



A Shared Vision for Canada's Forests: *Toward 2030*



Canadian Council
of Forest
Ministers



Conseil canadien
des ministres
des forêts

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A decorative graphic element consisting of two thin, light gray curved lines that start from the left edge and sweep upwards and to the right, forming a large, open arc that spans across the width of the page.

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INTRODUCTION

Forests are embedded in Canada's social fabric, culture and economy

Sustainable forest management is a way of caring for forests to maintain their benefits over time. In Canada, sustainable forest management decisions and activities are based on scientific research, rigorous planning processes and public consultation.

The forest sector—the people and organizations that derive value and create wealth and well-being from the forest.

With a diversity of landscapes, our forests provide abundant ecosystems, unparalleled recreational activities and many economic opportunities.

For many Indigenous peoples in Canada, forests are intertwined with cultural identity. Recognizing and respecting that Indigenous peoples derive diverse values from the land base presents an opportunity to collaborate in sustainably managing forests in Canada. Canada's **sustainable forest management** is stronger when Indigenous peoples meaningfully participate in all aspects of the forest sector.

Over many decades, Canada's **forest sector** has achieved a record of global leadership in sustainably managing its forest resources.

Yet Canada continues to face challenges, including the impacts of a changing climate as seen with increasing intensity and frequency of fires, floods and pest outbreaks. It is time to refresh *A Vision for Canada's Forests: 2008 and Beyond*.



OUR VISION



Canada's sustainable forest management practices maintain resilient, healthy forests that support vibrant communities, stronger collaborations with Indigenous peoples and competitive economies

A Shared Vision for Canada's Forests: Toward 2030 is based on the collective ambitions of the forest sector, vetted through a public engagement process in 2018. It recognizes the diverse ways we treasure our forests and the global benefits of maintaining forest ecosystems. The **Canadian Council of Forest Ministers (CCFM)** is championing the Vision as a foundation for collaborative action that draws on one another's strengths.

The CCFM is the forum where 14 federal, provincial and territorial governments responsible for forests collaborate, exchange information and work cooperatively to address areas of common interest.

WHAT DO FORESTS DO FOR YOU? From the air you breathe to the ground you walk on, forests improve your quality of life.



Forests are complex ecosystems, providing clean air, fresh clean water, soil production, carbon storage, pollination, habitat for plants, animals and fungi, and more.

Forests are an economic driver for many communities, providing employment, tax revenue, forest products as well as recreation and tourism opportunities.

The physical and mental health benefits of spending even a small amount of time in nature are well documented. Healthy urban forests, for example, reduce the negative effects of air pollution, help conserve energy and reduce soil erosion.

For many generations, people have relied on forests to survive—to build homes, find food and fuel. Indigenous peoples continue to use the forest for traditional practices, including medicines and spiritual purposes.

Sustainable forest management is the overarching basis for realizing the Vision

Sustainable forest management ensures that Canada's forests continue to thrive, providing benefits not only today but in the future.

In 2017, 49% of forests in Canada were certified to third-party standards of sustainable forest management.



Success lies in our ability to adapt forest management practices as ecosystems, markets and public expectations evolve

Achieving a vision starts with assessing the current state of knowledge, trends, industry transformation and changing social values.

A vision requires periodic renewal, often in response to large-scale systems change.



The areas of focus motivate us toward continuous improvement.

As the forest sector works toward the Vision, we contribute to positive outcomes on a global scale.

AREAS OF FOCUS



In an increasingly complex environment, areas of focus act as a rallying point for collaboration



1. Collaboration with Indigenous Peoples

Canada's relationship with Indigenous peoples is based on the principles of recognition, equity, partnership, good faith and mutual respect. Supporting Indigenous-owned forest businesses, increased access to jobs and inclusion of local values and perspectives in management decisions help to further this relationship.

2. Innovation

Innovation is key to market competitiveness, sustainability and developing **Canada's forest bioeconomy**. Canada enjoys a reputation as a leader in science and technology in many areas of the forest sector. In addition to forest-related research and development, collaboration is needed to encourage innovation in such areas as the bioeconomy, climate change mitigation and forest adaptation.

See [A Forest Bioeconomy Framework for Canada](#) for more information.



