forests remove one quarter of Canada’s fossil fuel emissions, and the industry has cut its own carbon emissions by 44% since 2000.
- Less than half of one percent (0.2%) of Canada’s forests are harvested annually. The industry operates to the highest environmental standards in the world, and we have the world’s most third-party independently certified forests.
- Further environmental benefits are ahead as innovative new technologies allow expanded use of wood in commercial, mid- and high-rise buildings, replacing carbon-intensive concrete and steel.

### Forestry Jobs by Province

**BC:** 54,000  
**AB:** 15,000  
**SK:** 3,000  
**MB:** 8,000  
**ON:** 45,000  
**QC:** 62,000  
**NB:** 12,000  
**NS:** 5,000  
**PE:** 1,000  
**NL:** 2,000

Source: NRCAN

Sources: Natural Resources Canada, “The State of Forest Canada’s Forests: Annual Report 2016;” Forest Products Association of Canada, selected reports, <http://www.fpac.ca>; Canadian Council of Forest Ministers, “Criteria and Indicators for Sustainable Forest Management in Canada”; Industry Canada, “Trade Data Online;” Statistics Canada, selected CANSIM tables; Unifor calculations

## 4. The State of Canadian Forestry

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### Positive Momentum After a Tough Decade

Although not immune to the boom-bust cycles typical of natural resource-based sectors, the Canadian forest sector was traditionally regarded as a low-cost producer of top-quality pulp, paper and lumber, enviably positioned next to the United States – the world’s largest, most lucrative forest products market. In 2007-2008, however, this story changed with the arrival of a perfect storm of cyclical and structural pressures that called into question the economic viability of the forest industry.

The collapse of the American housing market and imploding demand for newsprint, in combination with the rise of the Canadian dollar and intense international competition shook the sector to its foundations. The ensuing period saw the closure of more than 150 mills, the bankruptcies of eight major firms and more than 90,000 jobs lost across Canada. As Canada and the world began the slow process of recovering from the recession, it became apparent that the operating context for Canadian forest product producers had changed.

Despite relentless productivity improvements and consolidation measures, the business model that had served the sector for decades had become economically unsustainable for many of this country’s major players. Without a fundamental transformation, many forest industry sub-sectors were set on longer-term course to marginalization, with far reaching effects.

The good news is that many parts of the forestry sector have made transformative investments, markets for established products are seeing some greater stability, while markets for emerging products show promise.

### Pulp and Paper

It’s been a painful decade for Canada’s pulp and paper industry, its workers and the communities that depend on it. The industry’s wrenching decline and transformation were well underway in the half-decade before the meltdown on Wall Street in 2008.

If you add to the mix Canada’s world-leading position as a supplier of newsprint, which has seen the sharpest fall in demand among all paper grades, it is little wonder that the industry faced a full-blown crisis as the global economy shifted into reverse. The worst of the crisis was marked by multiple bankruptcies, closures and a wholesale restructuring of the corporate landscape.

A look at the Canadian industry’s performance since 2009 reveals several stabilizing developments and a number of positive signs. Of course, significant pressures continue to exist, stemming from shifts in demand away from many paper grades and a generally stagnant, or declining, outlook for graphic papers in mature markets. But the situation is improving as the global economy recovers, and we’re seeing some stronger performance in packaging grades, dissolving pulp and in the nearly recession-proof tissue market, among others.

## Wood Products

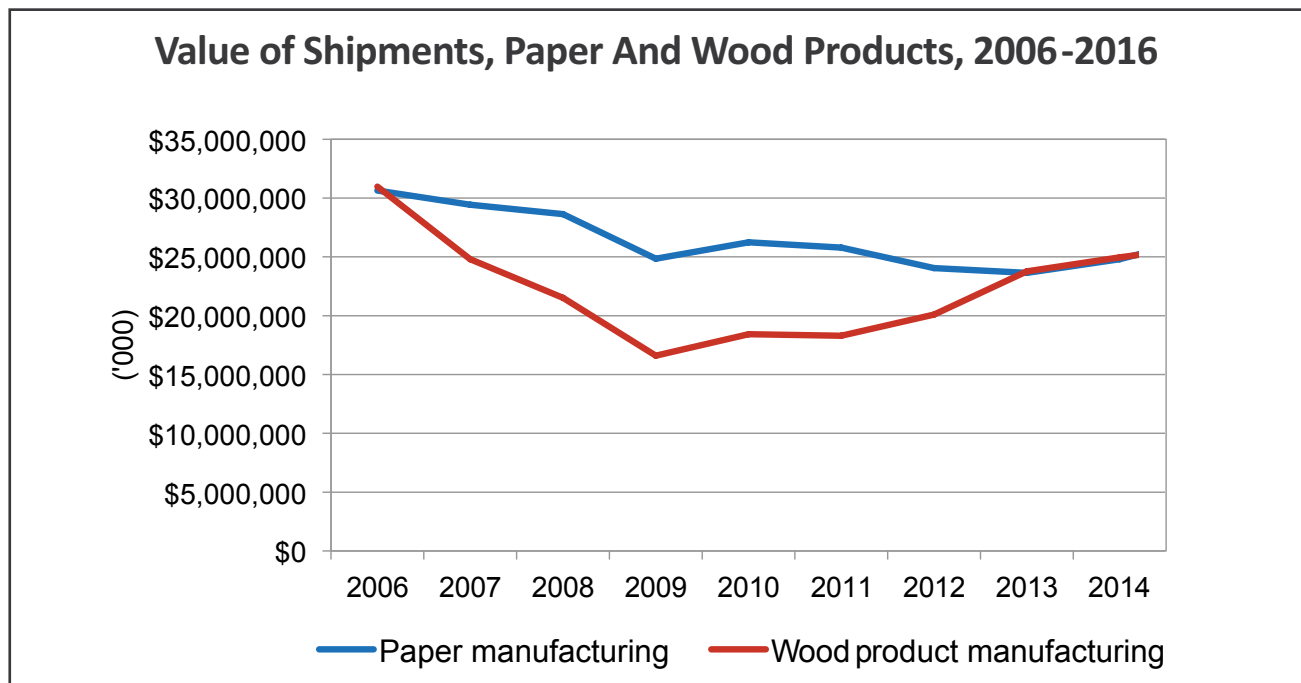
In contrast to the fortunes in pulp and paper, Canada's wood products industry has benefited from the ongoing recovery in U.S. housing and a weaker Canadian dollar. The continued recovery in the U.S. housing market is supporting increased demand for Canadian wood products, leading to a 40% increase in the total value of exports over the last three years.

However, various risks cloud the outlook over the medium term. Production has been poised to remain stable or increase, but timber supply constraints (a result of the mountain pine beetle infestation) will continue to limit domestic production. This supply problem will plague lumber companies operating in British Columbia's interior and could lead to plant closures. In addition, the expiry of the Canada-U.S. Softwood Lumber agreement and imposition of new duties, if left unchecked, will dramatically affect Canadian softwood lumber producers' access to their key market.

## Shipments of Pulp, Paper and Wood Products

The downturn in production over the last decade is reflected in the industry's annual value of shipments, which fell hard during the global financial crisis. Pulp and paper shipments fell by \$5 billion in the three years prior to 2009. Lost ground has recovered and we've seen relative stability since then. For wood products, the boom in U.S. housing prior the financial crisis, then dramatic collapse, saw Canadian shipments cut in half, by nearly \$15 billion, in the three years prior to 2009. A recovering U.S. economy, and global demand, has seen a recovery in shipments.

Figure 4



Source: Statistics Canada, CANSIM Table 204-0014

Of course the story has not been even across all sub-sectors. In pulp and paper, the dramatic drop-off in demand for newsprint has largely continued, but since 2009 we've seen a decent recovery in pulp shipments, a modest recovery in shipments of converted paper products, and relatively stable shipments in paperboard and other papers. While there has been no wholesale recovery, welcome stability has returned in the last five years, with some recent minor growth.

The cyclical demand for many wood product segments has seen some recovery for Canadian lumber producers. After crashing in the financial crisis, shipments have nearly doubled since then. Other engineered and manufactured wood products have seen greater stability throughout and modest increases in shipments in recent years.

