

and industrial stability, they are also very perceptive about long-term consequences, and they favour the need for balance and change in order to implement and achieve sustainability in forest development.

*We hear a lot these days about sustainability. In fact, paragraph 6.(d) of the bill establishing the new forestry ministry makes explicit reference to the sustainable development of Canada's forest resources. As trade unionists, we are committed to sustaining the jobs of our members and the communities in which they live, and we are committed to this in the long term.* — Keith Newman, Research Director, Canadian Paperworkers' Union (Issue 18:22).

The Committee heard from almost all of the *woodlot owners associations* in Canada, and has been well briefed on the particular needs of the smaller private sector. The productivity of family woodlots is a critical part of the forestry equation in many local situations, and forest management of these properties is deserving of both provincial and federal government attention and support. Because crown forests have long been used to create jobs, it seems well demonstrated that ownership and management investment in private woodlots is frequently not feasible in economic terms given the relative stumpage values on crown lands. There is a clear need for considerable innovation and research to help create viability for sustainable woodlot development, and while these woodlots are private resources, nevertheless they represent a strong case for public assistance.

*The development of private woodlots is vital to the long-term sustainability of rural Saskatchewan. The Woodlot Extension Program is the clearest, most efficient way of supporting this sector. Every dollar spent to subsidize tree planting, access, construction, and stand improvement work leads to healthy, useful work for woodlot owners and their employees, who are often family members. While the subsidies do not allow for high wages, they offset costs related to the work and incidentally end up in increased business for local chainsaw dealers, farm equipment dealers, hardware merchants, etc.* — Hector Shiell, President, Farm Woodlot Association of Saskatchewan (Issue 9:21).

Some witnesses talked to us about *community forest boards* and other such concepts for local public consultation in forest management decision-making, especially among those living in rural areas whose lives are most directly affected by forestry decisions. A number of such groups have been organized in British Columbia to defend their communities' interests in the forests against those who are perceived to be insensitive to the local impact of more broadly based economic or environmental policies. There is a widely held feeling *in rural areas* that too much influence is exerted on forest policies by those who live *in cities*,