

Summary of Consultation on the Draft *A Vision for Canada's Forests: 2008 and Beyond*

Canadian Council of Forest Ministers
December 2008

1. Background

In 2006, the Canadian Council of Forest Ministers (CCFM) launched a process to develop: *A Vision for Canada's Forests: 2008 and Beyond*. The Vision was intended to be a successor to the previous National Forest Strategy which came to term in May, 2008.

The Vision is unlike previous strategies which have been prescriptive with specific goals, defined actions, and shorter time horizons. Building on the strengths of previous strategies, the CCFM has taken a different approach for the Vision. The result is an aspirational document that is intentionally non-prescriptive. It aims to increase awareness of forest issues and promote engagement of all interested parties in its realization.

There are a few key differences between previous forest strategies and the *Vision for Canada's Forests*. First, the Vision takes a broader and more aspirational approach than previous strategies. It is intentionally descriptive and aims to inspire and mobilize all parts of the forest sector¹ to advance Sustainable Forest Management (SFM). Second, the Vision is anchored in SFM and focuses on two priorities: transforming the forest sector and climate change. Finally, the Vision will be in place for ten years, with reviews every three years. The reviews will provide jurisdictions with valuable information as they implement the Vision over the next decade.

Participation in the Vision will be voluntary, but it is the CCFM's hope that it will be the foundation for a dynamic partnership between governments, Aboriginals, forest communities, non-governmental organizations (NGOs) forest-based industries (both emerging industries and traditional industries) and other interested parties.

To encourage participation from such a wide audience, the Vision document has gone through two rounds of consultation. The first round occurred after the CCFM released a Discussion Paper on the Vision in June 2007. The comments gathered from the Discussion Paper were compiled into the *What Was Heard* Report which can be accessed at the CCFM website (<http://www.ccfm.org>).

¹ Forest Sector: the people and organizations that derive value and create wealth and well-being from the forest and its related resources. The forest sector includes conservation and environmental groups, woodlot owners, Aboriginals, urban forest interests, lumber and pulp and paper producers and value-added industries, governments, forest-reliant communities, the recreation and tourism industries, and other sectors of the economy (including the energy, chemical and pharmaceutical industries) that derive wealth and well-being from Canada's forest resources (CCFM).

Based on the input on the Discussion Paper, a draft Vision was released publicly on April 1, 2008, for a 45-day review period. The review period provided individuals and groups with an opportunity to share their views on the draft Vision. As part of this consultation process, the CCFM also held a National Workshop in Ottawa on April 16, 2008 to get feedback from interested parties.

Feedback was received from a diverse group of interested parties including: Aboriginals academics, non-governmental organizations (including urban forest interests and private woodlot organizations), and industry representatives from the traditional forest sector, but also new sectors that have potential to be part of the value chain.

Sections 3-5 summarize the comments received on the draft Vision during the 45-day review period and the National Workshop. Detailed comments are outlined in Annex A.

2. Moving Forward

The CCFM is grateful to all interested parties who took the time to attend the National Workshop or review the draft Vision and provide responses during the 45-day review period. The feedback helped to shape the final Vision document scheduled for release in September, 2008.

3. Consultation Summary

The comments gathered from interested parties on the draft Vision resulted in the following:

a) General Support as expressed by interested parties:

- General support exists for the broad objectives of the CCFM process and the idea of developing a Vision document for the forest sector.
- Strong support exists for the two national priority issues: climate change and forest sector transformation.
- The approach of a national aspirational Vision, supported by a few specific goals, is welcome.
- A 10-year horizon is seen as appropriate given that some changes may take a generation to fully realize (although the interested parties agreed that evidence of incremental progress will need to be seen early in the process).

b) General Concerns as expressed by interested parties:

- Some groups were unclear on how they fit into the Vision, including forest communities, new forest industries (e.g. pharmaceuticals, bioenergy) and other groups (e.g. urban forests).
- Increased emphasis is needed with respect to the unique relationship between Aboriginals and the land as well as the role and future of Aboriginals in forestry. This should include a formal recognition of Aboriginal treaty rights and titles.

- There is a need to clarify and strengthen the description of Sustainable Forest Management, and situate it in a more contemporary context (i.e. the fundamental value of healthy ecosystems with local and global implications, Aboriginal community elements, importance of urban forests, and environmental goods and services²).
- There is a lack of clarity on some of the terminology included in the document (e.g. SFM, forest sector). Inclusion of a glossary and footnotes section in the document was recommended.
- Legal language should be removed from the Vision given its aspirational approach.
- The causal links and synergies between forest sector transformation and climate change should be recognized, rather than implying two distinct subject areas.
- There was a suggestion for a more specific, task-oriented document to support the Vision.
- The CCFM needs to continue to reach out to groups that were unable to attend the workshop and to ensure that sufficient and diverse input is received from all interested parties (e.g. environmental and conservation groups and non-traditional partners).

4. The Vision

During the consultation period, interested parties had an opportunity to provide comments on the draft Vision. Below are the comments received on the content and process of the Vision as well as the Vision's approach to assessing progress and Aboriginal participation and rights.

a) Content

Some interested parties expressed concerns that they do not see themselves in the current draft of the Vision document. This may have resulted from a lack of understanding of the broad definition of the forest sector that was included in the document. Some of those concerns were alleviated once interested parties acknowledged that they were included as part of the forest sector. To avoid any confusion around this issue and facilitate buy-in for the document, interested parties recommended that the broad definition of the forest sector should be clarified and presented in a glossary. It was also suggested that this issue could be addressed as part of the preamble of the document to acknowledge the contributions of the different groups to SFM and the two issues of national importance.