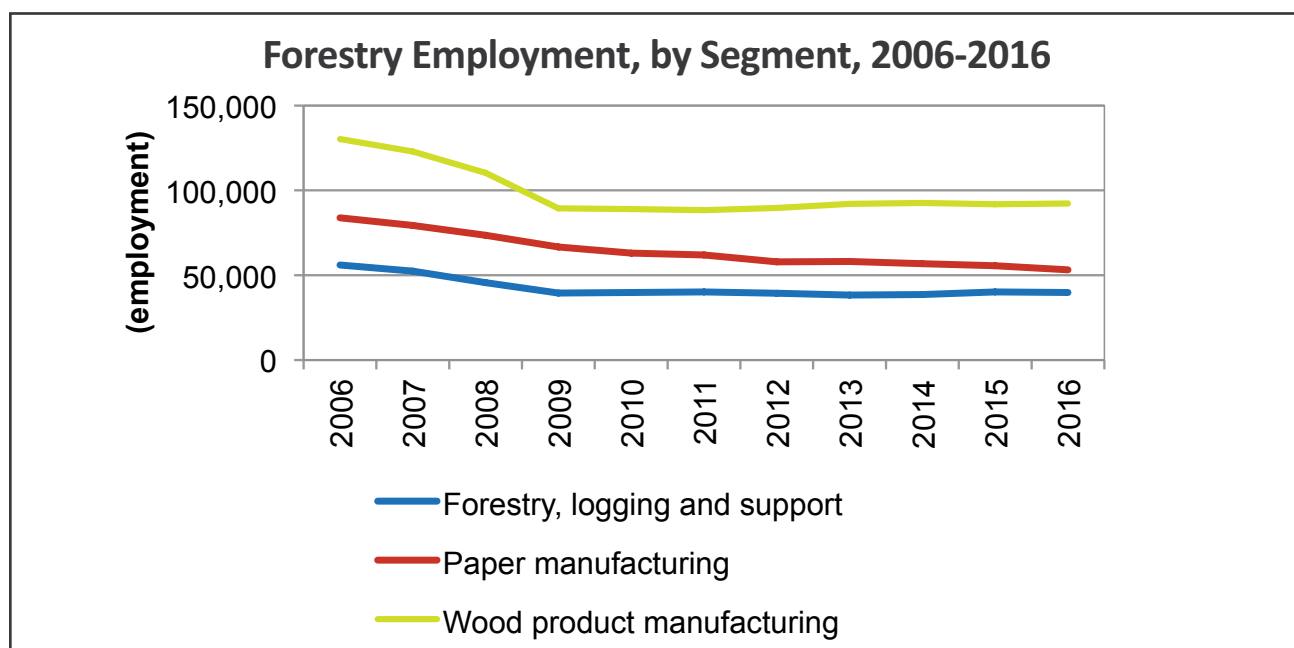
## Employment

Employment across all Canadian manufacturing sectors has been hit hard in the last decade. The combined effects of a lack of effective industrial policy, devastating free trade deals and a vastly over-valued currency resulted in the elimination of more than 400,000 manufacturing jobs during that time.

The forestry sector was among those worst hit, losing nearly 90,000 jobs since 2006, or 1 in 3. The resulting devastation for workers, their families and communities is still being felt. While there may not be *good* news on the job front currently, there is *better* news. For the forestry sector as a whole, overall employment has largely stabilized.

The story, of course, has not been even across the industry. Job figures reveal a better picture in wood products and forestry operations, which have seen employment flat-lined for the last five years, compared to pulp and paper which has seen employment decline a further 20% since 2009.

Figure 5



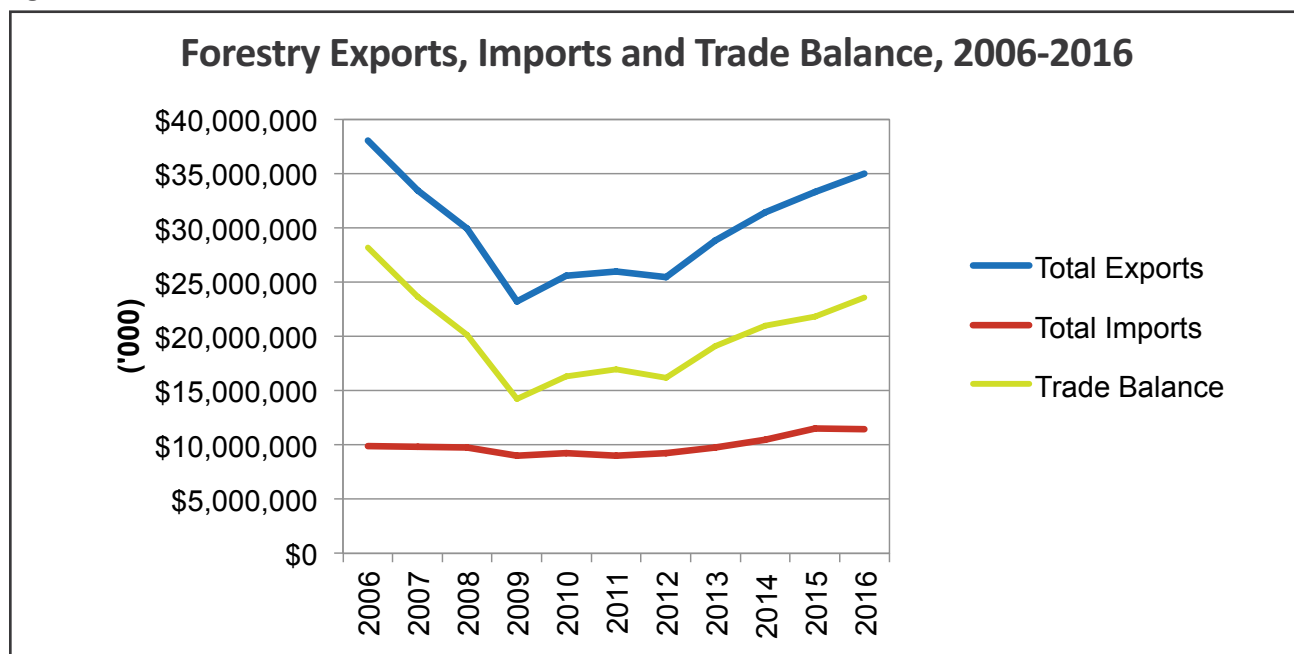
Source: Statistics Canada, CANSIM Table 281-0024

## Trade

In terms of trade, forestry is one of Canada's few value-added industries in which we run a surplus. A mix of better pricing, higher-value products and expanded reach into overseas markets has combined to minimize the impact of the downturn on export values. After registering a strong drop in exports in the three years to 2009, during which exports fell by 40%, Canada has seen strong growth in the overall value of exports, registering a \$24 billion trade surplus last year.

In pulp and paper we have seen some solid recovery in exports since 2009, partially offset by a small rise in imports, leaving generally stable trade surplus in the range of \$10 billion annually.

Figure 6

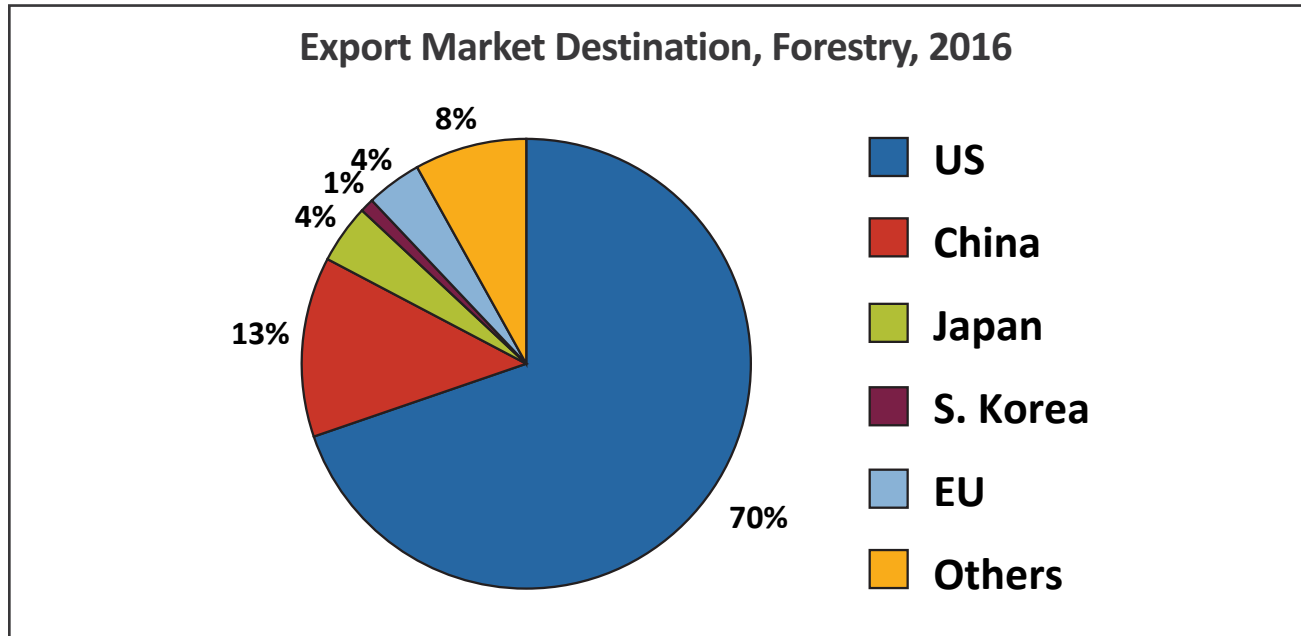


Source: Industry Canada, Trade Data Online

In the cyclical lumber sector, we saw a dramatic crash in exports tied to the global financial crisis and collapse of U.S. housing and construction. Exports fell by more than half from 2006 to 2009. As markets have recovered, exports increased through 2012, and then have soared since, climbing by \$5 billion and resulting in positive trade balance of \$11 billion last year.

