

# Canada's Forest Sector and the Role of Natural Resources Canada

#### **Canadian Forest Service**

April 2014



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#### Canada – A Forest Nation

- 10% of the world's forest cover
- major economic contributor (\$19.7B to GDP or 1.25%)
- 215,000 jobs and 200 forest-dependent communities
- Significant Aboriginal employer (11,000)
- Global leader in sustainable forest management

Forest sector jobs across Canada in 2013 (thousands of jobs).





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# In recent years, the forest sector has faced significant pressures...

- Structural changes
  - Appreciating dollar
  - Collapsing newsprint demand
  - Heavy competition
- Cyclical forces
  - Collapse of US housing market
  - Global recession
  - Pests: mountain pine beetle, spruce budworm
- Softwood Lumber Agreement arbitrations

8 major Canadian forest companies filed for creditor protection

>150 mill closures in the past 4 years

>130,000 jobs lost since 2003 peak



### ... it responded to these pressures with:

- Aggressive consolidation and cost cutting
- Targeting emerging markets
- Attracting foreign capital
- Shift to non-traditional products

#### Today, conditions have improved:

>\$600 M in foreign investment has reopened 7 closed paper mills

8/10 largest publicly traded companies had net profits in Q3-2013

Major softwood lumber companies showing strong profits

Canadian leadership in a number of technology areas

### But further transformation is needed...



Canada



#### NRCan role in the forest sector

#### FEDERAL RESPONSIBILITIES

- International trade/relations
- Softwood Lumber Agreement
- National policy/regulatory framework
- Aboriginal affairs
- Management of federal lands
- National reporting

# PROVINCES & TERRITORIES

- Own and manage 77% of Canada's forests
- Develop legislation, regulations and policies
- Allocate timber licenses
- Collect stumpage fees
- Collect data

#### SHARED RESPONSIBILITIES

- Science and technology
- Environmental regulation



### Canadian Forest Service (CFS)...

- Federal expert on forests/forest sector
- Strategic priorities:
  - 1. Enhancing forest sector competitiveness
  - 2. Optimizing forest value
  - 3. Advancing environmental leadership

Vision: An innovative, globally competitive forest sector rooted in sustainable forests creating prosperity for Canadians.





# Provides thought leadership and delivers programs in support of the sector

# Federal investments in support of transformation total \$1.8 billion since 2006





## **Supports innovation**

# Advances R&D and technology transfer activities along the forest sector value chain.

CFS' innovation program received an additional \$61 M in Budget 2013 (funding to 2016-2017).

#### Achievements:

- Pre-commercial R&D and demonstration
- Upstream, forest-level research in support of forest sector competitiveness
- Developing standards for emerging products
- Key partner: FPInnovations







### **Transformative Technologies Program**

- Transformative technology research: through partnership with FPInnovations
  - Next Generation Building Solutions
  - Bio-Products Development
  - Integrated Value Maximization
- Pilot scale demonstration plants





#### **Next Generation Building Solutions**

Applying new technologies, engineering and design to traditional and emerging wood-based materials to create sustainable building solutions for residential and non-residential uses.









### **Bioproduct development**

Exploring economically feasible methods of gathering forest biomass and converting it to new products such as fuels and chemicals.

Development of new Bioproducts including forest-based biomaterials, biochemicals and biocomposites







### **Integrated Value Maximization**

- Promoting the use of fibre for its greatest possible value and the lowest possible cost
  - Develop advanced capabilities to characterize the resource,
  - Apply advanced information techniques to precision forestry and transportation logistics
  - Implement emerging flexible manufacturing technologies which are all linked to new knowledge of markets and attributes





#### **Pilot Scale Demonstrations**

- Moving research from laboratory to pilot scale testing
  - Development of nanocrystalline cellulose (NCC) - first pilot plant facility
  - Extraction & conversion of lignin - pilot unit in operation







# Helps commercializes promising technologies

# IFIT supports first-in-kind implementations of emerging technologies in the forest sector

Budget 2014 renewed the Investments in Forest Industry Transformation program (IFIT) with \$90.4 M (2014-18).

#### Key achievements:

Proposals worth more than \$2B received (\$100 M program envelope)

9 projects announced with program contributions totalling \$44 million





Canada



### **Expands market opportunities**

# Increases market opportunities for industry in offshore and North American markets.

CFS' markets program received an additional \$31 M in Budget 2013 (funding to 2016-2017).