Moreover, some added that the Vision is too focused on industry - especially the traditional forest industry – and it underplays the importance of communities, and emerging forest-based industries in transformation. Furthermore, the document does not sufficiently reflect broader issues, such as climate change.

² Environmental goods and services: Benefits humans get directly or indirectly from ecosystem functions. Ecosystem functions are the "...habitat, biological or system properties or processes of ecosystems" (Costanza et al. 1997). They include clean air and water, soil retention, and wildlife habitat (CCFM).

A few interested parties commented that the Vision also needed to focus more attention on environmental goods and services in the forest sector such as green energy, carbon credits, and saleable products (created from wood processing waste and wood by-products).

Others found that the document was too heavily focused on the role of research and too lightly focused on the need for innovation in the forest sector.

b) Assessing Progress

There was a general consensus that the Vision document needs to clarify how the progress and success of the Vision will be assessed every three years and at the end of its ten year timeframe. A few interested parties recommended a quantitative document to go along with the Vision to assist in measuring progress. It was also suggested that three-year reviews would allow the CCFM to structure its assessment, and that the reviews need to be explicit about what changes are required. Guidance from the CCFM on how the changes will affect the Vision's implementation was suggested.

The CCFM representatives advised interested parties that they would like to use existing mechanisms, as much as possible, to assess progress in realizing the Vision. The CCFM acknowledged some of the limitations of existing mechanisms (e.g. the CCFM's Criteria and Indicators Framework and the State of the Forests Reports). However, the CCFM suggested the possibility of using other mechanisms to report progress on the two priority issues.

c) Process

There were no concerns about the change in timeframe from the five-year horizons of previous National Forest Strategies, to the ten-year horizon of the proposed Vision. In fact, several interested parties proposed horizons of 12 or 20 years recognizing that the identified goals may take a generation or more to fully realize. Given the longer duration, a term of three years to review the Vision was also seen as being appropriate.

While interested parties welcomed the opportunity to share their views on the draft Vision document with the CCFM, there was general agreement that other interested parties³ should have been present or provided with an additional opportunity to submit comments. For example:

- Environmental NGOs – including Greenpeace, World Wildlife Fund and naturalist groups.
- Aboriginals – specifically Aboriginal communities, whose forest rights are increasingly being recognized and who already manage more forest area than some provinces. Some Aboriginal groups were present at the workshop and provided responses but noted the need for broader consultation including First Nations, Métis and Inuit.
- Other non-traditional forest industries, including pharmaceutical companies, wood pellet producers, forest-based tourism, and other groups that also have an interest in forest management.

³ Some of these groups were invited to attend the National Workshop in Ottawa on April 16, 2008, but did not attend.

There were some suggestions that the 45-day review period would not be sufficient to adequately consult with other interested parties. It was suggested by some that the period should be extended to 60 or 90 days. It was also noted that there is a well-articulated role for academia in the consultation process, but the current timeline for input does not work with the academic calendar.

It was also suggested that having interested parties more involved in preparing the Vision document would strengthen ownership and facilitate their involvement in implementation, specifically Aboriginals. However, many interested parties acknowledged the effort put forth by the CCFM to seek feedback on the draft Vision.

d) Aboriginal Participation and Rights

It was suggested by interested parties that the Vision document should recognize Aboriginals' traditional relationship to the land, their contribution of Traditional Ecological Knowledge (TEK)⁴ and their role in the forest sector.

While interested parties recognized that Aboriginal participation is mentioned in the draft Vision document, they would also like to see references to traditional land use, TEK, Aboriginal economic opportunities and capacity building.

Given that recognition of Aboriginal rights will only increase over time, it was suggested that governments and the forest industry need to start planning to be prepared for the new relationships that will follow.

5. Goals & Objectives

Several interested parties suggested that the Vision's two priorities of national importance (forest sector transformation and climate change) were so closely related that they needed to be considered together.

Others observed that several immediate and long-term factors, including investment, capacity, product demand, forest industries, SFM and climate change were factors that were driving the need for transformation.

Many recommended that the two priorities be considered as specific aspects of the three pillars of sustainability: environmental, economic (corporate) and social (forest communities). Furthermore, it was suggested that the climate change section needed to address industry and communities' adaptation more directly.

It was also suggested to acknowledge the idea that addressing climate change and SFM will lead to transformation of the forest sector.

⁴ Traditional Ecological Knowledge (TEK): refers to the innovation and practices of the Aboriginal population that is gained through experience and is passed on from generation to generation. "Traditional knowledge is mainly of a practical nature specifically in such fields as agriculture, fisheries, health, horticulture, forestry and environmental management in general" (UNEP).

Finally, there was general agreement that forest sector transformation needed to be broader to include the entire forest sector not just the forest industry.

a) Forest Sector Transformation

The first priority of national importance, transformation of the forest sector, had broad support from all interested parties. Interested parties agreed that transformation of forest management practices and activities was both a needed and desirable outcome from the Vision. The CCFM was complimented for recognizing that transformation was important, not only for traditional forest product companies, but for everyone who works in, lives near, or benefits from the forest.