A look at the destination of Canadian exports highlights the dominance of the U.S. market, which accounts for 70% of all exports, and underscores the vital importance of stable trade relations and market access. The surging growth of the Chinese economy in recent decades has meant that market now account for 13% of Canada's exports, however a general slowdown in China will diminish export volumes ahead.

Figure 7



Source: Industry Canada, Trade Data Online

## Investment

Ongoing investment is the lifeblood of any industry. The history of underinvestment in value-added technology in Canada’s forestry sector, compounded by dramatic structural declines in demand for key pulp and paper products, saw perilously low levels of new capital investment in the years prior to the global financial crisis. By 2009 new capital investment in the industry fell to a low of just \$1 billion, less than half the level registered just three years earlier.

Since then, Canada has seen steadily improving capital investment in the forestry sector, with \$2.2 billion in investments last year. Perhaps more than any other sign of improving fortunes, the return to stronger investment levels points toward a more positive future.

## What’s Ahead?

The Canadian industry survived the depths of the global recession, albeit in a dramatically smaller, and significantly restructured, form. The immediate signs point to stabilization in pulp and paper, while wood products and logging may face softening global market demands and potentially dramatic challenges arising from a renewed softwood lumber dispute with the United States.

After the worst of the financial crisis there have been some positive signs. Production levels, the value of shipments and employment are stabilizing while exports and capital investment are improving.

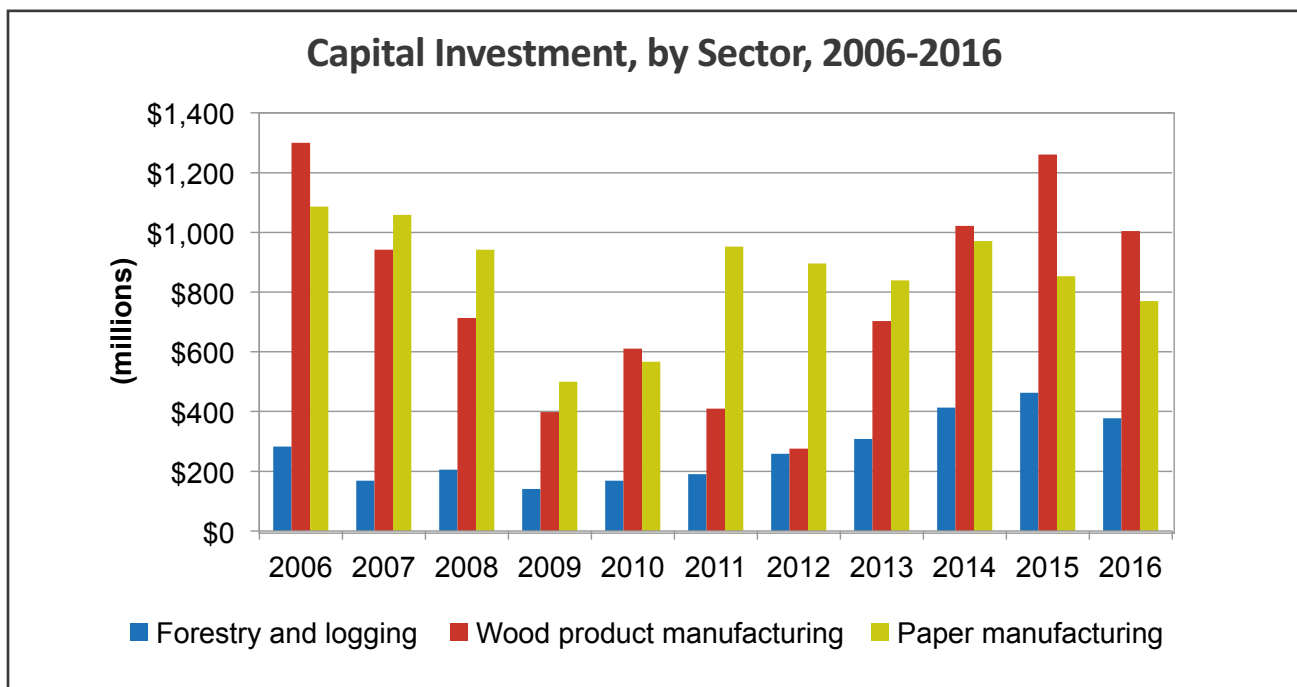
Forecasts for sustained pricing for key products, combined with a lower Canadian dollar, only point to better performance in 2017. But the industry also faces significant uncertainty following the expiration of the Canada-U.S. Softwood Lumber Agreement and new duties on exports to the U.S are imposed.



Longer term, much more is needed to spark a stable recovery. For that to happen, we need to see sustained investment, conversions toward products with stronger market outlooks, a more balanced overall product mix, integrated and substantial industrial policies to support the industry’s move up the value-added chain, and effective trade policies that ensure stable and continued access to our most important market. Without these, we will find another crisis down the road.

Despite all the concerns and current challenges, we need to see forestry for what it is: an industry of the future, with great potential applications for wood products in new materials, fuels, building materials and more. As a renewable resource, which actively counteracts climate change, the future could be very strong but it will not arrive automatically and requires guidance and strong policy to make it happen.

Figure 8



Source: Statistics Canada, CANSIM Table 029-0045

## 5. The Need for Integrated Policies

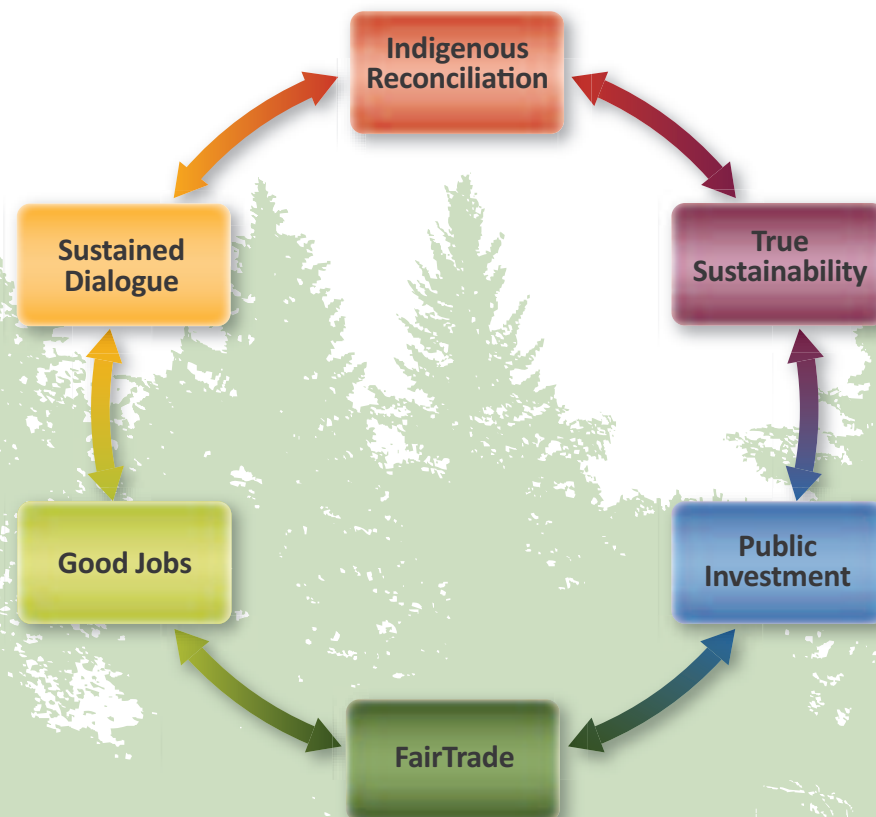
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The challenges in front of the Canadian forestry sector are great, as are the opportunities and potential. There are many options and possible directions, and the path forward needs to be crafted carefully.

