

Minister for International Trade



Ministre du Commerce extérieur

The Honourable L'honorable

Tom Hockin P.C. M.P.

September 3, 1993

The Honourable John Savage
Premier of Nova Scotia
7th Floor, One Government Place
P.O. Box 726
Halifax, Nova Scotia
B3J 2T3

Dear Premier Savage:

I am pleased to respond to your recent letter to the Prime Minister on the issue of European Community restrictions on green softwood lumber imports from Canada. I would like to take this opportunity to summarize recent developments and to outline the activities that we have undertaken.

The management of this issue has been marked by close cooperation among the federal and provincial governments and industry. I am well aware of Nova Scotia's particular interests and welcome the useful contribution made by Minister Downe in discussions with my colleague, the Honourable Barbara Sparrow, in July. I also note the significant contribution of the Honourable Peter McCreath, who has actively represented the perspective of Nova Scotia on this issue.

The European Community, acting on advice from its plant health experts, has taken measures to ensure that the pinewood nematode is not transmitted to European forests via shipments of green softwood lumber from Canada, the USA and certain other countries where the pest is known to occur. These measures require the heat-treating or kiln-drying of such lumber. Canada believes that this is an excessive demand for non-pine lumber, and we have had some success in mitigating the effect of the EC's action.

.../2