However, it was suggested that the CCFM needed to ensure that working forest professionals and individual forest entrepreneurs were onside with the transformation focus of the Vision. The interested parties added that industry associations, unions and professional organizations may be able to play a role in engaging professionals and entrepreneurs on forest sector transformation issues.

i) The Transformation Goal

While the interested parties agreed that transformation was one of the top priorities for the forest sector, it was clear that the suggested goal of “a prosperous and sustainable future for Canada’s forest sector” and its supporting objectives were not as inclusive as needed for a Vision that was intended to cover many different interests.

It was felt that forest sector transformation is an important priority, however it was noted that it also had to be the right kind of transformation. There is little point in making Canada the global leader and innovator of an industry, if that industry is in decline. It was suggested that this section of the document be reviewed to include the expansion and repositioning of the forest industry, in addition to innovation. One respondent suggested emphasizing the development of bio-fuels from wood as an example of innovation.

There was also a perception that systemic issues needed to be addressed in the Vision including: forest tenures, access to capital funding for non-traditional forest companies, expansion of Research and Development (R&D) programs to new forest values, and parity of access to forest resources. Similarly, it was suggested that this section of the document needed to include non-industrial forest values like health, climate change management and the role of urban forests in local air quality.

There was a general desire from interested parties to make a bold statement on transformation, something it was recognized may not please all interested parties of the forest sector. It was acknowledged that the result of transformation will inevitably be that entitlements and business practices will change, and that some people and companies who currently make their living in the forest sector, may not be able to do so in the future. An equally difficult challenge is to address the social impacts of transforming the forest sector.

ii) Transformation Objectives

Under the section on forest sector transformation, interested parties suggested presenting the objectives in a step-wise manner. For example:

- i. *Healthy forests* would lead to:
- ii. *profitable forest-based businesses*, which would lead to:
- iii. *vibrant forest communities*.

It was also noted that the objectives for this section should reflect not only the need for new products, but also innovative public policies to support them. There was a suggestion that provinces need to focus on productive forests, rather than allocated commercial forests. This comment also ties in with the fact that the forest should be thought of as an economic sector in itself, rather than something tied to any particular industry. One respondent stated that the following outcome should be added: “the forestry sector should work towards functioning markets for all kinds of non-traditional forest products within 10 years.” It was also noted that renewal of the industry will require building on the green aspects of the forest, i.e. a renewable resource, a low carbon footprint, and the provision of potential environmental goods and services. There was a specific suggestion around the possibility of including an objective on the provision of tax breaks for woodlot owners who maximize their resource use through non-traditional products.

It was also suggested that references to Aboriginals in the objectives section needed to go further than just recognizing their role in the forest. It should be written to ensure Aboriginals’ broader participation in the forest sector.

b) Climate Change

The second issue of national importance, climate change, was well received. Interested parties agreed that climate change is one of the top priorities for the forest sector and there was also general support for the goal and objectives. It was noted that the CCFM struck a good balance by staying at a strategic level and avoiding any political ideals and specific actions.

However, it was observed that the CCFM needed to ensure that the environmental community is on side with the Vision. Some suggestions were made on how this could be achieved. For example, the section on climate change would benefit from references to the Bali Action Plan⁵ and the Kyoto Accord. It was also recommended that the Vision needed to recognize the connection between agriculture and forestry, as well as the role that afforestation could play in addressing climate change.

One respondent noted that there are two aspects to the climate change challenge:

- 1) the role of the forest in addressing climate change, and
- 2) the need to mitigate/adapt to climate change impacts on the forest itself.

There was also a concern expressed by one respondent that if the section on climate change was not appropriately articulated, it could have implications with respect to the international community’s view of Canada and create a perception that there is no focus on achieving real change. It was also noted that there is a role for the forest industry in being proactive to come up with solutions to address climate change.

⁵ The United Nations Climate Change Conference in Bali, Indonesia in December 2007 brought together more than 10,000 participants, including representatives of over 180 countries, observers from intergovernmental and nongovernmental organizations and the media. It resulted in the Bali Action Plan (UNFCCC).

i) Climate Change Themes

The most frequent comment on climate change was that the goal and objectives needed to include references to societal issues, such as the impacts on Aboriginal communities, northern communities and all other communities that are dependent on the forest. It was suggested that more emphasis could be placed on the impacts of climate change on Aboriginal communities, their lands and their traditional way of life. There were also recommendations that TEK should be recognized as a valuable contribution under the objectives.

The Model Forest Program was identified as an example of tying together climate change, the bio-economy, communities, Aboriginals and environmental goods and services. It was noted that the imbalance between the source of emissions and their impacts (i.e. most emissions come from urban centres while most of the impacts of climate change are felt in rural areas) should be acknowledged in the document as well as the collective responsibility to help these individuals and communities cope. On that issue, one respondent commented on an Aboriginal clean development mechanism that was being developed that made the link between the large urban emitters and their responsibility to account for the impacts on rural and Aboriginal communities.