While the future cannot be fully known, what we do know is that without stronger action, greater strategy, and more care, Canada's forestry sector will miss the opportunities and face ongoing decline. The discussions and decisions of all forestry stakeholders should be guided by core principles to serve as a yardstick to measure policies, decisions and actions.

A successful, sustainable and just forestry sector cannot be about picking and choosing some principles, but not others. In our view we must succeed on all principles together. While different principles are separated from each other to help our understanding and action, all of the elements must be seen as a whole. We cannot have good trade policy for example, but fail to invest in the industry. We cannot prioritize reconciliation with Indigenous communities, without sustainable forestry practices. We cannot hope to sustain and grow good employment without sustained dialogue. All principles need to be met at once.

### Unifor's Principles for Successful, Sustainable and Just Forestry



## 5.1 Prioritize Reconciliation with Indigenous Communities

The history of forestry is intertwined with that of Canada's Indigenous communities. Extracting the wealth of the forests was central to the project of European colonization and earliest interaction with Indigenous peoples. After more than five centuries questions of land title, land use, and access to resources continue to lie at the heart of Indigenous relations in Canada. Among many Indigenous movements, the powerful protests and actions of the *Idle No More* movement captured the centrality of land use and natural resources in their manifesto:

"The Treaties are nation to nation agreements between First Nations and the British Crown who are sovereign nations. The Treaties are agreements that cannot be altered or broken by one side of the two Nations. The spirit and intent of the Treaty agreements meant that First Nations peoples would share the land, but retain their inherent rights to lands and resources. Instead, First Nations have experienced a history of colonization which has resulted in outstanding land claims, lack of resources and unequal funding for services such as education and housing.

The state of Canada has become one of the wealthiest countries in the world by using the land and resources. Canadian mining, logging, oil and fishing companies are the most powerful in the world due to land and resources. Some of the poorest First Nations communities (such as Attawapiskat) have mines or other developments on their land but do not get a share of the profit. The taking of resources has left many lands and waters poisoned – the animals and plants are dying in many areas in Canada. We cannot live without the land and water. We have laws older than this colonial government about how to live with the land.

...There are many examples of other countries moving towards sustainability, and we must demand sustainable development as well. We believe in healthy, just, equitable and sustainable communities and have a vision and plan of how to build them.<sup>17</sup>

Extracting the wealth of the forests was central to the project of European colonization and earliest interaction with Indigenous peoples.

There have been a number of formal efforts to better integrate Indigenous interests in the forestry sector in recent decades. The federal government's 15-year *First Nations Forestry Program* was the Government of Canada's principal capacity-building approach for First Nation's forestry from 1996 to 2011. Its activities included research, outreach, and capacity-building through some 2,400 projects with 680 First Nations' communities, tribal councils, business and organizations over course of the program. These efforts were re-cast as the federal *Aboriginal Forestry Initiative* after 2011, focusing strongly on entrepreneurship and private industry. While there are certain to be important experiences and lessons to draw from these efforts, it is obvious that far more needs to be done.

Various industry outreach programs are important, but do not address the key issues of land use and title. While there remain many essential land claim issues to be resolved, there have been some

positive examples of direct negotiation with Indigenous communities around forestry management, including the 2015 *Great Bear Rainforest Agreement*. Other important developments in environmental protection have unfortunately not been successful in incorporating direct Indigenous involvement and support, such as the 2010 *Boreal Forest Agreement* struck among forestry industry companies and several environmental organizations.

Specifically concerning Indigenous views on the forestry sector, the National Aboriginal Forestry Association and the Assembly of First Nations jointly hosted a National Forum on First Nations Forest Land Stewardship, themed “Our Forests, Our Future: Advancing Our Stewardship Role.” The proceedings provide strong guidance on the need for significant policy changes:

“A shared concern is that most often forestry policy and legislation do not reflect First Nations values, nor do they incorporate customary laws and practices. In addition, policies and legislation generally do not support First Nations self-determination and jurisdiction, meaningful decision making, shared management of resources, and the equitable sharing of economic opportunities and benefits.

...Policy and legislation need to consider the values, customs, traditions and practices of First Nations. In addition, they must be developed in a way that supports partnerships between First Nations and non-native organizations and governments, prioritizes First Nations stewardship efforts, and seriously considers the effects of climate change on forest management. Again, forestry policy and legislation must not only be founded on economic sustainability, but also on environmental, social and cultural sustainability (hence, the relevance of corporate social responsibility for First Nations) because the boreal forest has sustained the cultures, environment and economies of hundreds of First Nation communities for thousands of years.

It follows that development projects on ancestral lands should only be permitted if developers obtain the free, prior and informed consent of the First Nations whose lands are at stake. And, it is important that these communities benefit from proposed developments through the equitable sharing of economic opportunities and benefits associated with projects. Finally, communities need more First Nations specific programs to implement sustainable forest management practices. Together, these elements will help ensure that First Nations continue to assert (or reassert) jurisdiction over their traditional lands and resources.”

Unifor is deeply committed to justice for Canada’s First Nations, Inuit and Metis peoples. We acknowledge the tremendous contributions of Indigenous people to our union, our communities and the broader movement for social justice. Unifor members are concentrated in many of the key sectors of the economy affecting First Nations, Inuit and Metis peoples. We are a strong union in important industries for Indigenous workers, including health care, gaming, hospitality, retail, forestry, fishing, mining and gas and oil.

Our union has several Locals which are primarily made up of Indigenous workers, and five regional and a national standing committees and many local union committees representing Aboriginal and Workers of Colour. We are proud of the strong role played by Aboriginal leaders in the union serving as elected

regional officers and senior staff. Our union has also linked its skilled trades program to solidarity with First Nations, including union-sponsored well water projects on reserves.

As Canada's largest resource sector union, Unifor members are directly affected by the implementation of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and their right for free, prior and informed consent before major economic development projects affect their traditional territories.

In August 2015 the more than 1,000 delegates to the Unifor Canadian Council voted unanimously to support all of the 94 recommendations of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, and singled out several recommendations as particularly important, including two of specific relevance to forestry:

- Recognition by government and the corporate sector of the UN Declaration on Rights of Indigenous peoples, including meaningful consultation and obtaining the free, prior and informed consent of indigenous peoples before proceeding with economic development projects.
- Adoption and implementation by all levels of government of the United Nations Declaration of the Rights of Indigenous Peoples as the framework for reconciliation.

The following year, in August 2016 a day of Unifor's second Convention was dedicated to support of First Nation, Inuit, Metis and all Indigenous peoples. 1,800 delegates and members heard from Cindy Blackstock, Executive Director of the First Nations Child and Family Caring Society of Canada as she received Unifor's Neil Reimer Social Activist of the Year Award. And Senator Murray Sinclair, Chair of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission was presented with Unifor's Nelson Mandela Award for Human Rights. Following the award presentations, Convention delegates marched to Parliament Hill to take a message to the federal government in full support of the 94 recommendations outlined in the Truth and Reconciliation Commission.

As we continue with our ongoing dialogue about the future of forestry, Unifor prioritizes reconciliation with Indigenous peoples and views the forestry sector as a leading mechanism for partnerships and the achievement of tangible progress.

### **Unifor will:**

- **Continue to partner with Indigenous organizations, communities and First Nations councils/governments to advocate for the implementation of the 94 recommendations of the Truth and Reconciliations Commission.**
- **Outreach to Indigenous organizations through the Unifor Forestry Industry Council to discuss perspectives, shared interests and potential areas of collaboration in the forestry sector.**
- **Be an active partner with forestry sector employers and local Indigenous representatives in developing and implementing Indigenous employment and apprenticeship initiatives.**

## 5.2 True Sustainability at Home and Around World

Canada is a world leader in sustainable forestry. Advances in conservation science, forestry practices and technology mean that Canadian forestry is no longer the industry of even a few decades ago that saw too many unsustainable harvesting practices, insufficient protections of sensitive environments and inefficient operations resulting in too much wasted resources. All of that has changed. And after a period of intense debate starting in the early 1990s and growing recognition of the need to address environmental and climate issues, Canada's forestry sector is now truly among the most environmentally sustainable in the world.

### Global Challenges and Climate Change

Forests cover about a third of the earth's land area and are essential to the health of the environment. Trees and forests absorb and store much of the carbon dioxide that otherwise would be contributing to climate change. Forests are home to about 80 percent of remaining terrestrial biodiversity. Forests also regulate water cycles, maintain soil quality, and reduce the risks of natural disasters such as floods.