3. Wildland Fires and Other Disturbances

Wildland fires and forest disturbances have been increasing in intensity and frequency over the last decades. The impacts are significant to Canadians and their livelihoods, resulting in social costs, health impacts and billions of dollars in damages to property and infrastructure. Smaller remote communities are disproportionately affected, many of which are predominantly Indigenous. The [Canadian Wildland Fire Strategy](#) introduced a new approach that seeks to balance the social, ecological and economic aspects of wildland fire and address the root causes and symptoms of wildland fire challenges. Proactive management is also needed in the combined efforts to curb the impacts of pest and disease epidemics.



4. Climate Change

A changing climate is a major influence on forests and, in turn, forests influence climate. Due to the vast size of Canada's forests, how they are managed has not only domestic but global implications. Carbon storage, use of wood, adaptive management, forest disturbance management and ecosystem resilience are interrelated issues requiring research leading to science-based collaborative solutions.



5. Canada's Environmental Reputation

Canada's wood is harvested responsibly, provides high-quality products and meets the world's highest sustainable forest management standards. Yet heightened public concern over environmental issues has created both challenges and opportunities for Canada's forest sector. For example, Canada's forests provide habitats for about two-thirds of Canada's estimated 140,000 species of plants, animals and micro-organisms. Research leading to science-based collaboration is needed to manage species at risk to protect and conserve those populations whenever possible.

GOALS



Areas of focus inspire us to aim even higher— we identify six goals that underpin the Vision

COLLABORATION WITH INDIGENOUS PEOPLES

We aspire to build stronger partnerships with Indigenous communities and to incorporate Indigenous peoples insights, knowledge and meaningful participation in sustainable forest management.

INNOVATION

We aspire to be a global leader in forest sector innovation and competitiveness in the use of forest biomass for advanced bioproducts and innovative solutions.

WILDLAND FIRE AND OTHER DISTURBANCES

We aspire to help Canadians prepare for, and act to reduce, environmental risks such as wildland fire.

CLIMATE CHANGE

We aspire to increase forest resiliency and the amount of carbon stored in forests and wood products.

ENVIRONMENTAL REPUTATION

We aspire to increase transparency and the opportunities for engagement within sustainable forest management.

We aspire to be leaders in adaptive forest management practices to ensure ongoing care of all forest values.

Our aspirations for Collaboration with Indigenous Peoples and Climate Change are integral to achieving the other four goals.

OUR VISION

Canada's sustainable forest management practices maintain resilient, healthy forests that support vibrant communities, stronger collaborations with Indigenous peoples and competitive economies



GLOBAL OUTCOMES



Canada continues to be a world leader in managing and nurturing healthy, sustainable forests that benefit everyone

As stewards of 9% of the world’s forests, our interactions with forests have benefits not just within our borders, but on a global scale.

Through attainment of our goals, and based on our commitment to sustainable forest management, our Vision helps achieve the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.





Sustainable Development Goal 8: Decent Work and Economic Growth

Canada's forests create opportunities in cities and towns of all sizes from coast to coast to coast. The forest industry provided about 210,000 direct jobs across the country in 2017, including foresters, scientists, engineers, technicians and skilled tradespeople. Of those employed in the forest industry, 6% were Indigenous (2016).



Sustainable Development Goal 12: Responsible Consumption

Canada's wood is harvested responsibly, provides high-quality products and meets the world's highest standards. Over 150 countries worldwide depend on Canadian wood products. As of 2017, Canada has 168 million ha certified to internationally recognized forest certification programs—more than any other country in the world.



Sustainable Development Goal 13: Climate Action

Canada's forests and forest products are part of the global climate solution. Storage of carbon, even after harvesting, provides alternatives to fossil fuel-intensive products. Climate change has yielded an increasing intensity and frequency of wildland fires and forest pest outbreaks in Canada's forests; research and adaptive management are focused on mitigating these impacts of a changing climate.



Sustainable Development Goal 15: Life on Land

Canada is a world leader in developing and applying sustainable forest management practices. With 94% of Canada's forests publicly owned, Canadians can have a voice in managing their forests. This includes developing science-informed forest management plans that ensure forest harvesting does not exceed sustainable supply.

