



October 21, 2009

The Honourable Brad Wall, M.L.A.
Premier of the Government of Saskatchewan
226 Legislative Building
Regina, Saskatchewan
S4S 0B3

Dear Premier Wall:

On April 16, 2008, Premiers asked the Canadian Council of Forest Ministers (CCFM) for their assistance in developing a collaborative strategy on forest adaptation and forest carbon. While not precluding other aspects of this strategic study, Premiers indicated that the two main elements should include:

- Forest tree species and their vulnerability to climate change; and
- A forest sequestration protocol.

The CCFM refined these initiatives to address the collective interests of members. The collaborative adaptation strategy now includes forest ecosystem and forest sector components, and the forest sequestration protocol has become a framework for forest management offset protocols.

We are pleased to announce that the first two reports dealing with tree species vulnerability and forest carbon have now been completed. The reports are entitled *Vulnerability of Canada's Tree Species to Climate Change*, and *A Framework for Forest Management Offset Protocols*. A copy of each document is enclosed.

The tree species vulnerability report – *Vulnerability of Canada's Tree Species to Climate Change* – provides a systematic national assessment of:

- Tree species vulnerability to climate change;
- Management options; and
- Knowledge gaps related to tree species vulnerability and adaptation.

This report found that, in the absence of adaptation, many of Canada's tree species are highly vulnerable to a changing climate. However, successful implementation of adaptation measures could reduce the vulnerability of tree species in managed forest

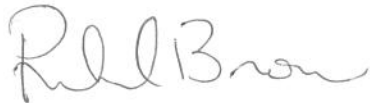
landscapes. As a result of this study, federal, provincial and territorial governments in Canada have agreed to disseminate the results, review the findings, and consider which actions may be appropriate given the specific circumstances in each jurisdiction.

Building on the tree species study, the CCFM has begun the next phase of the collaborative adaptation strategy. Phase 2 will develop a better understanding of the climate change vulnerabilities foreseeable for the sustainable management of Canada's forests at the national level. It will also identify potential approaches to adaptation to reduce these vulnerabilities. The CCFM would be pleased to report back to the Council of the Federation on our progress in summer 2010, in advance of the full report.

The *Framework for Forest Management Offset Protocols* provides technical guidance for developing forest management offset protocols in Canada. It identifies technical issues that should be addressed and suggests ways to do so. This framework will foster consistency in the development of protocols. Rather than being prescriptive, it provides users with options and the flexibility to reflect regional differences in forest management policies and activities.

Through the CCFM, governments in Canada will continue to work together to ensure the well-being our forests.

Yours truly,



Richard Brown
Chair, Canadian Council of Forest Ministers
Minister, Prince Edward Island Department of Environment, Energy and Forestry

Enclosures: (2) *Vulnerability of Canada's Tree Species to Climate Change*, and
Framework for Forest Management Offset Protocols

c.c.: CCFM Secretariat