**Canada's forestry sector is now truly among the most environmentally sustainable in the world.**

Many of these outcomes are undervalued although they are key to the resilience and green growth of local, national and global economies.<sup>3</sup>

The products of forests are generally considered useful, rather than the forests themselves, and so extracting wood is a widespread and historical practice, virtually global in scale.

Depletion of forest resources has long term effects on climate, soil conservation, biodiversity, and hydrological regimes, and thus is a vital concern of environmental monitoring activities.

Commercial forestry is an important industry throughout the world. Forests are cropped and re-harvested, and the new areas continually sought for providing a new source of lumber. With increasing pressure to conserve native and virgin forest areas, and unsustainable forestry practices limiting the remaining areas of potential cutting, those involved in extracting wood need to be more efficient, economical, and aware of sustainable forestry practices.

Forests are also essential to combatting climate change. The climate change agreement adopted by 195 countries in Paris in 2015 raised the profile of forests in ways never seen before. In past multilateral environmental conferences, deforestation proved too thorny for nations to reach agreement. Now, however, some of the most heavily forested countries in the world have pledged to fight deforestation and promote forest conservation.

This is a key shift. Cutting emissions from deforestation by leaving forests standing or promoting reforestation is arguably one of the simplest and most cost-effective ways to address climate change. This is particularly acute in the forest of the global south.



In Paris, nations finally achieved some consensus. Article 5 of the Paris Agreement encourages countries to implement and support Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation in Developing Countries (REDD), as well as activities related to “the role of conservation, sustainable management of forests and enhancement of forest carbon stocks in developing countries.” For many developing nations, land use, land-use change and forestry account for the majority of their greenhouse gas emissions. That makes this sector a logical place for them to start meeting their commitments under the Paris Agreement.

### **Canada’s Environmental Leadership**

Canada’s forest laws are among the strictest in the world. These laws protect our forests and ensure that sustainable forest management practices are followed across the country. In global perspective, Canada takes the conservation and protection of forests seriously. Canada has more forested area than nearly any other country in the world, and forests are central to our heritage, culture, environment and economy. The scale of Canada’s forests is often hard to comprehend, but it is vital to put the forestry sector into broader perspective. Among the 347 million hectares of forest in Canada, just two-tenths of 1% are harvested each year. This is a small fraction of what is burned by forest fires, or damaged by insects, each year. And over that small portion that is harvested, we have stringent rules.<sup>4</sup>

Canada’s provinces and territories have jurisdiction over the vast majority of the country’s forests, and develop and enforce laws, regulations and policies related to forests. Natural Resources Canada provides an important overview of Canada’s forest laws and although those laws, regulations and policies differ from

one jurisdiction to another consider that they are all:

- Based on sustainable forest management principles;
- Developed in consultation with the public, industries and other interested parties; and
- Grounded in scientific research and analysis.<sup>5</sup>

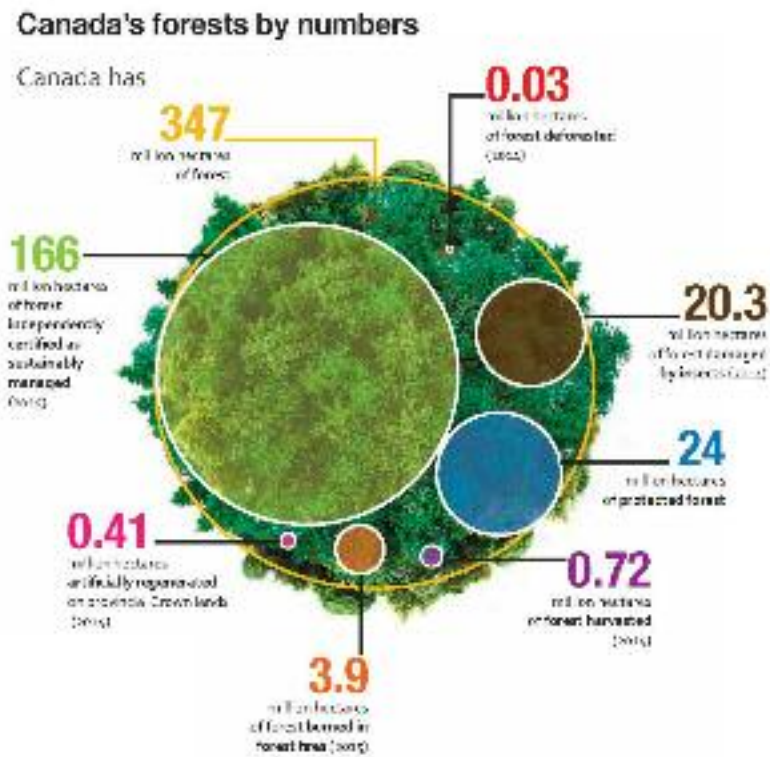
Forest laws also address environmental, social and economic needs. Provincial and territorial forest laws, regulations and policies govern a range of economic, social and environmental matters. For example, the laws:

- Require land-use planning;
- Require that Aboriginal interests be considered and respected;
- Regulate wildlife habitat protection;
- Regulate timber harvesting; and
- Establish practices to ensure forests regrow.<sup>6</sup>

By law, forest management plans must be approved before harvesting starts. Provincial and territorial governments grant forest companies rights to harvest timber on public land and stipulate the responsibilities tied to those rights. These arrangements, also known as tenures, don't automatically give companies the authority to harvest timber. The provinces and territories also closely monitor

Figure 9

## 2/10ths of 1% of Canada's Forests are Harvested Annually



Source: The State of Canada's Forests: Annual Report 2016. Natural Resources Canada. Reproduced with the permission of the Minister of Natural Resources Canada, 2016. URL: <http://cfs.nrcan.gc.ca/publications?id=37265>





forestry companies operating in publicly owned forests, through several means. Government agencies responsible for monitoring and enforcement:

- Require all forest companies to report formally on their operations;
- Carry out audits to ensure the companies comply with laws and regulations;
- carry out more detailed investigations if there is evidence that infractions have occurred;
- Issue warnings, fines and other penalties; and
- Prosecute the most serious infractions through the court system.<sup>7</sup>

For example, if a forestry company fails to comply with approved forest management plans or with the conditions of a harvesting permit, it may face any of several stiff penalties – from fines or the suspension of harvesting rights to seizure of timber or even imprisonment.

Forestry activities are also monitored to keep track of the royalties that companies must pay to governments for being allowed to harvest timber from public lands. Provinces and territories use many checks and controls to track timber removed from public lands.

Provincial and territorial laws and regulations also address the requirements of over-arching federal laws that apply to forests, and of international agreements Canada has signed.

- Examples of federal laws – the *Species at Risk Act*, *Fisheries Act*, *Migratory Birds Convention Act* and *Plant Protection Act*.
- Examples of international agreements – the *Convention on Biological Diversity* and the *Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora*.<sup>8</sup>

The legal basis and mechanisms for sustainable forestry are strong in Canada. Around the world, growing public awareness of forest destruction and degradation has led consumers to demand that their purchases of wood and other forest products will not contribute to this destruction but rather help to secure forest resources for the future. In response to these demands, certification and self-certification programs of wood products have proliferated.