Finally, it was suggested that the goal and objectives of this section should include information on the role of public education in adapting and mitigating climate change. Education and training can play an important role in achieving forest sector transformation and climate change. It was also recommended that the need for financial infrastructure to support the changes in the industry be acknowledged.

ii) The Climate Change Goal

With respect to the wording around the goal, most agreed that it would be beneficial to have definitions of mitigation and adaptation. A few respondents suggested that, although they are tied together, it might be easier if mitigation and adaptation were to be dealt with separately.

There was also some discussion on the wording of Canada as a world leader. Interested parties asked how it would be determined and whether there was another measure that would be more appropriate. “Keep up with the best” and “at the forefront” were proposed.

iii) Climate Change Objectives

There was a general agreement that it would be better if the objectives were re-organized. Two suggestions were provided:

- 1) mitigation, 2) adaptation, and 3) knowledge and policies to support objectives OR
- 1) research, 2) actions, and 3) outcomes.

Furthermore, it was suggested that the objectives needed to be more aspirational and should be reworded to be more positive and focus on desired outcomes rather than process. A number of outcomes were suggested, such as:

- Maintaining healthy forests.

- Having the professional competence to ensure Canada has the confidence it can maintain healthy forest ecosystems.
- Having the necessary policies, programs and insurance to salvage wood from catastrophes and minimize the impact on markets.
- Having a market for carbon sinks.
- Community resilience.
- Minimizing societal loss and economic impacts.
- Reflection of world leadership – transfer of knowledge and expertise to other markets and countries.

Finally, it was noted that the Vision needed to recognize that having the right policy environment was critical to reflect the rapid changes in science and keep up with innovative ideas to address climate change.

Some interested parties noted that the objectives did not recognize the role that forestry practitioners have to play in addressing climate change. There was also a sense that there was more room to address the role of biodiversity and include more than just tree species – given that all flora and fauna in the forests need to adapt to climate change and therefore should be referenced in the document.

There were also comments on the need to educate the public and ensure understanding of not only climate change but of related issues such as carbon capture and storage, offsets, credits and sinks. There was a suggestion that carbon neutrality for the industry could be identified as an outcome of the Vision.

6. Realizing the Vision

Interested parties made a few recommendations under the section Realizing the Vision. First, it was emphasized that realization of the Vision and public engagement are linked. Many organizations have limited resources and need to choose at which level to engage in the Vision; therefore they need to see the value of engaging in the Vision.

Second, one of the main concepts underlying the Vision is to foster partnerships. However, it was noted that the current draft Vision is lacking the necessary mechanisms to foster networking among interested parties and facilitate implementation.

Third, some interested parties were of the view that Aboriginals have a significant role in realizing the Vision and they would like to see their contribution recognized, including the value of TEK in the development and implementation of the Vision. It was also observed that there will be a significant challenge in getting Aboriginal communities involved.

Finally, interested parties were clear that a direct link needed to be made between the Vision and specific implementation mechanisms such as increasing exposure in the media, promoting the Vision internationally, and more actively engaging the public.

7. Conclusion

Interested parties came to the conclusion that the timing is right for a forest Vision in Canada: the traditional forest industry is facing economic challenges and a number of interested parties are questioning forestry practices in Canada. There is also general support for the idea of having an overarching Vision for the forest sector. The consultation period generated a great deal of goodwill from those who participated. It was suggested that the CCFM needed to build on this momentum, and ensure that the Vision continues to garner support from a large number of diverse, interested parties.

Interested parties supported the overall Vision and agreed that forest sector transformation and climate change are appropriate national priorities. Although it was noted that some interested parties did not participate in the consultation period, it was acknowledged that there was feedback from a diverse group.

Several gaps in the Vision document were identified and recommendations on how to improve the document were provided by interested parties. For example, they identified the need for:

- a supportive legislative, regulatory and policy environment to help the forest industry, forest communities and Aboriginal communities manage changes and foster innovation;
- the Vision to be supported by a supplementary action-oriented document that sets specific goals to be achieved in support of the Vision to assess progress;
- Aboriginal communities to get the resources (i.e. financial) to help them enter the forest industry;
- recognition that other industries (i.e. mining, oil and gas and agriculture) impact the health of the forest and value derived from it;
- recognition of the role of urban forests in the Vision in light of growing awareness of their role and importance;
- recognition of forest values that contribute to health and well-being such as recreation, tourism, hunting and fishing;
- a definition section or glossary for key terms to help ensure that everyone has the same understanding;
- more emphasis on societal issues and community concerns;
- inclusion of a public education component in the Vision;
- replacing the objectives under the issues of national importance sections with desired outcomes;
- consideration for a longer consultation period or a second public comment period on the final draft;

- a contextual piece, at the outset of the document, that would provide context for what the Vision is intended to accomplish and its relationship to the SFM activities of governments, industries, Aboriginals and many other players across Canada.

References

Costanza, R.; d'Arge, R.; de Groot, R.; Farber, S.; Grasso, M.; Hannon, B.; Limburg, K.; Naeem, S.; O'Neill, R.V.; Paruelo, J.; Raskin, R.G.; Sutton, P.; van den Belt, M. 1997. The value of the world's ecosystem services and natural capital. *Nature* 387:253–260.

(CCFM) Canadian Council of Forest Ministers. 2006. Criteria and indicators of sustainable forest management in Canada: National status 2005. Natural Resources Canada, Canadian Forest Service, Ottawa. 154 p.

