

FORESTS OF CANADA : THE FEDERAL ROLE

SYNOPSIS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

This Report addresses *the terms of reference and the mandate for the new federal Department of Forestry* which was created by Bill C-29, *the Department of Forestry Act*, proclaimed into law in February of 1990.

The Sub-committee on Forestry has heard a broad range of witnesses and received many submissions over the past ten months. The following recommendations are presented for consideration by Parliament to enhance and strengthen Forestry Canada in its role towards the goal of sustainable development in Canadian forestry.

The conclusions of the Committee are primarily based on evidence received from *many diverse and well qualified witnesses*. Therefore, we have chosen to use *direct quotations* throughout the text to authenticate the judgements and recommendations we have made.

We have been fortunate to benefit from *the voluntary assistance of five distinguished educators from forestry faculties in Canadian universities* by way of professional and editorial advice. In addition to their own direct testimony as witnesses, they have combined to author the Foreword, which we trust adds to the validity of the Report.

Any consideration of the federal role in forestry must examine and understand the present circumstances pertaining to those forests. There are *two compelling imperatives* at work, frequently in critical conflict with each other.

The first imperative is the enormous contribution to *Canada's economy* from its forests, upon which the country is sorely dependent. This importance is emphasized by more than \$40 billion in annual shipments. Almost one million jobs are provided to Canadians directly or indirectly by the forest industry. The net balance of trade in forestry *exceeds* that of agriculture, mining, energy and fisheries *combined!*

The federal government's stake in the forests is also very real in financial terms. Federal forestry revenues are \$2.3 billion annually, *five times greater* than federal forestry expenditures.