

**MAY 1, 2003**

# **CANADA FOREST ACCORD**

## **2003 - 2008**

### **OUR FOREST**

Forested landscapes define Canada. Much of our original forest remains today. Covering nearly half of the country, the forest is fundamental to our environment, economy, culture, traditions and history – and to our future. It is both a public good and private concern, with 94 per-cent being publicly owned and 6 per-cent belonging to approximately 425,000 families. Our forest is a part of the place we call home, as well as a global natural resource whose care and stewardship matters to every Canadian and to all citizens of the world. It is critical to realizing our aspirations as a society and as a nation. Accordingly, our vision for our forest underscores the primary importance of sustaining its vitality.

### **OUR VISION**

**The long-term health of Canada's forest  
will be maintained and enhanced,  
for the benefit of all living things,  
and for the social, cultural, environmental and economic  
well-being of all Canadians now and in the future.**

## **OUR PRINCIPLES**

Canadians care about the sustainability of their forest and believe in the primary importance of nurturing its health through an ecosystem-based approach. Forest management must therefore sustain ecosystem health while meeting expectations of social well-being as well as continued environmental services and economic activity.

Canadians have an important role in shaping the decisions affecting forest conservation and use. The sustainability of Aboriginal and other forest-based communities require their effective participation in forest management and must recognize the unique position of Aboriginal peoples. This requires goodwill and long-term foresight by all parties.

The sound stewardship of private forest lands contributes significant public benefits.

The broad range of benefits provided by the forest contributes to the quality of life of all rural and urban Canadians.

The competitiveness of forest-based industries depends on adapting to changes in domestic and international markets and in public expectations.

Innovation is to be pursued continuously, for new ideas to be generated and translated into new products, processes and services. This requires maintaining a highly skilled workforce and fostering a learning culture.

Comprehensive information about the state of the forest and the social well-being, environmental services and economic wealth that are derived from forest conservation and use must be available publicly.

As stewards of forest heritage, Canadians continually seek: to improve the quality of information, public involvement and reporting; to promote the public accountability of all those involved in forest conservation and use; and, to communicate their vision, goals and results.

## **OUR COMMITMENT**

**To realize our vision, we the undersigned commit ourselves to applying our knowledge, expertise and resources to sustainable forest management, guided by the spirit and intent of Canada's National Forest Strategy 2003-2008, by:**

Managing Canada's natural forest through an ecosystem-based approach.

Adopting policies and practices that support forest-based community sustainability.

Accommodating Aboriginal and treaty rights in the sustainable use of the forest in a manner consistent with constitutional requirements.

Understanding and developing markets, and increasing the value of all forest products and services.

Maintaining and enhancing the skills and knowledge of forest practitioners.

Mobilizing the broader Canadian knowledge community to establish and implement a new forest innovation agenda for Canada.

Actively engaging Canadians in managing the urban forest and in being stewards of the entire forest.

Recognizing and fostering the contribution of Canadian woodlots to society.

Establishing a comprehensive national forest reporting system.

**We also pledge our cooperation, assistance and energies toward sustainable forest management, nationwide, and encourage others to do the same.**