

development together with new technologies and management techniques, that nation succeeded in producing more pulp and paper through diversification and rationalization of the uses of wood fibre.¹⁵ In similar manner, some forestry experts in Canada predict that we can also avoid serious wood shortages in the future through the adoption of improved technologies, more intensive silvicultural efforts and a substantial increase in the utilization of hardwood species.

Right now we can harvest only 10 million cubic metres, which comes out to about 1.3 cubic metres for every hectare every year. The Swedes now harvest 8 cubic metres for every hectare every year. There is no reason why New Brunswick could not have 3, 4, or 5, if we had a forest on it that was as well structured as theirs is after 60 years of working at it. They went through the transition we are looking at now in the late 1800's, early 1900's.

We have a considerable range of development available to us in this country, simply by virtue of getting a proper forest on the ground. We are limited now by the structure of the forest and the way we have carried it, not by the productivity of the land or of the species, if we had a decent forest on it.

— Gordon L. Baskerville, Dean of Forestry, University of New Brunswick (Issue 1:62).

It is clear that the coming years will be a period of dramatic challenge as we seek to achieve integrated management in the context of sustainable forestry development. Not only will new and improved technologies be required, but innovative approaches and practices must also be found. The new federal Department of Forestry should have a central role in that drama with so many competing players and so many conflicting views.

In particular the federal agency ought to seek out opportunities to complement provincial efforts, and thereby provide leading-edge direction in ensuring our forests are managed to meet the ever changing demands of society. As well, Forestry Canada has a role in ensuring that the provinces manage forests in a sustainable way and in doing so, meet the needs of the global community in protecting biodiversity and the integrity of ecosystems.

— Liz Osborn, Outdoor Recreation Council of British Columbia (Brief to the Committee, April 12, 1990, p. 1-2).

That raises an interesting question. Is it really possible to manage a designated land base over the long-term if society's demands on that land base are *ever changing*? Therein lies the challenge with which Canada's forests sector must come to grips: to set the course for sustainable forestry development, and to do so by establishing firm objectives for the forests *from the start*. To help initiate and direct that course, *is the mission for Forestry Canada*.