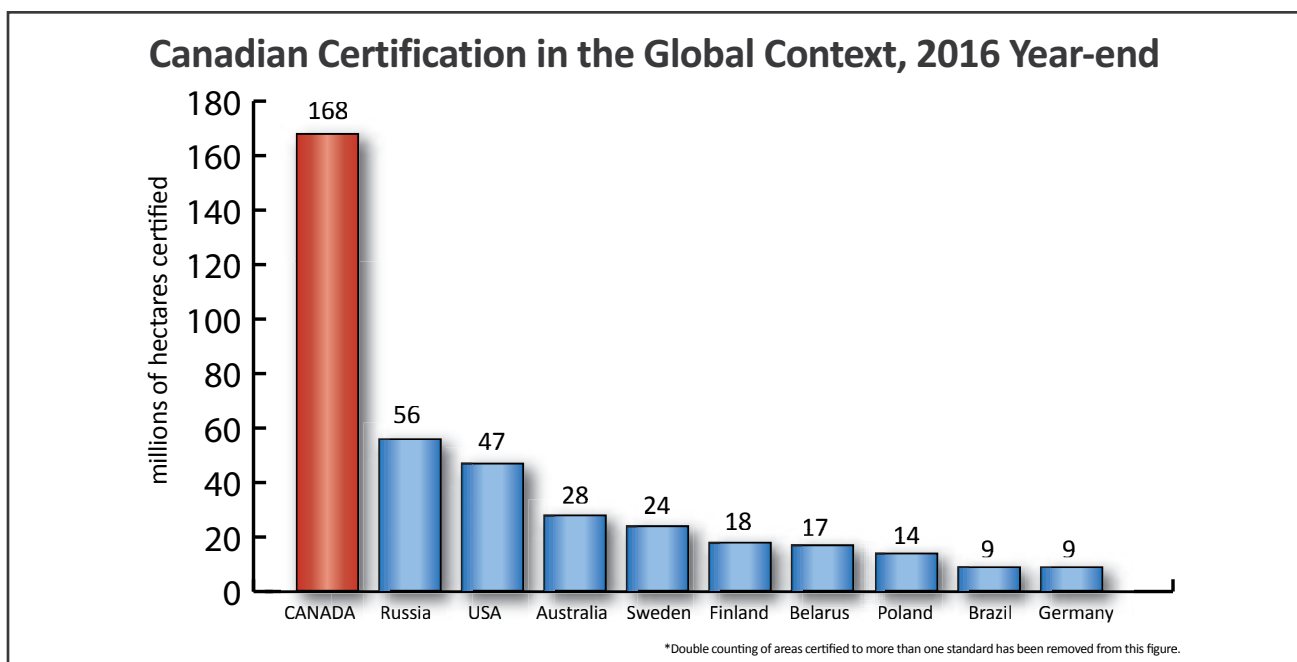
Third-party forest management certification complements Canada’s comprehensive and rigorous forest management laws and regulations. It provides added assurance that a forest company is operating legally, sustainably and in compliance with world-recognized standards for sustainable forest management.

Since it emerged in the 1990s, forest management certification has been adopted quickly across Canada, and now more than 46% of the country’s forests are certified. As of 2016, Canada had 168 million hectares of independently certified forest land. That represents 43% of all certified forests worldwide, the largest area of third-party-certified forests in any country.

There are currently three different independent certification bodies in Canada. The Canadian Council of Forest Ministers has determined that all three meet rigorous standards. In 2015 Unifor became a member of the Social Chamber of FSC Canada. Unifor continues to monitor all forest certification bodies and participates actively to ensure workers’ interests are reflected in the environmental policies, ensuring viable social and economic benefits for forest-dependent communities around the world.

Detailed rules of accreditation are developed with local oversight and reflecting regional conditions in each country.

Figure 10



Sources: Forest Products Association of Canada, Certifications Canada

As global commodities, Canada's forest products are in direct competition with those from nations without sustainable forestry practices. Canadian products are often in a marketplace with those derived from some of the worst environmental practices on the globe. The long term success of Canadian forestry rests on the need to raise global standards up to Canadian levels, rather than facing endless downward pressures from forestry industries benefiting from short-term environmental degradation.

### **Unifor will:**

- **Continue to participate in provincial, territorial and federal forestry management policy development with a view towards achieving even higher standards.**
- **Focus renewed attention on issues of wood waste in logging, working with provincial forestry management regulators to achieve stronger enforcement, and with our employers to minimize wood waste other than non-usable by-products.**
- **Will continue to participate in and support the process of independent forest certification in Canada and globally.**
- **Continue to advocate for the development of new and innovative technologies by industry, supported by appropriate public funding to bring sustainable and renewable forestry products into new applications, from advanced construction, to new materials and processes.**
- **Support initiatives to modernize building codes to reflect advances in wood construction, allowing for taller and larger buildings with higher wood content.**



## 5.3 A Leading Role for Public Investment

If there is one area to single out as Canada's greatest missed economic opportunity, it has been pursuing value-added resource development. It is the same story across resource sectors with our long history of resource "exploitation" driven by short-term thinking, and prioritizing immediate profit making.

As in mining and metals, oil and gas, and fisheries, Canada's forestry sector is focused too far down the value-chain. Access to Canada's valuable resources is granted, often to foreign-owned firms, whose interests are to extract and sell commodities in the global marketplace. Too often only when interests align with corporate needs, and there are short-term profits to be made, then the industry moves up the value chain.

### Canada's forestry sector is focused too far down the value-chain.

In forestry, why is Canada not the undisputed world-leader in all forest products: new generations of advanced building materials, furniture and furnishings, all grades of finished paper and tissue products, and all the advanced machinery and technology required across the industry? Certainly, Canada has many leading-edge firms, but why do we not dominate the global forestry industry?

To move up value chain requires proactive strategies that prioritize capital-intensive investments. Particularly given Canada's resource-driven economic history, and absence of strong domestic capital base, these strategies require support through strong public investment attraction programs and co-investment, as in Canada's other advanced manufacturing industries like auto or aerospace, for example. The economic benefits are obvious, with strong payback to the public purse through higher-value added and skilled employment. Canada's forestry sector directly inserts nearly \$12 billion in annual payroll into the broader economy, and each job in forestry is responsible for creating an additional 1.5 jobs elsewhere in the economy. Strategic use of public investments to position Canada's forestry sector further up the value-chain are smart investments in the future.

In forestry, investment support programs should be targeted within the context of innovation in building a green economy, and linking investment to broader economic policies aimed at addressing climate change. Forestry and the expanding use of wood products (compared to concrete and steel in construction, for example), has an important role to play in combatting climate change.

Access to capital through investment programs is not always the challenge, but rather it must come hand-in-hand with access to stable sources of fibre through long-term forestry management policies. A well-resourced investment support program without access to fibre will not lead to the value-added transformation needed.

Canada has had some positive experience in public investment in forestry. However, rather than public policy only responding to an economic crisis, or small-scale demonstration investments, a far longer term strategy is required.

In 2009, the federal government introduced \$1 billion in funding through the *Pulp and Paper Green Transformation Program* to improve the environmental performance of Canada's pulp and paper mills and by doing so, help lay the groundwork for a more sustainable and prosperous future for the sector.

The *Pulp and Paper Green Transformation Program*, using "green-focused" capital investments, offered the sector an opportunity to set to work enhancing environmental performance while at the same time



renewing the industry's position in the global marketplace and paving the way to long-term gains for mills and mill communities.

Ending in 2012, the program demonstrated strong success, helping to improve the environmental and economic sustainability of the country's pulp and paper mills.

Under the program, eligible Canadian pulp and paper

companies could earn credits for using "black liquor" produced at their mills (a byproduct of the process) for energy. The companies could then invest those credits where doing so made the most environmental and economic sense for their Canadian pulp and paper mills. This approach helped to direct funds to the more successful mills, and to maximize the long-term benefits of the program's investments. The program delivered decent results, however it ended without any significant, or sustained, program to replace it.

A much smaller federal program aimed at new technologies, the Investments in Forest Industry Transformation (IFIT) program was created in 2010 to support Canada's forest sector in becoming more economically competitive and environmentally sustainable. The initial four-year \$100-million initiative supported forest industry transformation by accelerating the deployment of highly innovative, first-in-kind technologies at Canadian forest industry facilities. These projects included bioenergy, biomaterials, biochemical and next-generation building products.

IFIT was renewed in February 2014, with an additional \$90 million provided for the program over four years. While the strategic orientation of the IFIT program points in the right direction, the scale and

scope of the program is far too small in relation to the \$60 billion per year forestry sector. IFIT annual funding is equivalent roughly to 1% of existing annual capital expenditures in the industry.

There are myriad small-scale development programs at the provincial level, loosely coordinated in face of a national industry, and all significantly smaller than programs aimed at other leading Canadian industries.

There is growing recognition of the need for public policy leadership to transform the forest sector through innovation and investment. Canada's provincial and territorial Forestry Ministers meet regularly as the Canadian Council of Forest Ministers (CCFM). In 2015 the CCFM hosted *National Forest Innovation Summit* in Kenora, Ontario, which brought together more than 40 stakeholders including federal, provincial and territorial ministers responsible for forests, and top industry executives, to work on an action plan to advance innovation in the Canadian forest sector. The Summit was an important development where participants endorsed the "Kenora Declaration on Forest Innovation" focusing on:

1. Collaborating to accelerate and enhance sustainable, market-driven investments to commercialize process, product and market innovation, with a focus on environmental excellence;
2. Engaging prospective partners and new entrants in non-traditional industries and academic fields: making concerted efforts to facilitate connections with the forest sector; and,
3. Mobilizing the best talent and technologies to address the future needs of the forest sector.

Unifor supports efforts such as the CCFM summit, however far more is needed in addition to meetings and discussions. The time is past due for federal, provincial and territorial governments to craft significant, coordinated, and sustained public investment programs to move all segments of Canada's forestry sector higher up the value chain.

