

Canada's Voluntary National Contribution to Implementation of the UNSPF

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Canada's forest sector is an important source of jobs and growth for more than 100 communities across the country, directly employing almost 210,000 people and contributing more than \$24 billion to the Canadian economy in 2017.

In April of 2019, the Canadian Council of Forest Ministers agreed to a new vision for our forests, one that reflects the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). To ensure the vision reflects Canadian values and priorities, over a six month period we engaged with stakeholders across the country who expressed appreciation for the wide range of benefits that forests provide and the need for improved collaboration with Indigenous peoples, increased forest resiliency in the face of challenges such as fire and other natural disturbances, and continued forest industry innovation. This work culminated with the recent completion of *A Vision for Forests in Canada: Toward 2030*.

The renewed Vision is anchored by a new Vision statement: "Canada's sustainable forest management practices maintain resilient, healthy forests that support vibrant communities, stronger collaborations with Indigenous peoples and competitive economies." This vision also establishes goals to motivate us toward continuous improvement, contributing to positive outcomes on a global scale. The attainment of our goals, building upon on our commitment to sustainable forest management, will directly contribute to achieving multiple SDGs.

Understanding the tremendous growth opportunities for Canada's forest sector, the Federal Budget for 2019 announced substantial investments to extend existing innovation and diversification programs that also leverage substantial private sector funds. These investments are intended to capitalize on global

growth in the bioeconomy and technological advancements that are boosting the demand for wood fibre in markets around the world, such as greener construction materials for use in high-rise and non-residential construction and the use of wood-based by-products to replace more carbon-intensive materials.

The investment of up to \$251 million over three years will support programs dedicated to:

- forest-based economic development for Indigenous communities across Canada.
- pre-commercial research and development in the emerging bioeconomy.
- the industrial commercialization and adoption of innovative technologies and processes that contribute to clean economic growth and jobs.
- expanding wood use in non-residential and mid-rise construction.

These commitments directly support global forest goals 1, 2 and 3 and SDGs 1, 3, 4, 7, 8, 11, 12, 13 and 15. What's more, we will revise the project selection criteria and results tracking for this suite of programming to include requirements to address gender and other representation gaps within the forest industry thereby also contributing to SDGs 2, 5 and 10.