

2. As a result of a Canadian initiative, a meeting of international scientific experts is scheduled for September 13-17 in Brussels. The meeting will assess all aspects of the pinewood nematode and the real risks of transmission.
3. It was agreed that more effort should be dedicated to developing alternative markets and continuing to upgrade the capacity of industry to kiln-dry lumber. The Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency has helped fund 20 new kilns in the Atlantic provinces in recent years.
4. In consultation with industry, the Department of Natural Resources and Agriculture Canada have completed a heat-treatment specification manual and published a list of certified third party accreditation testing organizations. The Department of Natural Resources is providing technical expertise for the implementation of the heat treatment program.
5. There was discussion on a political mission to Europe to press the Canadian case. It was agreed that there could be merit, but only when there is something new to put on the table i.e. the results of the scientific panel of experts.
6. The federal government is providing regular summaries of developments on the issue to the industry and provinces.

I am very aware of the economic impact of the European Community's action on Nova Scotia. I have met with Diana Blenkhorn of the Maritime Lumber Bureau who stressed the important trade implications of this issue for Canada. We will continue to work closely with the industry and provinces to maintain and secure access for our lumber producers in European markets.

Yours sincerely,

Tom Hockin