### **Unifor will:**

- **Advocate for significant expansion of funding and scope for the Investments in Forest Industry Transformation (IFIT) program.**
- **Advocate for apportioning a share of public revenues raised through carbon taxes toward investments in forestry industry innovation.**
- **Advocate for significant public investment by all levels of government in the use of new wood building technologies in public buildings and infrastructure.**
- **Seek support for representation, and stronger stakeholder engagement, for workers at meetings of the Canadian Council of Forestry Ministers.**

## 5.4 Fair Trade and Higher Global Standards

The Canadian forestry industry is global. Canada sells its forest products around the world, and we operate with global firms and investors. As in all commodities markets, policies and developments in forestry around the world have an immediate impact on our industry, whether in South America, South Asia, or South Carolina.

Trade is the lifeblood for Canada's forestry sector and that has always been the case. Several decades of trade and investment "liberalization" and so-called "free trade" have justifiably been the source of activism and opposition by civil society organization, including trade unions. But workers in Canada's forestry sector have never been "against trade," rather we insist on standards.

Trade in forestry, as in other sectors, must not be about lowering standards, creating a never-ending race to the bottom, or about providing ever-increasing rights to corporations and investors while removing rights from workers and communities and governments.

Our broadest perspective on trade is anchored in the drive for global solidarity, mutual development and raising global conditions.

In today's global forestry trade there remain too few consequences to illegal logging, resources extracted from nations with non-existent forestry management standards, wide-scale deforestation and environmental degradation, complete denial of basic workers' rights and attacks on workers' organizations, and rampant exploitation of indigenous communities around the world. Sadly, significant parts of the global forestry sector are home to some of the worst abuses of global capitalism.

It is no surprise that global civil society organizations have focused attention on the problems with forestry, particularly in the global south. The World Wildlife Federation's Global Forest and Trade Network (GFTN) highlights that, every year more than 30 million acres of natural forest are destroyed to meet the growing global demand for wood and agricultural products. The GFTN emphasizes that a response to such devastation is to turn the global marketplace into a positive force to save the world's most valuable and threatened forests. Increasingly, consumers want to know where their wood comes from and to be assured that today's forests will be here tomorrow for their children and grandchildren.

Similarly, the Global Forest Coalition is active in monitoring forestry trade and working to improve conditions. Founded in 2000 by 19 non-governmental organizations, and Indigenous Peoples' organizations, from all over the world the organization coordinates multi-stakeholder initiatives to address the underlying causes of deforestation and forest degradation. The global organization, Forest Trends, also works to conserve forests and other ecosystems through the creation and wide adoption of a broad range of environmental finance, markets and other payment and incentive mechanisms, largely

**Workers in Canada's forestry sector have never been "against trade," rather we insist on standards.**

focused on innovative financing models of development. These are just some of the many civil society organizations active on global forestry trade.

We have many immediate issues and needs around direct forestry trade, and our existing trade agreements with our key partners, but we must always ensure that we use our strength to raise global standards and advance fair and sustainable trade in forestry around the world. These issues are vital in their own right, and important for our commitment to social justice; but they also directly relate to the continued success of forestry in nations, like Canada, that have adopted high standards for sustainability. Independent third-party certification remains one of the most useful tools to advance fair trade in the global forest industry.

We need to ensure that Canada continues to have appropriate access to markets, that we are not subject to unfair duties and challenges, and in the broadest sense that our trade policy addresses the challenges with a global commodity market where resource management, environment, and workers' rights and safety are increasingly, and too easily, played off one nation against another. Canada needs to champion global efforts to raise standards, end illegal logging and environmental abuses and link trade to meeting global standards.

Canada's trade policy needs to support the development and trade in value-added forestry products and transition away from a focus on the export of raw materials, particularly raw-log exports. We also need a much stronger stance in face of unwarranted duties aimed at supporting other nations'

### **Unifor will:**

- **Continue to work with global union and forestry community organizations to raise standards among the most vulnerable and to end illegal logging.**
- **Support the expansion of independent third-party certification globally.**
- **Support a ban on all exports of raw logs from Canada's old-growth forests and imposing progressively higher taxes on log exports from second-growth forests.**
- **Advocate strongly against any unfair U.S. duties on Canadian wood and other products produced with wood fibre and ensure Canada pursues a renewed fair, bilateral agreement governing cross-border trade in softwood lumber with the United States.**
- **Advocate for the adoption of policies to mitigate the impact of any U.S.-imposed duties through federal and provincial loan guarantees.**
- **Pursue thorough consultations with stakeholders in negotiations concerning softwood lumber trade with the U.S.**
- **Advocate to ensure that federal assistance is focused on workers and communities and that repayment of duties is invested back into local economies.**



domestic industries, at the expense of Canada’s forestry sector. And most immediately, we need proactive leadership among the federal, provincial and territorial governments to craft a sustainable solution to the expiration of the Canada-U.S. *Softwood Lumber Agreement*, ensuring continued fair access to the U.S. market, by far our most important forestry trading partner.

## 5.5 A Source of Good Jobs and Maximum Skills Development

Our economy does not produce enough good jobs — jobs with decent pay, stability, opportunities for skills development. In terms of job quality, forestry is generally a bright spot in the Canadian economy

The coming wave of retirements is a huge opportunity to bring good jobs to the next generation and address important social outcomes.

with above average wages and benefits. It’s a sector known for hard work and tough conditions, going hand-in-hand with high skills and productivity. And in many communities, forestry employment is the lynchpin for the local economy. In over 300 communities, forestry accounts for more than half of all household income.

Forestry is also home to strong independent unions capable of advocating for a fair share of wealth, raising working conditions and standards, and successfully partnering with industry on common interests.

Forestry, like other resources sectors, has the long-term potential to create good jobs with increasing quality. Unlike some other sectors of the economy, Canada’s natural resources are not going anywhere, and

cannot be fully moved off-shore. Canada must leverage this strategic advantage, and adopt policies focused on maintaining and creating more good jobs in the sector.

Efforts to move the forestry industry up the value chain are central to building good jobs. The application of increasingly intensive technologies, advanced forestry management practices, silviculture activities, environmental science, new harvesting techniques, and the development and manufacture of new leading-edge products all require increasing levels of education and skills.

The long-period of declining forestry employment has in large part hampered a whole generation of hiring. As a consequence, studies point to major wave of retirements and generational change ahead with the need for upwards of 60,000 forestry workers within the next decade. The coming wave of retirements is a huge opportunity to bring good jobs to the next generation, and address important social outcomes by prioritizing employment among Indigenous communities and pairing public investments opportunities with community benefits agreements.

There is a need for stronger alignment among educational institutions and the forest industry for establish ongoing linkages, and work in collaboration to attract and retain talent. Labour market policies should expand opportunities and funding for demonstration projects, extended training opportunities, and more apprenticeships.

### **Unifor will:**

- **Partner with all forestry industry stakeholders to advance a positive vision of the future of forestry among students, young workers and the general public.**
- **Partner with governments and employers to advance employment opportunities for under-represented groups in the forestry sector, including women and Indigenous workers.**
- **Advocate for the modernization of labour laws to address the loss in recent decades of rights to organize, representation and negotiation for all workers who work in the forests.**
- **Advocate for significant expansion of funding for forestry-related education, skills training and apprenticeship programs.**

## **5.6 A National Forestry Council for Sustained Dialogue**

The secret to making meaningful change is to bring all the stakeholders together, build a consensus, and craft a workable plan. It is clear that there is much work to do to better coordinate efforts and develop consensus among all forestry stakeholders. To develop successful forestry policy, the federal government in consultation with provincial and territorial forestry ministers must lead efforts to bring together business, government, labour, Indigenous leaders, environmental organizations and community leaders in a reinstated National Forestry Council.

This Council would need to be more than a “talk shop.” It would have to have a specific mandate to investigate and make public recommendations. It would have to have a wide enough scope to investigate all issues and seek the full participation of all stakeholders. And it would have to have adequate resources to engage with stakeholders, address the inherent imbalances in resources among stakeholders to engage in policy discussions, and report out on its recommendations on a regular basis.

