

NATIONAL TASKFORCE ON THE FUTURE OF FORESTRY

MUNICIPAL RESOLUTION

(Sample 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; and

Whereas forestry faces several critical challenges including, the growing impact of softwood lumber tariffs; ongoing crises from insect damage; lingering effects of unfair duties on paper exports and ongoing trade uncertainty; unchecked raw log exports; the impact of species at risk measures; and several other policies that negatively impact key forestry operations and sustainable harvest levels; and

Whereas forestry can have a bright future with new innovative products; the development of biopathways and nano-cellulose technologies; transformative innovations in building materials and green construction, and a sustained transition toward higher-value growth products and markets; and

Whereas all 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 looming challenges.

Therefore be it resolved that _____ Council calls on the federal and provincial governments to take immediate action, including compensation and transition measures for affected communities, to address the challenges that threaten the forestry sector.

Be it further resolved that _____ Council calls on the federal government, in consultation with provincial forestry Ministers, to establish a National Taskforce on the Future of Forestry with a clear mandate, resources and reporting requirements.

Finally, be it resolved that _____ Council support efforts of forestry stakeholders to ensure a strong future for forestry – a vital industry and source of good jobs in our community.

URGENT ACTION NEEDED: NATIONAL TASKFORCE ON THE FUTURE OF FORESTRY



FORESTRY IN CANADA

210,000 direct jobs
300,000 spin-off jobs
\$65 billion production
\$36 billion exports
3 rd largest export sector
\$5 billion annual investment
\$240 million in R&D
\$9.9 billion direct payroll
\$3.4 billion taxes from workers
17% higher wages than average
650 reliant communities
44% cut in CO ² since 2000

Sources: NRCAN, FPAC, Statistics Canada, Unifor calculations



Forestry is directly responsible for 210,000 jobs across Canada.



URGENT ACTION NEEDED: NATIONAL TASKFORCE ON THE FUTURE OF FORESTRY

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 is directly responsible for 210,000 jobs across Canada, produces \$65 billion worth of products per year, and is the country's third-largest exporter.



Around the world, forestry is increasingly recognized as a sustainable and renewable industry that is part of the solution to climate change. Forestry can have a bright future, but only with smart policies and active government measures.

Canada's vital forestry sector faces enormous challenges on many fronts that threaten thousands of good jobs, and the very heart of countless forest-dependent communities.

In the last six months, hundreds of forestry operations have curtailed production; and without urgent action, there will be severe losses ahead. **Now is the time for action.**

Seven challenges threatening forestry

- 1** The ongoing impact of unfair U.S. **softwood lumber duties**, which are becoming more severe as markets and prices soften. Governments must pursue the strongest possible measures to remove the duties and safeguard the industry.
- 2** Damaging **insect infestations** across Western Canada from the mountain pine beetle, including an emerging crisis in Alberta; and the growing impact of the spruce budworm infestation in Quebec; which require urgent action, and significant resources to safeguard long-term forestry resources
- 3** The recent experience of several unfair U.S. **duties on newsprint**, and other kinds of paper, resulting in ongoing uncertainty. Governments must pursue long-term solutions to ensure stable access to key markets, and that our industry is not unfairly targeted.
- 4** Government regulations which continue to ignore the impact of expanding exports of **raw logs**, instead of adding value and creating jobs in Canada by transforming these valuable resources here, must be halted.

- 5** The implementation of **species at risk** measures, including those concerning caribou, which must be managed appropriately to ensure the viability of the forestry sector.
- 6** The adoption of new **policies without sufficient lead-time** or consultation threatening the viability of linchpin operations, such as Nova Scotia's Northern Pulp mill.
- 7** Ongoing actions in many provinces **reducing sustainable harvests** through new forestry management policies, despite Canada already having among the highest standards in the world.

National Taskforce

The challenges facing forestry will not resolve themselves, and they are poised to have major consequences in the months ahead. Canada needs a coordinated and comprehensive plan for forestry.

All levels of government need to take immediate action to address the challenges threatening forestry. At the same time, the federal government, in consultation with provincial forestry ministers, needs to establish a **National Taskforce on the Future of Forestry**.

This Taskforce must bring together business, governments, Indigenous leaders, labour, environmental organizations and community leaders. The Taskforce:

- must have a clear mandate to investigate and make public recommendations;
- must have a wide scope to examine all issues and seek the full participation of all stakeholders;
- needs adequate resources to engage with stakeholders, and to address the inherent imbalances in resources among stakeholders needed to engage in policy discussions; and
- must report out on its interim recommendations within **six months from its inception**, and release a full report within one year.