#### Achievements:

- IO00% increase in exports to China since 2007
- Chinese eco-cities
- Tall (>10 storey) wood buildings
- Changes to provincial building codes
- Market access/environmental reputation





#### **Offshore Markets**

- International Representation
- Technical support
- Branding
- Demonstration Projects
  - Cost-shared with Industry/Provinces
  - Delivery through wood product associations
  - Activities undertaken in Europe, China, South Korea, Japan, India Middle East and other markets







#### **International Representation**

- Network of Canada Wood offices in Asia (Beijing, Shanghai, Tokyo, Seoul), Europe (London, Toulouse) and joint Canada/B.C. office in Mumbai, India
- Staff of locally engaged and Canadian experts





#### Branding

- Unified approach at promoting the advantages of Canadian wood species at trade shows, trade missions, brochures
- Support market studies housing cost studies, potential for various products in various markets







#### **Distribution of Funds**

#### Funding by Market for 2014/15







## **Diversification Results**

- Expansion into foreign markets
  - Significant progress made in diversifying away from dependence on US market

#### Forest Product Exports - 2002







## **Expanding Market Opportunities**

# North American Component

- Focus on non-residential / mid-rise opportunities for wood
  - Wood WORKS! Program in Canada and the U.S.
  - Changes to the National Building Code of Canada (2015)
- Tall Wood Buildings Initiative



#### North American Potential for Wood in Tall Wood, Wood in Mid-Rise Construction and Bridges

- Current use:
  - U.S. 1.2 billion board feet equivalent (bbfe)
  - Canada: 0.5 billion bbfe
- NA maximal potential for wood in tall, mid-rise, nonresidential and bridges adds up to 12 bbf/year
  - Bridges: 2 5 bbfe/year
  - Tall Wood, mid-rise and non-residential: 3.9 7.3 bbfe/year
- NA Realistic goal: an additional 1.5 2.0 bbfe/year (assumes a very conservative 15 20% market penetration rate)





### 6 Storey CLT Condominium











Photo Credit: Nordic Structures Bois

### **Timber bridge**













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#### Greater Use of Wood – Non Residential and Mid-Rise

- Activities:
  - Network of 44 technical advisors providing assistance to builders, architects and engineers
  - Educational and promotional events including Wood Solutions Fairs
  - Technical guides and case studies
  - Technical Field Tours







#### Key Achievements – Canada and U.S.

- Since 2007 more than 1,483 projects influenced - wood value of \$595 million
- Estimated ROI of 22:1 US 32:1 - Can
- 2013/14 (first 8 months results)
  - 197 projects influenced for \$82 million wood value
  - Provided nearly 43,000 education hours to architects and engineers
  - 7 Wood Solutions Fairs 3,544 participants
  - Webinars: nearly 7,000 participants







## **Building Codes Revisions**

- British Columbia
  - April 2009, residential construction up to six storeys
    - 250 buildings built, under construction or at the design stage (40 buildings completed)
- Quebec
  - Wood Charter in April 2013 Amendment to allow up to 6 storeys
- Ontario
  - March 20<sup>th</sup> 2014, announced early adoption of the 2015 NBCC
- Canada 2015 NBCC up to six storeys buildings
  - Public consultations completed
  - Spring 2014: Standing Committee reviews and address public comments
  - Fall 2014: Review and approval by Canadian Commission on Building and Fire Codes





## **Guide for Tall Wood Buildings**

- FPInnovations led technical document – World First
- Collaboration of 80 experts
- Intended for experience design and construction teams
- 400 + pages of technical drawings and details









#### **Tall Wood Buildings Initiative**

- Negotiations underway with the proponents
- Completion by 2017













#### Annex 1: CFS across Canada





### Annex 2: Key Canadian forest products:

#### (value of exports in 2013)

#### **Softwood Lumber** (\$7.4 billion - #1 in the World)

- Suffered severe slowdown due to US housing bust
- Prices are now high, industry is very profitable, outlook is strong

#### Newsprint and writing papers (\$5 billion)

Rise of electronic media continues to devastate the sector

#### Northern Bleached Softwood Kraft Pulp (\$3.9 billion - #1 in the World)

- Near peak of pricing cycle
- Medium and long term outlooks are good

#### Bioenergy and Bioproducts (Emerging sector)

Wood Pellets, largely to EU, are our largest bioenergy export (\$260 million)
Other biochemicals/biomaterials currently in development (Canada world leader in forest-based biomethanol, cellulose filaments, nanocrystalline cellulose)

**Other major products:** packaging (\$1.6 billion), tissues (\$1.2 billion), structural panels (\$1.5 billion) and dissolving pulp (\$0.7 billion)