(UNEP) United Nations Environment Programme. 2007. The convention on biological diversity: Article 8j: Traditional, knowledge, innovations and practices. <http://www.cbd.int/>. [Accessed June 2008].

(UNFCCC) United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. 2007. The United Nations Climate Change Conference in Bali. <http://unfccc.int/meetings/cop13/items/4049.php>. [Accessed June 2008].

ANNEX: COMMENTS RECEIVED ON: A VISION FOR CANADA'S FORESTS – 2008 AND BEYOND A DRAFT

The following pages present the electronic comments received on the draft Vision during the 45-day review period. Most of the comments have been summarized for the sake of brevity and to protect the anonymity of the respondents. These comments do not represent the views of the CCFM.

ISSUES IN VISION	ALL RESPONSES RECEIVED
General Comments	Generally agrees with the content of the Vision. (April 10)
	Recommends further editing before releasing the document for review by the public. (April 10)
	Generally supports the document and its contents. (April 11)
	Agrees with the focus of the Vision and the content of the document. (April 19)
	Vision has strong content and addresses forestry challenges that face Canada now and in the future. (April 19)
	The respondent is of the view that the document is well written and organized. (April 19)
	Suggests rewording of the Vision statement to read: "Canada will be the best practitioner of sustainable forest management in the world and a global leader in forest sector innovation." (April 19)
	General support for the Vision and its principles. (April 29)
	Recommends recruiting and training next generation of foresters. (April 29)
	Overall agrees with the general concepts of the Vision such as encouraging protection of ecosystems and promoting sustainable development. (April 30)
	Recommends updating method of harvesting Canadian trees. (April 30)
	Recommends examination of other countries' forest strategies to improve Canada's strategy and promoting the importance of forest strategies internationally. (April 30)
	Fundamentally agrees with the Vision and has no specific comments on the document. (May 7)
	Refers to the duty to consult and accommodate Aboriginals in the development of the draft Vision. (May 7)
	Agrees with the overall content of the document. (May 8)
	Recommends a need for a stronger sense of urgency in the document, such as what will be lost or gained if we do not react to these issues to strengthen the document. (May 8)
	Recommends a companion document with quantitative analysis to back up the Vision document and provide scientific background. (May 8)
	Generally supports the purpose of the Vision. (May 9)
	Suggests that recreational use of Canada's forests should be mentioned and stressed because it is the public's strongest connection to the forests. (May 9)
	Generally agrees with the Vision. (May 9)
Recommends rewording the Vision statement to make it operational by making the statement measurable through quantitative analysis. (May 9)	
Is of the opinion that the last part of page four and beginning of five – i.e. Canada's commitment to SFM – should be placed in another part of the	

	document. (May 9)
	Suggests that SFM is defined in more detail. (May 9)
	Generally agrees with the Vision and is of the opinion that the document is very good. (May 13)
	The respondent recommends that more references to basic research and innovation that is not affiliated with business or technological development be included in the Vision. (May 13)
	The respondent agrees that “ <i>Canada’s forests have never been more important than they are today.</i> ” Therefore, he suggests that conservation of the resource must not be overlooked for socio-economic gains. (May 14)
	Agrees with the two national priorities put forward in the Vision. (May 14)
	In the respondent’s view, transforming the forest sector is important to maintain habitats and wildlife, but also to maintain a healthy economy. Mitigating and adapting to climate change is one of the most important priorities for sustaining Canada’s forests. (May 14)
	Generally agrees with the Vision. (May 14)
	The respondent suggests that Aboriginals be included in the definition of the forest sector. (May 14)
	Overall agrees with the Vision and the contents of the document, however believes that the Vision needs to be more severe in addressing the issue of logging practices. (May 14)
	Suggests that the Vision emphasize the importance of adapting and mitigating climate change over economic concerns. (May 14)
	The respondent supports the general direction of the Vision, the two national priorities, the use of high-level goals rather than prescriptive ones and the ten year strategy with three-year review periods. (May 14)
	Terminology needs to be adequately clarified such as the forest sector. (May 14)
	Suggests clarification of some of the wording such as water purification. (May 14)
	The respondent recommends removing the term “held in trust” because it is not included in legislation and could lead to legal action. (May 14)
	Suggests correcting the statement: “governments, industries and communities are taking steps to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in attempt to improve air quality.” Greenhouse gases do not affect air quality. (May 14)
	Generally supports the Vision, but disagrees with some of the content. (May 14)
	The respondent suggests less verbosity of language. (May 14)
	Recommends the inclusion of more statistics. (May 14)
	Suggests including roles of Canada’s forests in the Vision – protecting/preserving wildlife, recreation and enjoyment, tourism, reducing/preventing floods and providing variety of foods through hunting, fishing and gathering – to engage public and other organizations. (May 14)
	The respondent recommends encouraging public education of forests by provincial governments and institutions. (May 14)
	The respondent agrees that the Vision should be aspirational, however is of the view that it should incorporate economic, social and environmental values of Canadians. (May 15)
	Agrees with both national priorities: forest sector transformation and climate