### **Unifor will:**

- **Advocate for a reinstated National Forestry Council that is appropriately mandated and resourced for broad, meaningful and ongoing stakeholder engagement.**
- **Work to ensure that a reinstated National Forestry Council is structured with appropriate representation of workers and their trade unions, and reflect proportionate forestry industry membership.**
- **Continue to actively participate in all provincial and regional forestry stakeholder forums and councils.**

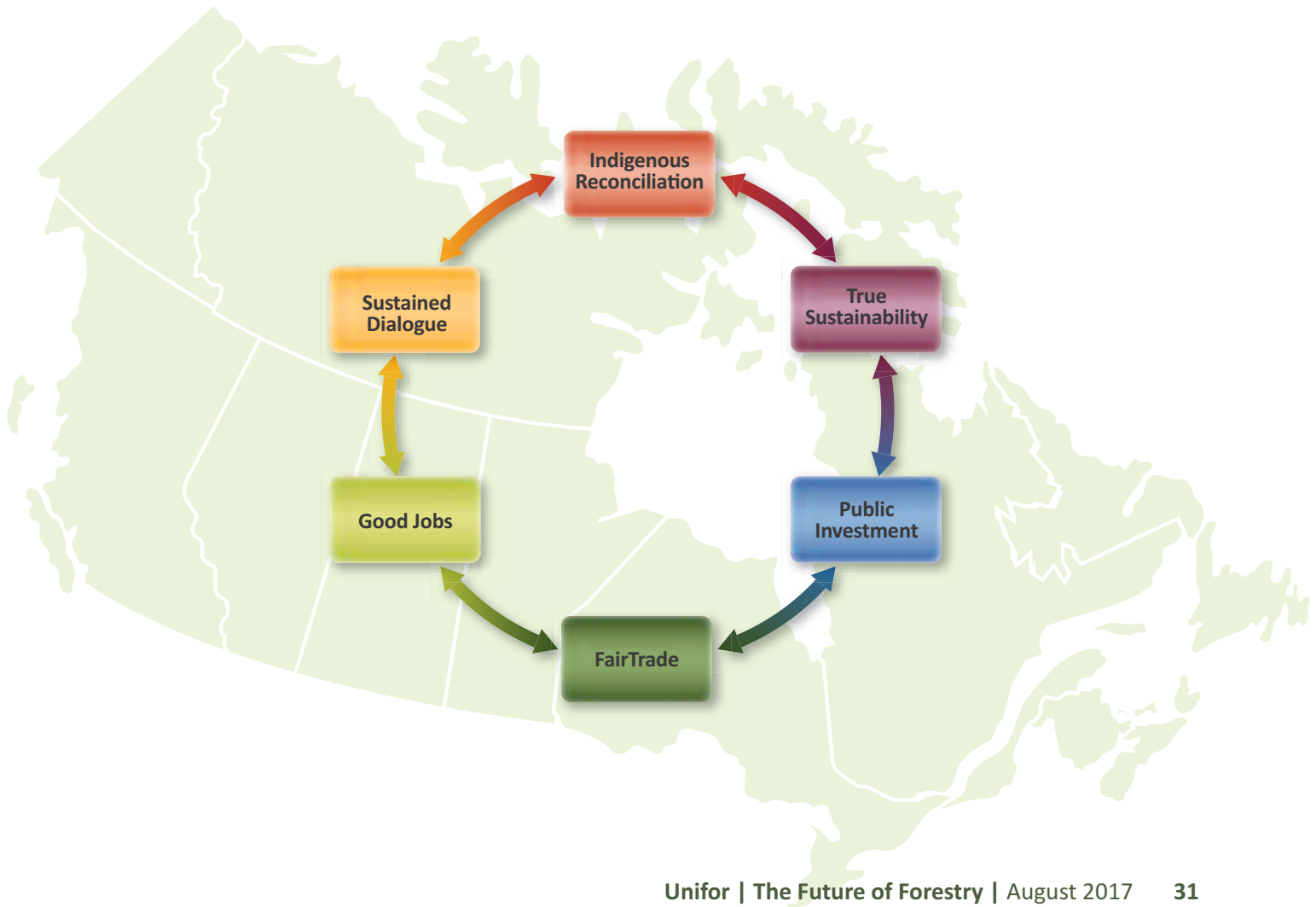
## 6. A Path Forward

Canada's forests remain essential to the development of the economy, to the lives of Indigenous peoples, forest workers and their families, to the very survival of forest-dependent communities, and to the health of the global environment.

The forests have yielded great wealth. For centuries Canada's forests were largely viewed as a limitless resource, but this has given way to a shared understanding that our forests require the greatest of care. With care, forests can build the economy, create good jobs, be an ongoing source of innovation, provide a means for reconciliation with Indigenous peoples, advance social justice globally, and protect and strengthen the environment.

All of this is possible, but requires careful policy-making, responsible and long-term decisions and action. Successful, sustainable and just forestry can be our future.

### Unifor's Vision for Successful, Sustainable and Just Forestry



# Annex A: Summary of Recommendations

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## 5.1 Prioritizing reconciliation with Indigenous communities

- Continue to partner with Indigenous organizations, communities and First Nations councils/governments to advocate for the implementation of the 94 recommendations of the Truth and Reconciliations Commission.
- Outreach to Indigenous organizations through the Unifor Forestry Industry Council to discuss perspectives, shared interests and potential areas of collaboration in the forestry sector.
- Be an active partner with forestry sector employers and local Indigenous representatives in developing and implementing Indigenous employment and apprenticeship initiatives.

## 5.2 True sustainability at home and around the world

- Continue to participate in provincial, territorial and federal forestry management policy development with a view towards achieving even higher standards.
- Focus renewed attention on issues of wood waste in logging, working with provincial forestry management regulators to achieve stronger enforcement, and with our employers to minimize wood waste other than non-usable by-products.
- Will continue to participate in and support the process of independent forest certification in Canada and globally.
- Continue to advocate for the development of new and innovative technologies by industry, supported by appropriate public funding to bring sustainable and renewable forestry products into new applications, from advanced construction, to new materials and processes.
- Support initiatives to modernize building codes to reflect advances in wood construction, allowing for taller and larger buildings with higher wood content.

## 5.3 A leading role for public investment

- Advocate for significant expansion of funding and scope for the Investments in Forest Industry Transformation (IFIT) program.
- Advocate for apportioning a share of public revenues raised through carbon taxes toward investments in forestry industry innovation.
- Advocate for significant public investment by all levels of government in the use of new wood building technologies in public buildings and infrastructure.
- Seek support for representation, and stronger stakeholder engagement, for workers at meetings of the Canadian Council of Forestry Ministers.



#### 5.4 Fair trade and higher global standards

- Continue to work with global union and forestry community organizations to raise standards among the most vulnerable and to end illegal logging.
- Support the expansion of independent third-party certification globally.
- Support a ban on all exports of raw logs from Canada's old-growth forests, and imposing progressively higher taxes on log exports from second-growth forests.
- Advocate strongly against any unfair U.S. duties on Canadian wood and other products produced with wood fibre; and ensure Canada pursues a renewed fair, bilateral agreement governing cross-border trade in softwood lumber with the United States.
- Advocate for the adoption of policies to mitigate the impact of any U.S.-imposed duties, through federal and provincial loan guarantees.
- Pursue thorough consultations with stakeholders in negotiations concerning softwood lumber trade with the U.S.
- Advocate to ensure that federal assistance is focused on workers and communities; and that repayment of duties is invested back into local economies.

## 5.5 A source of good jobs and maximum skills development

- Partner with all forestry industry stakeholders to advance a positive vision of the future of forestry among students, young workers and the general public.
- Partner with governments and employers to advance employment opportunities for under-represented groups in the forestry sector, including women and Indigenous workers.
- Advocate for the modernization of labour laws to *address the loss in recent decades of rights to organize, representation and negotiation for all workers who work in our forests*
- Advocate for significant expansion of funding for forestry-related education, skills training and apprenticeship programs.

## 5.6 A National Forestry Council for sustained dialogue

- Advocate for a reinstated National Forestry Council that is appropriately mandated and resourced for broad, meaningful and ongoing stakeholder engagement.
- Work to ensure that a reinstated National Forestry Council is structured with appropriate representation of workers and their trade unions, and reflect proportionate forestry industry membership.
- Continue to actively participate in all provincial and regional forestry stakeholder forums and councils.

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<sup>1</sup> Idle No More , 2012. [www.idlenomore.ca/manifesto](http://www.idlenomore.ca/manifesto)

<sup>2</sup> Assembly of First Nations , “Proceedings of the National Forum on First Nations Forest Land Stewardship,” Ottawa, Ontario, March 29-30, 2011

<sup>3</sup> Natural Resources Canada, “The State of Canada’s Forests, Annual Report 2016.”

<sup>4</sup> Natural Resources Canada, “Canada’s Forest Laws,” [www.nrcan.gc.ca/forests/canada/laws/17497](http://www.nrcan.gc.ca/forests/canada/laws/17497)

<sup>5</sup> ibid

<sup>6</sup> bid

<sup>7</sup> ibid

<sup>8</sup> ibid





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