

Dr. MacGuigan said: "It is appropriate that, during National Forestry Week in Canada, this cooperative Arrangement has been reached which will help both countries to protect their forests from the devastating effects of wildfires."

On the average, the amount of merchantable timber burned annually between 1968-1977 equalled one-quarter of the annual harvest. Canada experienced record fire seasons in 1980 and 1981. The area of commercial timber burned in 1981 actually exceeded the combined area logged in the provinces and territories. The value of Canada's forest products shipments amounted to \$22.1 billion in 1980, an above average fire season, illustrating the great impact of forest fires on our economy.

Fire fighting agencies in Canada and the U.S. are unable to constantly maintain the level of equipment and personnel required during the worst fire seasons. Exchanges under this Arrangement will permit optimum use of resources where and when they are needed.

The Arrangement covers all forms of fire fighting equipment from aircraft, hoses and hand tools to infra-red scanning devices as well as fire fighting personnel.

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