	change. (May 15)
	The respondent generally agrees with the Vision and its contents. (May 15)
	The respondent generally agrees with the Vision, but believes woodlot owners should be included more frequently in the document. (May 16)
	Agrees with both national priorities, but suggests more emphasis on environmental goods and services. (May 16)
	The respondent agrees with the Vision and its contents, however suggests research on societal perceptions, values and drivers not just forests. (May 16)
	Agrees with both national priorities, but suggests that these are not the only national priorities. (May 16)
	Suggests making more references to urban forests. (May 16)
	The respondent generally agrees with the Vision, but is of the opinion that there should be more emphasis on Aboriginals' role. (May 16)
	Suggests rewording: "encouraging Aboriginals' participation and innovation in the forest sector" to "ensuring Aboriginal Peoples participate in and benefit from forest sector development and innovation." (May 16)
	The respondent believes that the Kyoto Protocol should be mentioned in the Vision. (May 16)
	The respondent generally agrees with the Vision and the two national priorities. (May 16)
	Generally agrees with the Vision document and its contents. (May 16)
	The respondent generally agrees with the Vision and believes that it will be a good document for SFM, both domestically and internationally, with a few minor changes. (May 18)
	Suggests rewording of the definition of forest sector to include: governments, Aboriginals, forest companies, forest dependent communities and Canadians in general. (May 18)
	The respondent agrees with the content and length of the Vision as well as the two national priorities. (May 20)
	Suggests in the preface that timber products be listed under traditional values provided by the forests. (May 20)
	Generally agrees with the Vision, its two national priorities, and its longer term with reviews to prevent becoming irrelevant. (May 21)
	The respondent agrees with including ecological goods and services to ensure that they are protected and maintained. (May 21)
	Agrees with broadened definition of forest sector to include value of non-forestry resources, associated industries as well as societies. (May 21)
	Agrees with the Vision document. (May 22)
	Agrees with the Vision document and its national priorities. (May 26)
Canada's Commitment to SFM	Overall, the respondent agrees with the principles of the Vision document and the importance of sustainable forest management. (April 11)
	The respondent agrees with issues discussed in the document specifically protecting the forests and ecosystems of Canada. (April 29)
	Recommends removing non-natural forests and preventing use of pesticides, herbicides and toxins. (April 29)
	The respondent agrees that sustainable forest management should be a key priority of the Vision document. (April 30)
	The respondent suggests that to achieve SFM, the Vision should also include priorities such as: maintaining forest health, including managing insects,

	diseases and fires, prevention and control of invasive species, sustainable pest control measures, biodiversity and natural cycles, species at risk, and Canada's boreal forests. (May 14)
	Recognizes the importance of a healthy economy and productive society but believes balance is needed to achieve and maintain SFM. (May 14)
	Suggests that older forest conservation be considered a key initiative in the Vision because older forests store more carbon than younger forests. (May 14)
	Because of climate change, recommends that the Vision protects northern intact forests for species to migrate to. (May 14)
	The respondent recommends that the Vision include: protection of remaining forests (old growth forests), enhance those that have been negatively impacted and ensure that land, water, soil and air have a chance to rebuild sustaining abilities. (May 14)
	The respondent is of the opinion that SFM is important, but it should not undermine the importance of economic opportunity or community stability. (May 14)
	Suggests including the traditional aspects of SFM in the national priorities. (May 14)
	Suggests conservation of forests for future generations to ensure well-being of climates, soils, water levels and plant and animal life. (May 14)
	The respondent suggests increased use of silviculture to ensure healthy growth of forests and private woodlots. (May 15)
	Recommends certification and management plans on private woodlots with incentives for sustainability. The management will assist in planning, recognizing and financing SFM. (May 15)
	The respondent believes more must be done to ensure indigenous species of trees and plants are protected. (May 15)
	The respondent agrees that urban forests and city and community forest programs are increasingly important to SFM. (May 16)
	Recommends ensuring Canada's commitment to SFM by measuring progress. (May 18)
Issues of National Importance	Priority of the document should be to promote forest-related information and knowledge on an international level. (April 19)
	The respondent suggests that climate change impacts and adaptation should be a central issue of the Vision and that the importance of trees as filters of pollution be stressed. (April 30)
	Agrees that climate change is an appropriate national priority because it impacts issues of global importance such as: species adaptation, pest outbreaks and the bio-economy. (May 7)
	Agrees that the Vision addresses issues of international importance such as the impacts of climate change. (May 7)
	Agrees that climate change should be one of the main principles of the Vision document. (May 8)
	According to the respondent, the challenge of the climate change section will be to get beyond the generalities and describe what is at stake economically and socially in terms of the impact of climate change on forests and forest-reliant communities. (May 8)
	The section should also speak to the need of developing a specific work program to examine climate change issues as they relate to SFM as well as

