

the MOU could destroy the exempt status which has been applicable to them. Lumber producers throughout Canada are looking to the federal government for leadership in dealing with this sensitive and complicated issue.

*In the matter of federal-industry relationships, I must refer to the 1987 Memorandum of Understanding with the U.S. on the softwood lumber issue and the devastating impact it has had on the sawmilling sector, particularly in northern Ontario. The immediate result of imposition of that 15% tax was closure of four sawmills in northern Ontario. Those that still survive are undergoing severe financial difficulties by virtue of the 15% tax, compounded in the interim by the escalating value of the Canadian dollar and by declining lumber prices, particularly in North America. In retrospect, we in the forest industry believe that this bad deal for Canada resulted from a lack of understanding at the federal level of some of the facts surrounding the issues. — I.D. Bird, President, Ontario Forest Industries Association (Issue 23:7-8).*

Professional foresters, including the Canadian Institute of Forestry, discussed the very subject of professionalism in the forests sector, and the need to assure the general public of the proficiency, competency and integrity of those who are in the first ranks of forests managers. In fact, at least partially motivated by such discussions before our Committee, the Canadian Federation of Professional Foresters Associations decided, at its national meeting on August 21, 1990, to develop a national standards code for professional management of the forest resources of Canada, and is now proceeding to develop this code as quickly as possible. It has simultaneously called for new programs of public education and awareness to increase the general knowledge and appreciation of Canadians for their forests, and to help establish the credibility of forestry professionals as the custodians of those resources. Falling forestry enrollment at universities is also of serious concern to these professionals.

*That is our first concern: regeneration and perpetuation of the forest on into the future. Our second concern is people, trained professional and technical people. At a time when the overall enrollment of our colleges and universities is very high, the number of people registered in forestry is diminishing. — John Fingland, President, Canadian Federation of Professional Foresters Associations (Issue 4:7).*

Union organizations, such as the Canadian Paperworkers Union and the International Woodworkers of America (Canada), impressed the Committee with their positive and forward-looking approach. While their members are obviously very concerned about jobs