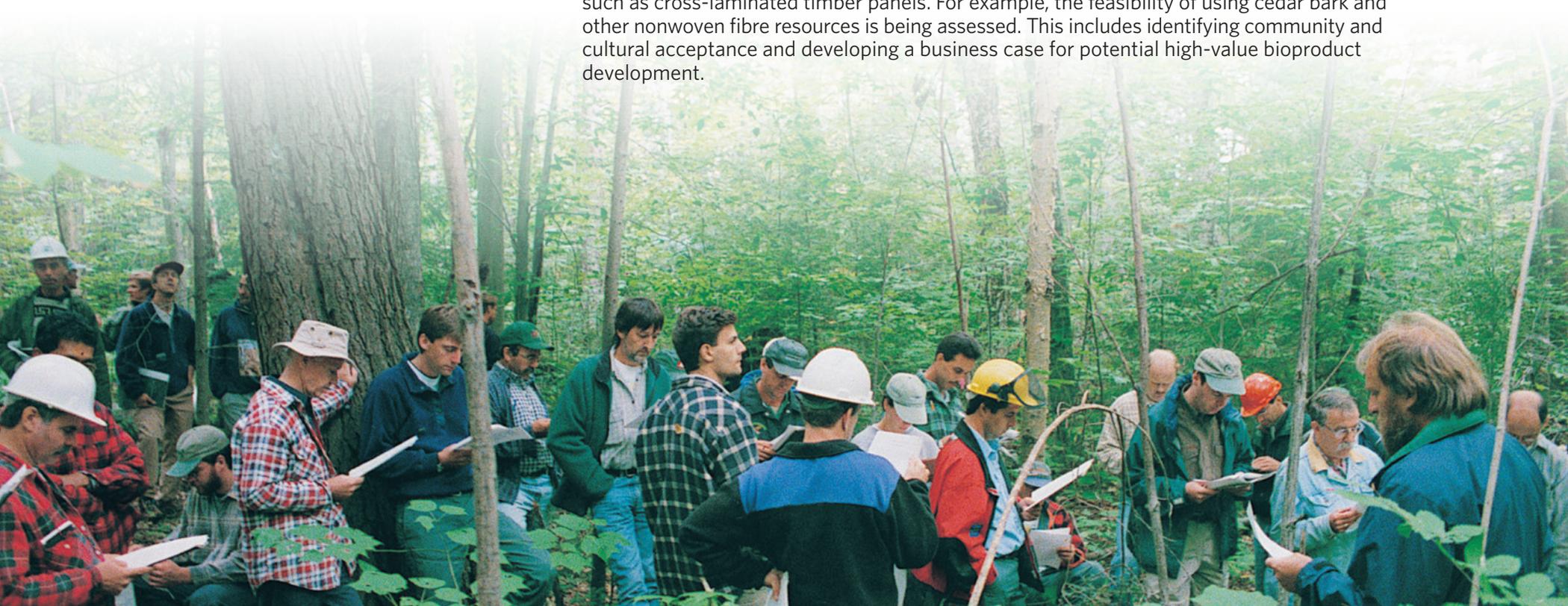
CONCLUSION

Achieving the Vision will depend on meaningful conversations about sustainability, followed by collaborative action across the entire spectrum of activities involving forests and forest products

Through innovative collaboration, we have begun to act on the areas of focus. For example,

[Canada Wildfire](#) is a coalition of governments, academia and the private sector to advance wildland fire science, research and management. Within the [Canadian Partnership for Wildland Fire Science Strategic Plan 2017–2021](#), common objectives are identified for partners. Site-specific projects, such as the [Pelican Mountain FireSmart Fuel Management Research Site](#), highlight how collaboration is effective in integrating shared learnings across a range of stakeholders.

Many jurisdictions across Canada are exploring collaborative bioproducts development with Indigenous communities. The projects range from bioenergy to value-added products such as cross-laminated timber panels. For example, the feasibility of using cedar bark and other nonwoven fibre resources is being assessed. This includes identifying community and cultural acceptance and developing a business case for potential high-value bioproduct development.



ACTIONS SPEAK LOUDER THAN WORDS

Success depends on all of us: governments, Indigenous peoples, the forest sector, academia, non-government organizations and individuals. Challenge and engage with others—together we can make this Vision a reality.

Canada's sustainable forest management journey has been tracked for nearly 30 years. In [The State of Canada's Forests Annual Report](#), key criteria and indicators of progress on sustainable forest management are published. These metrics are consistent with the internationally supported [Montreal Process](#), and are visible and available to everyone. This report will make our actions to pursue forest sustainability measurable and verifiable.

Through successful collaboration and sustainable forest management practices, Canada will work to maximize the environmental, economic, social and cultural value of forests for future generations.



CANADIAN COUNCIL OF FOREST MINISTERS: Governments working in partnership to ensure Canada remains a world leader in sustainable forest management for the benefit of all people living in Canada.

Jurisdictions are actively working toward achieving this Vision's goals. For more information, please visit www.ccfm.org/English or the following websites.