	new structures in which industry and the public will have an opportunity to influence the research program on adaptation so that the work has value to them, given that they ultimately will be the ones making the regulatory and investment decisions. (May 8)
	Agrees that climate change and forest sector transformation are important goals for the Vision, but need to include a larger variety of participants. (May 9)
	Recommends that under transforming the forest sector, the growth of pharmaceutical and chemical products industries should be mentioned to stress the development of bio-prospecting in the forest industry. (May 9)
	Suggests that the priority of “transforming the forest industry” is too pessimistic. According to the respondent it should be reworded as “forest industry must evolve and adapt to changing global conditions.” (May 13)
	Recommends an ecosystem/watershed approach to implement the second national priority of transforming the forest sector. (May 14)
	Suggests adding a paragraph under climate change: “Aboriginal communities are the first to experience impacts of climate change including threatened food security, risk of disease, economic and cultural displacement, etc. Forest strategies to mitigate the harmful effects and to adapt to changing conditions must address the needs of Aboriginal communities and involve them in implementation.” (May 14)
	The respondent recommends that the section on climate change include both positive and negative effects: outbreaks of the spruce budworm have been eliminated but mountain pine beetle has increased. (May 14)
	The respondent recommends an emphasis on the potential of industrial forestry innovation in the future. (May 14)
	Advises forest sector transformation to concentrate on long-term markets not exploitation. (May 14)
	Recommends innovation in policy, science and technology and relationships to transform the forest sector. (May 15)
	Suggests that “goals and objectives should have greater emphasis on adaptation and mitigation for forest dependent communities with respect to climate change” specifically northern communities. (May 15)
	Recommends employing greater number of Aboriginals in the forest sector because of low employment rates and need for forest sector workers. (May 15)
	“Protecting our environment from: climate change, pollution, and extinction of plant and animal species” has become the highest priority for Canadians. (May 15)
	Suggests use of carbon neutral footprints to mitigate climate change (ex. planting trees) like Forest Products Association of Canada has done. (May 15)
	Recommends an increased emphasis on research and development of bio-fuels made from wood. (May 16)
	The respondent suggests developing programs for woodlot owners to generate income from their woodlots, other than fibre production. (May 16)
	Recommends engaging citizens by providing incentives for people to switch to renewable resource heating. (May 16)
	Suggests increased investment from the government in silviculture to assist transformation of the forest sector. (May 16)

	<p>Recommends under the section on forest sector transformation that urban forests be included in: “forest plants and other organisms that enhance human health and well-being.” (May 16)</p> <p>Suggests under the section on climate change that objectives include maintenance and/or improvement in diversity and connectivity of treed areas. (May 16)</p> <p>Suggests that innovation includes product innovation as well as environmental, policy and forest management innovation. (May 18)</p> <p>Agrees that forest sector transformation needs to be addressed to develop a more innovative, knowledge-based industry. (May 18)</p> <p>Under forest sector transformation suggests broadening traditional education to increase number and variety of forestry professionals. (May 20)</p> <p>Recommends including oil extracted energy and insect infestation under climate change objectives. (May 20)</p> <p>The respondent suggests that under forest sector transformation, traditional forest sector issues are not the only focus. (May 21)</p> <p>Recommends under climate change that emphasis is placed on research to enhance understanding of role of forest ecosystems in reducing climate change. (May 21)</p> <p>The respondent suggests following FPInnovations’ recommendation to increase cooperation between universities and industries to assist in forest sector transformation. (May 22)</p> <p>Suggests being actively involved with forest communities in transition. (May 26)</p> <p>The respondent recommends developing carbon initiatives with climate change. (May 26)</p>
Engagement Strategy	<p>The respondent recommends encouraging responses from different participants especially those involved in the forestry sector to increase feedback and suggestions. (April 11)</p> <p>Recommends involving the youth in the process of developing and maintaining sustainable development. (April 29)</p> <p>Suggests involving elders to acquire history of forests. (April 29)</p> <p>Proposed Vision should engage the youth to assist in developing sustainable development for Canada’s forests and to recruit the next generation of foresters. (April 30)</p> <p>Suggests that the departmental task team on adaptation could assist in developing solid framework for the Vision. (May 8)</p> <p>Suggests Aboriginals must have a part in developing the process and dialogue of the Vision. (May 8)</p> <p>The respondent is of the opinion that ENGOs have not been attending national meetings to discuss the forest strategy because they feel their interests are overlooked. (May 9)</p> <p>Recommends engagement of the public and ENGOs to increase results of the Vision by increasing participation through awareness. (May 9)</p> <p>The respondent recommends engaging emerging industries in the Vision to promote investment in forest industry and to encourage potentially successful companies to enter the industry. (May 13)</p> <p>Recommends engagement between organizations such as CWF and CCFM to promote a balance between economic and social needs with environmental priorities. (May 14)</p>

	Agrees that the public and ENGOs should be engaged in the process of revising and implementing the Vision. (May 14)
	The respondent suggests that the Vision emphasize partnerships between governments, organizations and individuals to achieve SFM. (May 14)
	Agrees that communication between people, institutions and universities is key. (May 16)
	The respondent suggests using mechanisms or structures to facilitate communication through: FPInnovations, provincial research institutes, industry and other forest stakeholders. (May 16)
	Recommends engaging forest stakeholders, as well as the general public in rural and urban communities and the international community. (May 16)
	The respondent suggests including up-to-date information on SFM and the forest sector in elementary and secondary school curricula. (May 16)
	The respondent is of the opinion that knowledge needs to be applied more broadly to better inform the public and engage them in SFM. (May 18)
	The respondent recommends: “encouraging Canada’s youth to take post-secondary education in forest resources and recognizing legislation.” (May 20)
	Suggests employing forest professionals to provide opinions and advice on SFM legislation because of their education, skills and experience. (May 20)
	The respondent suggests that Model Forests provide unique partnerships and opportunities for Sustainable Forest Management (SFM) and community development, technology transfer, research and development, conflict resolution, landscape planning and use and addressing many social, economic and environmental issues. (May 26)
Implementation	Suggests that a direct link needs to be made between the Vision and actions of implementation. (April 11)
	Recommends interoperability and teamwork between different participants to realize Vision. (April 11)
	The respondent recommends that institutional change be stressed to increase communication between the participants. (April 11)
	Suggests engaging Clean Environment Commissions Commissioners as well as Joint Commission Commissioners to encourage interoperability and promotion of the Vision. (April 29)
	Using contests, campaigns and volunteer programs to more actively engage the public. (April 29)
	The respondent suggests international cooperation specifically between the United States and Canada to promote the importance of forest strategies internationally. (April 29)
	It is suggested to promote forest-related information and knowledge in the Vision document. (April 30)
	The respondent sees opportunities between the Canadian Forest Service and Agriculture/Agri-food Canada in areas of tree genetics and biomass, as it relates to the Vision. (May 7)
	Recommends more press coverage to promote the Vision strategy, specifically to the public. (May 8)
	Recommends federal and provincial governments working with Aboriginals to plan and implement the Vision. (May 8)
	Promote non-traditional forest values, such as recreational hunting and fishing, to increase public awareness and interest for the Vision. (May 9)

	<p>Recommends interoperability between different sectors of government for upcoming initiatives. (May 9)</p> <p>Suggests promoting the Vision internationally to give the document a higher profile. (May 9)</p> <p>The respondent suggests promoting the role and the importance of researching the ecology, biodiversity and pest biology of Canada's forests to further the goals and objectives included in the Vision. (May 13)</p> <p>Recommends that the Canadian Forest Service (CFS) has a more prominent role in the document or at least be mentioned. (May 13)</p> <p>Suggests that implementation and decisions be based on science or a precautionary approach. (May 14)</p> <p>Recommends that implementation includes: recognition of capabilities, circumstances and responsibilities of Canada's jurisdictions. (May 14)</p>
Aboriginal Issues	<p>The respondent suggests engaging Aboriginals by encouraging involvement in protecting the forests and ecosystems. (April 29)</p> <p>Recommends that the CCFM refers to the last judgment of the Supreme Court of Canada to clarify the obligations of consultation to First Nations. (May 7)</p> <p>Recommends that the Vision states that Aboriginals have role in process and planning of their land and resources. (May 8)</p> <p>The respondent is of the opinion that "the inclusion of Aboriginal Peoples and the accommodation of their rights and interests" should be reflected in the Vision. (May 14)</p> <p>First Nations' governments are included in implementation and engagement because their jurisdictions over forested lands will increase over the next ten years. (May 14)</p> <p>The respondent suggests adding a footnote under implementation: "As a result of land settlements and modern day treaties, and government-to-government arrangement in some provinces, the amount of forested land falling under First Nations jurisdiction and co-management regimes is increasing. First Nations governance arrangements are advancing as are their approaches to SFM." (May 14)</p> <p>The respondent recommends rewording "the federal government has lead responsibility for Indians and lands reserved for Indians" to read "the federal government has jurisdictional responsibility for Indians and lands reserved for Indians, a fiduciary obligation for the good management of the First Nations interests, a constitutional duty to protect Aboriginal and treaty rights, and in the honour of the Crown, an obligation to meaningfully consult and in certain circumstances accommodate Aboriginal and treaty rights." (May 14)</p> <p>Suggests rewording of Aboriginal and treaty rights to read "Aboriginal and treaty rights are constitutionally recognized and affirmed under section 35 of the Constitution Act of 1982. Although Aboriginal and treaty rights are rooted in history, these rights are contemporary issues. The courts in Canada have increasingly emphasized the fact that Aboriginal and treaty rights are, most importantly, generative rights that have to be cast as modern day interests. Their accommodation is not only about the right to hunt, fish, or trap, but it is about the future arrangements for natural resource use among other matters. The New Relationship Approach in B.C., and similar but less advanced approaches in other provinces, have as their goal to reconcile, and be inclusive of Aboriginal interests, about the use of land and resources. A forest</p>

	strategy or Vision for Canada, or for the CCFM, (as representatives of the Crown), has to reflect the fact that Aboriginal and treaty rights are future orientated and that they will require articulation in agreements with the Crown.” (May 14)
	The respondent recommends that Aboriginals have a larger role in the forest industry and preservation because of their growing land claims. (May 15)
	The respondent suggests acknowledging Aboriginals’ traditional ecological knowledge because it is valuable and should be employed. (May 15)
	Recommends that Aboriginals’ traditional ecological knowledge be recognized under governments’ roles and responsibilities. (May 16)
	The respondent suggests that Aboriginals be removed from under private land owners and be included in those achieving the Vision. (May 16)
Editing	On page seven the second paragraph is segmented into two pieces: they should be joined. (May 9)
	Outcome should be reworded as “strengthening mechanisms for Aboriginals’ participation and encouraging their innovation in the forest sector.” (May 14)
	The respondent suggests changing “should be pursued” to “enabling conditioned to facilitate community capacity-building particularly the engagement of First Nations’ governments will be pursued.” (May 14)
	Suggests rewording: “private firms” to “private sector”; spell out NGO; water resources should include wetlands; add climate regulation to ecosystem goods and services; “traditional scope of forest sector” to “non-forestry resource values”; “some of our forests can be sinks” to “some forest ecosystems are sinks”; “championing research on forest tree species” to “championing research on forest ecosystems.” (May 21)